



Action Steps for Community Engagement

Prepared by Ellen J. Kennedy, Ph.D.

©2012 World Without Genocide

Butterfly Project – Houston Holocaust Center

Pavel Friedmann was born in Prague on January 7, 1921. He was deported to Terezin, a concentration camp outside of Prague, on April 26, 1942 and later to Auschwitz, where he died on September 29, 1944 at age 23. He wrote the following poem.

The Butterfly

The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing
against a white stone. . . .
Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly 'way up high.
It went away I'm sure because it wished to
kiss the world good-bye.
For seven weeks I've lived in here,
Pinned up inside this ghetto.
But I have found what I love here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut branches in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.
That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don't live in here,
in the ghetto.

- by Pavel Friedmann



Read the poem *The Butterfly* out loud and talk about these questions with a friend.

1. Why do you think Pavel wrote this poem?
2. How do you think Pavel felt when he wrote it?
3. How does this poem make you feel?

Create a butterfly that you think represents the butterfly in the poem. Explain why you chose the specific decorations for your butterfly.

Display your butterfly with others collected at your school, place of worship, scout troop, or at home. Send the completed butterflies (please don't use food or glitter) to

Susan Meyers, Executive Director
Houston Holocaust Museum
5401 Caroline Street
Houston, Texas 70004

Memoirs

1. Write your own short memoir.

Describe the three most precious things about life with your family. Think about people, places, special activities, holidays, and daily events that you share.

Give your memoir a title. Be sure to include your name as the author.

Materials: small booklet, folded, with a cover page and room inside to write. Pens and markers.

2. Make some drawings for your memoir.

A self-portrait

Draw a picture of yourself. In the drawing, illustrate the three most important things about you.

Your favorite place

Draw the place you like to go that makes you feel the happiest. Put in at least three special details.

A favorite pet, friend, or hobby

Materials: paper, pencils, crayons, markers, other art supplies.

Global Campaign: The Red Hands Day

An international campaign supported by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and other organizations around the world

Since 2002 it has been illegal around the world to use children as soldiers. Unfortunately, the number of child soldiers has hardly changed since then. There are still about 300,000 children used in adults' wars in at least 30 countries.

In order to protest this tragedy, more than 350,000 red hand prints have been collected in over 40 countries worldwide. And this campaign is continuing – the goal is a million hand prints!

We ask adults and especially children and adolescents to collect prints of red hands in schools, faith communities, public places, and in city and state buildings.

How to collect handprints:

1. Get two plastic bins. In one, put warm, soapy water. In the other, put a **washable** red paint mixed with water.
2. Have a lot of paper towels available!
3. Take pieces of white paper, 8.5" x 11", and cut them in half.
4. Cover the surface where people will make the handprints so none of the red paint will damage anything.
5. Ask people to dip one hand into the red paint, then make the handprint on the half sheet of paper. Sign their name and, if they're willing, their age.
6. Set the handprints aside to dry.
7. When you collect a lot of handprints, display them at your school or other public place, along with information about child soldiers. Go to <http://www.child-soldiers.org/home> for worldwide resources.
8. Mail the hands, with a letter asking to end the use of child soldiers, to



Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General
United Nations
760 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

Upload your photos and videos of your school and community Red Hand Campaign program at <http://www.redhandday.org/index.php?l=en&view=participate>

April: *Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month*

At your school

Meet with the school board, principal, and other leaders of your school. Ask them to designate every April as your school's ***Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month*** in memory of those who perished in Armenia, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur, as well as those who are suffering in mass conflicts today. Request that every April, your school host an event, open to the public, such as a film, a speaker, a play, or an art exhibit on the subject of genocide.

At your city

Meet with the Mayor, the members of the City Council, and the City Human Rights and Relations Committee. Ask them to designate every April as your city's ***Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month*** in memory of those who perished in Armenia, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur, as well as those who are suffering in mass conflicts today. Request that every April, your city host an event, open to the public, such as a film, a speaker, a play, or an art exhibit on the subject of genocide. You can write letters to your city newspaper about your efforts and ask people throughout the city to support you with phone calls, letters, and visits to the Mayor, Council members, and other city officials.

