



Speak Up, Speak Out

Cross Curricular Lesson Plan Key Stages 3 and 4

What can we learn for today?

Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity for everyone to learn lessons from the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and genocides that have happened since.

On Holocaust Memorial Day we share the memory of the millions who have been murdered in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Aims: This lesson aims to use poetry, printed case studies and film to explore contemporary issues surrounding human rights and the consequences of people's actions.

Outcomes:

- pupils will reflect on the roles which people take in responding to events in other parts of the world
- pupils will reflect on how different forms of communication like poetry and film affect an understanding of events or actions
- pupils will reflect on the role fame and celebrity can play on spreading information

Resources:

- [case study of Brian Steidle](#)
- [theme paper for younger readers](#)
- [the poster](#) of the Pastor Martin Niemoller poem
- print outs of the [Pastor Martin Niemoller Poem](#)
- [short clip of Brian Steidle](#) speaking out about his experience in Darfur
- [Not On Our Watch website](#) (Don Cheadle speaking at 23seconds on video January 27 2005, George Clooney speaking video December 15 2006, George Clooney/Elie Wiesel video September 14 2006)



Please ensure all lesson plans and case study materials are suitable for your students prior to the lesson. The content of some case studies may upset some pupils.

Stage 1

Explain that today or this week is Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January every year).

Ask the pupils if they have heard of this and what they think it means.

Show them the Niemoller poem.

What do they think it means?

Do they know of anyone who speaks out for people today?

Stage 2

Give each pupil the Brian Steidle case study and ask them to read it.

Ask them to write down what they think about Brian's actions at the time he was in Darfur and then when he returned to the US. Show the piece of film of Brian speaking out about what he saw in Darfur.

Stage 3

Select the extract from the Not On Our Watch link that shows actor Don Cheadle speaking up about events in Darfur, or George Clooney speaking at a US Press Conference 2006.

Ask the pupils what they think about actors getting involved with campaigning and speaking out about issues – does it make a difference?

Show them the piece of film with George Clooney and Elie Wiesel.

Explain that Elie Wiesel is a Holocaust survivor who has experienced genocide first hand, including surviving Auschwitz. Ask the pupils to consider if it is important that those who have witnessed terrible events speak out about their experiences? And if so, why?

Ask the pupils to consider if you need to be the victim of persecution to be the one to speak out.

Return to the poem by Pastor Niemoller and ask them if what they have learnt about during the lesson makes them think any differently about the poem.

Extended activities or homework:

Find out more about Elie Wiesel.

Find out about other groups that try and speak out for other people.