



## LESSON PLAN: Researching Genocides After The Holocaust

1

Review the meaning of the term genocide using the definition available in the **Glossary**.

2

Introduce students to **Leo Bach (bio)**, show his clip of testimony, and discuss the following questions:

- In his testimony (provided in 1992), Leo Bach refers to several genocides or genocidal acts that have taken place since the Holocaust. What areas of the world does he mention? [Optional: Have students locate countries named on a world map.]
- What other genocides do you know about that Leo does not mention?
- Do you think Leo feels that the world learned anything from the Holocaust? What specifically does Leo say that supports your answer?

3

Distribute the **Genocide Case Study** handout. Explain to students that they will work in small groups to research post-Holocaust genocides. They will then present their findings to the class in an oral or multimedia presentation. Their research must include both primary and secondary source materials. Students are encouraged to include sources such as maps, pictures, videos, diary entries, etc. As many questions as possible on the **Genocide Case Study** handout should be answered, with special attention to the questions related to children.

4

Instruct students to use the **Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959** handout when answering the question specific to that document.

5

Since the end of the Holocaust, crimes against humanity and genocide have occurred in the countries listed below. Assign each group one of the countries to research:

- Argentina
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Burundi
- Burma
- Cambodia
- Central African Republic
- Darfur Region, Sudan
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Guatemala
- East Timor
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan

**6** After providing sufficient time for students to complete their research, assign a schedule for presentations or have groups post their multimedia presentations on the class website. After all students have heard or watched all of the presentations, conduct a whole-group discussion using the following questions:

- Based on the information presented in these reports/presentations, can you come to any conclusions about why genocides occur?
- What, if anything, do the perpetrators appear to have in common?
- What, if anything, do the targeted groups appear to have in common prior to the acts of genocide taking place?
- What is the overall effect of these atrocities on children?
- Are you surprised by how many of the rights of children are ignored when genocide occurs?
- Why or why not? Whose responsibility is it to see that children's rights are not violated under any circumstances?
- In what ways were people and communities changed as a result of the atrocities you researched? How do people and communities continue to suffer from what happened?
- Do you think that the world community should have played a greater role in preventing these genocides or in intervening once it was known that they were happening? Explain your answer.
- How did the free world respond in these cases of genocide? How was the response different or the same as the response during the Holocaust?
- What kinds of actions can individuals around the world take so as not to be bystanders to such atrocities?
- In light of the study of these genocides, what do you think was learned from the Holocaust?

**ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME: 90-120 MINUTES**