

RFK Human Rights Speak Truth To Power Fall 2022 Educator Resources

Each semester, we will be sending out an educational resource packet which will include a schedule of events, featured lesson plans and units of study, printable flyers about upcoming contests and speakers, information about our whole school partnerships, and updates about our human rights education conference. In addition to our quarterly newsletter, monthly updates will be sent via email, so please make sure we have your current contact information by registering [here](#).

In order to develop a robust and engaging community of human rights education practitioners, it's important that we hear from you! Please take the time to complete the brief [beginning of year survey](#) (5 minutes tops!) included in this packet.

Over the course of the semester, [send in](#) stories, videos, and/or pictures about how you adapt lesson plans, engage students on human rights topics, refine your human rights education pedagogy, and/or take action in your school or community. We would love to share your ideas and stories with other students and educators because you are all doing such incredible work and we need to celebrate and learn from one another now more than ever! Thank you for all you do. We look forward to hearing from you and partnering together to educate and engage the next generation of human rights defenders.

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RFK Human Rights

Speak Truth To Power

Fall 2022 Defender Speaker Series

This fall, we will be hosting a speaker series featuring conversations with world leaders, policy makers, educators, and human rights defenders to help you bring discussions of current human rights issues into your classroom. Each live webinar will be moderated by a student from one of our partner schools. Your students will also have an opportunity to participate through a live question and answer session with the speaker.

If you cannot attend the live webinar, you can access the recording [through our website](#) and send in student questions or comments via [email](#). We will pass these along to the speaker. Check our website and monthly newsletter for schedule updates and additional materials.

Introductory lesson plans are available for each speaker. These lessons include background and context on the speaker and the issue as well as opportunities for students to take action or create art for our fall art call: [Healing A Nation: Imagining a New Future Through Art](#). We encourage you to share student work and stories of how you are using the speaker series in your classroom!

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 20th at 11:30 EST

“Lessons from Srebrenica” - Emir Suljagić, Director of the [Srebrenica Memorial Center](#)

[Introductory Lesson Plan: Emir Suljagić](#)

October

Thursday, October 27th at 12:30 EST

“The Magic of Mission 4.7” - Dr. Helen Bond, University Professor of Curriculum and Instruction in the School of Education at Howard University

[Introductory Lesson Plan: Dr. Helen Bond](#)

**ROBERT F.
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**SPEAK TRUTH
TO POWER**

Defender Speaker Series

Fall 2022

Thursday, Oct. 27, 2021, 11:30 a.m. EST

“Sustainable Development Goals in the Classroom”

- Dr. Helen Bond, Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction
in the School of Education at Howard University



Speak Truth to Power Lesson Plans

Speak Truth to Power brings human rights education to life in the classroom with engaging, standards-aligned, digital resources that fit easily into your existing lesson plans. Hear from human rights defenders in their own words and engage with accompanying core curriculum-aligned activities.

The Speak Truth to Power curriculum encourages participatory citizenship and helps students develop both a sense of personal responsibility and an increased sense of personal agency. Interacting with the stories of courageous heroes from around the world teaches students about human rights and empowers them to become defenders themselves. As students begin to self-identify as human rights defenders, they learn to imagine and help create a more just and peaceful world. These lessons can be adapted to any subject and meet state standards.

Each month, check your emails and our website for featured lesson plans that correspond with current events as well as ideas for adapting them to your subject area.

Please [tell us](#) how you are using the lessons in your classroom and send in examples of activities, student work, or community projects. We will highlight educator ideas, student work, and student defenders on our website and in the newsletter.

**October Featured Lesson Plan -
[Bullying: Language, Literature, and Life](#)
[\(Focused on the story of Jamie Nabozny\)](#)**

**RFK Human Rights Education Conference
Celebrating 75: from the UDHR to the SDGs -
Promoting, Protecting and Defending Human Rights
July 27-29, 2023
Austin, Texas
Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders**

We are excited to announce that we are hosting the inaugural Human Rights Education (HRE) conference to facilitate conversations about human rights education pedagogy, learn from each other about best practices, and share examples of student work as well as community outreach projects. Join us for three days of speakers, workshops, presentations, and just plain fun as we connect with each other and work to build a stronger and more cohesive foundation for HRE.

Why Austin? Why now?

In the face of political attacks against teachers and increasing censorship, it is vital that we stand in solidarity with our educators, especially in areas that face the most restrictive new laws. This conference is an opportunity to demonstrate resilience and to work together to develop a new and inclusive vision for transformative human rights education in our schools.

Gather ideas, examples of classroom activities, student work, and/or community engagement projects, and come prepared to share and learn. If you would like to present, please view our [Call for Proposals](#), due January 16, 2023. There are several different types of presentation options ranging from traditional conference presentations to 30 minute power sessions and longer workshops. If you have any questions or ideas for the conference, please contact us at sttp@rfkhumanrights.org.

