



## Replacing Hate with Understanding: #DareToUnderstand (Part 1)

(60 minute Activity Guide)

### Curriculum Goals

- Participants express **curiosity** in respectful ways. (Goal #2)
- Participants become **aware of stereotypes**. (Goal #5)
- Participants learn strategies for **dispelling stereotypes**. (Goal #6)
- Participants embody the **shared values** across traditions that inspire **faith-rooted action** in response to societal issues. (Goal #9)
- Participants gain **communication skills** for articulating their identities, passions, and questions. (Goal #15)

### Preparation

1. Print out required materials (See below)
2. Obtain a laptop, projector, and screen to share the “Replacing Hate with Understanding: #DaretoUnderstand PowerPoint Presentation” and “Taking a Stand Image Compilation”

*Note: This activity is not dependent on the PowerPoint. If you are not able to show the PowerPoint, become familiar with its contents, which are mainly visual.*

### Required Materials

- “Taking a Stand Image Compilation” (See attached)
- “AFDI Anti-Muslim Ad Appearing on SEPTA Buses” – one copy per student (See attached)
- “First They Came,” by Pastor Martin Niemoller – one copy per student (See below)
- “Take a Closer Look” worksheet – one copy per group (See below)
- Chart paper
- Markers
- 5” x 7” sheets of medium-weight white paper (5” x 8” cards can be trimmed to size)

### Introduction/Dive-In Activity (20 min.)

1. Post images of the following events around to room: Boston Tea Party, Women’s Suffrage movement, Gandhi’s Salt March, the Little Rock Nine, first Earth Day, fall of the Berlin Wall, protests against rape culture, and the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Feel free to add your own images to this collection. Note: These photos can be posted on wall, displayed on table or hung on a clothesline.

2. Share that each of these events is an example of people taking a stand to bring about positive change. Ask students to silently view the pictures, take note of the feelings each photo evokes, and consider what all of the photos/events have in common.
3. After a few minutes bring the group together and have students share their responses. (What does each picture depict? How are they taking a stand to bring about positive change?)
4. Provide everyone with a copy of “First They Came” by Pastor Martin Niemöller. Take turns reading the poem out loud.
5. Share that today we will be exploring the topic of speaking up and taking a stand as a way of living out our values and affecting change for the greater good.

Ask:

- Can you connect personally to the poem? How?
- What groups of people are marginalized in society today? In your school?

**Small Group Activity (30 min.)**

1. Present the first portion of the Power Point on the SEPTA bus ads to provide students with background information on the situation. (Stop at the “Take A closer Look” slide)
2. Give each student a copy of the bus ad. After everyone has had a moment to look over the piece, split students into groups of 4. Provide each group with chart paper, markers, and a copy of “Take a Closer Look.” Give the groups 10-12 minutes to discuss the questions on “Take a Closer Look” and record their answers on chart paper.
3. Gather everyone back together.
4. Have a spokesperson from each group share their group’s responses, and ask students to reflect on the thoughts and ideas that were shared.
5. Show the second half of the Power Point: slides that depict ways other cities have addressed the anti-Muslim bus ads.

**Debriefing Activity (10 min.)**

1. Ask students to create a #DareToUnderstand message. Depending upon time, do this in small groups or as individuals.
2. Photograph students holding their message and post on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and (if appropriate) the *Dare to Understand* webpage.
3. Closing prompt: how else will you share your #DareToUnderstand message this week? Ask each person to share.

**Notes**

This activity can be used to examine other current events which call us to “Speak up and Take a Stand.”

## **“First They Came” Pastor Martin Niemoller**

First they came for the Communists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the Socialists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me  
And there was no one left  
To speak out for me.

**Martin Niemoller** (1892-1984) was a prominent Protestant pastor who emerged as an outspoken public foe of Adolf Hitler and spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps. Niemoller is best remembered for the above quotation. Different versions of the quotation exist. These can be attributed to the fact that Niemoller spoke extemporaneously and in a number of settings. A version of the above quotation appears in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Sources: Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website

## **“Take a Closer Look”**

1. What questions does this raise for you?
2. What feelings does it evoke?
3. Why was this written?
4. What is the source of information in this piece?
5. Is the material accurate or free from exaggeration?
6. Does it contain photos or graphics that are obscene or offensive primarily for shock value?
7. What negative impacts could this material have?  
What #DareToUnderstand message would you create to address this situation?