How to Use This Site

The six simple words that founder Sara Terry uses to explain the work of the Aftermath Project are “war is only half the story.” This site is an online resource to support educators and students as they explore the other half of the story, the aftermath stories following war. Terry believes it is in these places where we are constantly redefining what it means to be human, what it means to live again, to rebuild civil society and to recover from trauma. Too often the media centers on the stories of war which illuminate our inhumanity, rather than the inspirational stories of rebuilding lives and communities that illuminate our humanity. If we don’t know these stories then we don’t really understand the world we live in, and it is more likely that we will repeat the violence again and again.

At Facing History and Ourselves we have explored the efforts some countries have undertaken following a period marked by genocide, mass violence and war, as processes of transitional justice. The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) defines the term this way:

Transitional justice refers to a range of approaches that societies undertake to reckon with legacies of widespread or systematic human rights abuse as they move from a period of violent conflict or oppression towards peace, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for individual and collective rights.

In making such a transition, societies must confront the painful legacy, or burden, of the past in order to achieve a holistic sense of justice for all citizens....A variety of approaches to transitional justice are available that can help wounded societies start anew. These approaches are both judicial and nonjudicial. 1

The Aftermath Project and this site provide more opportunities to explore the way that individuals and communities reckon with mass violence and its legacies and work toward more stable and just societies. We hope that by exploring these examples, new insights will arise that will help each of us continually re-frame the questions of what it means to be human.

In this online site you will find the following tools to assist in your exploration:

- **Six Project Areas**: The six photographic projects showcased on this site are: Armenian Genocide, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Too Young to Die (urban violence), Wounded Knee (Native American), Bosnia. Each of the six project
areas contain: lessons, an artist statement, an intro video, and additional resources (as described below).

Each year The Aftermath Project supports a handful of photographers who document the aftermath of war. The six areas chosen for this site traverse several years of the project which we hope provide classrooms a range of entry points to discussing aftermath topics.

- **Video:** To start your exploration to the site, we encourage you to first watch Sara Terry’s introductory piece to The Aftermath Project. As you explore specific project areas please view the introductory video in each section in which Sara Terry introduces the photographer and the scope of each project.

  - **The Photographs:** Each project has a selection of photographs that document the artists’ journey of the aftermath of war in a particular time and place. Some projects have deep historical roots while others are grounded in contemporary issues of conflict and injustice. The artist has provided explanatory captions for each photograph on this site. If you would like students to view the photographs without the captions, simply mouse over the image and it will enlarge and hide the majority of text included. You may return to the caption by simply moving your mouse off the image.

  - **Artist Statement:** Each contributing artist has graciously provided their vision of the project. Simply click on the link to Artist Statement and the full text is included and can be printed for classroom use.

  - **Lessons:** Each project area has one lesson with a suggested outline for analyzing visual images as well as sample questions for the each photograph selected.

  - **Additional Resources.** Each project section contains links recommended by the artist to explore their project area further. The resources include websites, texts and film.
We hope that you find this site a valuable resource for your personal and classroom exploration of issues of justice, judgment and efforts toward reconciliation. We welcome all comments, questions or feedback.

1 The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). Source.