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Human Rights Education Conference

Celebrating 75: from the UDHR to the SDGs -
Promoting, Protecting and Defending Human Rights
At The Ann Richards School For Young Women Leaders
July 27-29, 2023



Why?

To facilitate conversations about human rights education pedagogy, learn from each other about best practices, and share examples of student work as well as community outreach projects. Join us for three days of speakers, workshops, presentations, and just plain fun.

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RFK Human Rights Speak Truth To Power Book & Journalism Award

As students begin to identify as human rights defenders, they may choose to use their voices and their skills with the written word to report on human rights issues in your school or community, joining a long line of human rights defenders who have turned to journalism as part of their efforts to create change. You can encourage and help to hone their human rights journalism skills with the following recommended lessons centering on both the power of the written word and the necessity of maintaining free expression.

Students may submit their reporting by entering the student portion of the RFK Human Rights Book & Journalism Award. You may view [past winners](#) on our website. Both written and broadcast submissions are accepted. Entries are due no later than January 10, 2023.

Recommended Lesson Plans

If you want to help students understand the power of writing to effect change, use the following resources:

[Rana Husseini](#) is a Jordanian journalist who reported on honor killings and campaigned for stronger legal penalties against perpetrators. Through this lesson, students will develop an understanding of human rights abuses against women and the role journalists can play in advocating for human rights. They will then analyze areas around the world where investigative journalists and activists are bringing attention to human rights abuses impacting women.

[What Does Free Expression Mean?](#) - In this lesson, centered on the story of Václav Havel, a Czechoslovakian playwright and former president of the Czech Republic, students will study the UDHR article on freedom of opinion and information. They will also read interviews and excerpts of Havel's writing to better understand the importance of maintaining free expression as a universal human right and as the foundation of a democratic society.



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Book & Journalism Award

Are you interested in human rights reporting?

Have you reported on a human rights issue in your community?

Send in your work for consideration in the 2023 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards Student Category.

Entry Requirements for High School & College Journalism Award

- There is no entry fee for High School or College categories.
- Entries must have been first published or broadcast in the United States between January 1 and December 31, 2022.
- Entries may be submitted either by individuals or by school organizations.
- Entries may be submitted by teams or entire classes.
- Entries are limited to one per student, but a school may have multiple entries.
- Advisers/Teachers may not shoot, write, or edit any part of a student entry.
- This is a hands-off contest and must be 100% student produced.
- For the College Journalism category, all mediums will be accepted.
- Broadcast entries should not exceed 10 minutes in length.

Entries are due no later than January 10, 2023.

Founded by the reporters who covered Robert F. Kennedy's historic 1968 presidential campaign, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards honor outstanding reporting on issues that reflect Robert Kennedy's concerns, including human rights, social justice, and the power of individual action in the United States and around the world.

Entries should provide insights into the causes, conditions, and remedies of human rights violations and injustice, and/or critical analysis of relevant policies, programs, individual actions, and private endeavors that foster positive change.

RFK Human Rights: Speak Truth To Power
Healing A Nation:
Imagining a New Future Through Art

"Our future may lie beyond our vision, but it is not completely beyond our control. It is the shaping impulse of America that neither fate nor nature nor the irresistible tides of history, but the work of our own hands, matched to reason and principle, that will determine our destiny."

- Robert F. Kennedy

Calling all activists! Art can be a powerful tool both for understanding human rights issues and for creating change. Art can help us to shift our lens, see each other more clearly, and take action on important issues in our communities. In this time of national and global turmoil, of divisive politics and great uncertainty, art can reflect and document the human rights issues stemming from this division, but it can also provide an imaginative space that helps us to envision a world where the wounds caused by those issues are healed. Art can help to start authentic conversations and build bridges to reconciliation.

Our fall call for art invites students to imagine what these bridges might look like. Each of our fall speaker series lessons end with an opportunity to engage creatively with a human rights issue, whether through traditional artistic mediums like painting or through spoken word. You can use these lessons to help students develop art or you can invite students to create pieces directly related to the theme of imagining what a healed nation would look like.

Student art will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout the school year and may be featured in the newsletter, on our website, or at RFK events. Students may [submit art here](#) as individuals or as a group. If you are interested in hosting an art showing or gallery walk of student art in your area, you can access our toolkit [here](#) which will guide you through the process. We look forward to envisioning a healed and hopeful nation alongside you and your students!

Additional Resources:

["What is Artivism?"](#) - A resource created by Dartmouth that defines artivism, provides more background on the topic, and includes weekly samples of student art

[Art & Resistance Through Education \(ARTE\)](#) - ARTE provides curriculum and material specifically designed to help students develop creative projects that bring awareness about human rights issues

Fall Call for Art Healing A Nation:

Imagining a New Future Through Art

 Calling all artists! 

In this time of national and global turmoil, of divisive politics and great uncertainty, art can help to start authentic conversations about human rights issues and build bridges to reconciliation.

Our fall call for art invites you to imagine what these bridges might look like.