At your state

Get to know the senator and representative from your own state district. Ask them if they will sponsor a bill to designate every April as your state's ***Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month*** in memory of those who perished in Armenia, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur, as well as those who are suffering in mass conflicts today.

The text of Minnesota's bill is included. You can use this for your own city or state.

Ask the senator and representative to select co-sponsors representing both political parties. When you have a number of co-sponsors who will support your bill, begin to lobby for the bill to pass. This means that you'll try to get hundreds of people to sign letters asking their senators and representatives to vote 'YES' when the bill comes up in the legislature. Samples of letters are included for you.

You can go to the state capitol and meet with these elected officials in person. They really appreciate these visits, and they especially appreciate visits from students. You can take pictures of these meetings for the local papers. This raises awareness about genocide, too, even before the bill is passed.

When you are successful, you'll make history for changing the law in your state!

Minnesota State Resolution for Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month

WHEREAS, During the Second World War, Raphael Lemkin, a Polish lawyer of Jewish descent, coined the term “genocide” to describe a coordinated plan of action aimed at the destruction of foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating a group itself, for example, by disintegrating a group’s political and social institutions, culture, language, national feelings, religion, and economic existence, and destroying the personal security, liberty, health, dignity, and the lives of individuals belonging to the group; and

WHEREAS, Following the Holocaust, on December 9, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 260 (III) A, the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, declaring genocide to be a crime under international law, and defining genocide to include the commission of certain acts, including killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about a group’s physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group, and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group, with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, the Genocide Prevention Task Force, convened by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the American Academy of Diplomacy, and the United States Institute of Peace, issued a report finding that in order to prevent future genocides and mass atrocities, effective prevention measures must be implemented before a crisis has erupted, and that educating the public can help to protect individual rights and promote a culture of lawfulness that will help prevent future genocides; and

WHEREAS, many communities of Minnesota have endured acts of genocide or human rights atrocities in their countries of origin; and

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota condemns and desires to combat all acts of genocide and all human rights atrocities; and

WHEREAS, Educating the public about the evils of genocide and commemorating victims of genocide, including the adoption of a Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month, are effective tools that will further these goals; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota that they proclaim the month of April of each year as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month.



AT WILLIAM MITCHELL COLLEGE OF LAW

protect. prevent. prosecute. remember.

www.worldwithoutgenocide.org

Dear Minnesota legislator,

Please support the Genocide Awareness and Prevention Resolution that addresses genocides and human rights atrocities throughout history. Thousands of Minnesota families have been devastated by these conflicts that have occurred around the globe.

This Resolution will designate every April to be Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month in Minnesota. Many tragedies are commemorated in April, including the Holocaust and the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; this Resolution will inspire Minnesotans to remember those whose lives and cultures were destroyed.

In 2008, the Genocide Prevention Task Force was convened by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the American Academy of Diplomacy, and the United States Institute of Peace. Chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the Task Force reported that educating the public can help protect individuals and promote a culture of lawfulness to prevent future genocides. Minnesotans urge you to say "never again" to these crimes. This Resolution brings us a step closer to a world without genocide.

Sincerely,

(signature)

(name)

(address)

(city and zip code)

1-800-GENOCIDE: The Anti-Genocide Hotline

Contact your Elected Officials!

Dial **1-800-GENOCIDE (800-436-6243)**

At the prompt, enter your **ZIP CODE**.

Press **1** to speak to your representative, **2** to speak to your senator, **3** to be transferred to the White House, or **4** to connect to United to End Genocide.

Listen to the message for ‘talking points,’ what to say.

When the staffer answers, be sure to give your name, that you are a voter or potential voter in his or her district, and explain why you’re calling and what you’d like your elected official to do.

It’s simple – and every call makes a difference. **Make the call TODAY!**

Used with permission of the Genocide Intervention Network