Submit your art to:
sttp@rfkhumanrights.org



Student art in any medium will be accepted on a rolling basis and may be featured in the newsletter, on our website, or at RFK events.

Our future may lie beyond our vision, but it is not completely beyond our control. It is the shaping impulse of America that neither fate nor nature nor the irresistible tides of history, but the work of our own hands, matched to reason and principle, that will determine our destiny.

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Become An RFK Human Rights Centered Whole School Partner

Why become an RFK Human Rights Centered Whole School?

Our “Why”

“Eight of the 15 people who planned the Holocaust in 1942 held Ph.D.s. They shone academically, and yet they failed to show the smallest shred of ethics and understanding. I am increasingly supportive of the proposition that education of any kind, if it is devoid of a strong universal human rights component, can be next to worthless when it should matter most: in crisis, when our world begins to unravel.”
— Zeid bin Ra’ad, former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights

RFK Human Rights Speak Truth to Power seeks to engage and teach students and educators about advocacy, organizing, social justice, and the importance of protecting, promoting, and defending human rights. Through this approach, students develop empathy and those essential social-emotional life skills; self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. What differentiates Speak Truth to Power’s approach to HRE is its use of storytelling about Human Rights defenders, both human rights icons and local community advocates, and an explicit commitment to understanding human rights for the purpose of informed action that advances human rights for all.

A primary goal of HRE is to create rights-respecting learning environments that support students’ dignity and develop their agency in protecting and promoting their own human rights and those of others. In this way, it is aligned with those of civics education and culturally responsive-sustaining education (CR-SE), both widely acknowledged by schools throughout the country. Further, schools have widely embraced social and emotional learning (SEL) and the development of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making as essential building blocks for success in school and life. HRE aligns with and extends the impact of SEL insofar as it helps to develop SEL skills such as self-awareness, self-regulation and empathy, each key to the conflict resolution skills required of those who seek to defend human rights. (DeLuca-Acconi, 2016) With its explicit commitment to justice and advocacy, HRE transforms the personal empowerment of SEL into democratic engagement and social change. Emerging research on human rights education suggests it can produce numerous positive outcomes for students, including an improved sense of self-worth and self-efficacy, increased empathy, and a reduction in bullying and harmful behaviors in classrooms.

RFK Human Rights Whole School Framework

STTP achieves its 3 impact goals through a deep and integrated partnership with whole schools.

A school that has formally committed to working towards becoming an **RFK Human Rights Centered School**, agrees to work with STTP in engagement in 4 key focus areas:

1. Students
2. Educators
3. School climate and culture
4. Connection to Local and Global Community

	Students	Educators/School Leadership	School Climate and Culture	Community
HR Informed: Tier 1 (About)	Does the school ensure all students understand human rights?	Does the school ensure all staff and educators understand human rights?	Does the school look and feel like one that centers human rights?	Does the school actively partner with their local and global community to bring awareness to human rights issues?
HR Guided: Tier 2 (Through)	Does the school follow and implement policy and practices that uphold all students human rights and dignity?	Does the school/staff operate in a way that respects the rights and dignity of all staff members?	Are there school wide communications and practices that are grounded in human rights based approaches?	Does the school make connections to ensure it's relationship with the community is based in respecting the rights and dignity of members outside the school building?
HR Engaged: Tier 3 (For)	Are students encouraged and given opportunities to take action towards defending and promoting human rights?	Do staff create opportunities for students to take action, and do they also participate in them with students?	Are there school wide activities and practices in place that support, promote, and defend human rights?	Does the school actively partner with local and global community members to support actions that defend human rights?

What We Offer

We offer a range of resources and activities for partner schools to help them create and implement a robust HRE program throughout the whole school including:

- Cover travel costs for teams from partner schools to attend HRE conference and other select meetings.
- Professional Development and training: Introductory and on-going
 - a. Educator & Staff
 - i. Introduction to HRE and Human Rights
 - ii. Subject specific lesson planning
 - iii. Service Learning and HRE
 - b. Student leaders
 - i. Introduction to HRE and Human Rights
 - ii. Leadership Development
- Programming support
 - Student facing
 - Organize an Arts and Human Rights series focusing on a range of mediums, concluding with an art exhibit and/or local film festival.
 - Organize a Feast of Hope cultural event focusing on working with local farmers and small businesses as well as breaking bread to strengthen solidarity, community, and understanding.
 - Human Rights, Social Justice, Activism and Leadership workshops.
 - Human Rights Fellow program.
 - Tribeca Human Rights Video Contest
 - School-wide
 - Defender Speaker Series
 - Prioritization of student moderators for Defender Speaker Series
 - Help developing Restorative Justice Communication and Policies
 - Education assets - Assist with development of units and lesson plans
 - Defender Lesson plans
 - Coordinate meetings among participating partner schools
 - Coordinate assessments and support self-assessment providing tools as needed
 - Enhanced Web presence

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a partner school, please contact [Karen Robinson](mailto:robinson@rfkhumanrights.org) at robinson@rfkhumanrights.org.