THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATES
OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: ROLE MODELS TO FOLLOW

Development and Peace has worked with some amazing organizations and people over the years, including Nelson Mandela from South Africa; Rigoberta Menchu from Guatemala; and Bishop Carlos Belo from the Philippines. They were recognized internationally by winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Their work and their lives manifest the light of Christ, his heart for justice and for the poor people of this world. They serve as models that we can follow.

OBJECTIVES // Discover the work of three Nobel Peace Prize Laureates who fought or continue to fight for social justice and the examples they set for us.

TIME // 45-60 minutes

GROUP SIZE // Any

MATERIALS //
- One computer with internet access for every 3-4 participants
- Chalkboard, white board or flip chart and corresponding writing utensil

PREPARATION //
- Print 1 “Fact Sheet” for every 9-12 participants and cut along the dotted lines
- Print 1 “Question Sheet” for each participant

ACTIVITY GUIDE

STEP 1 // Divide participants into groups of 3 to 4. Assign each group a Nobel Prize Laureate and provide them with the corresponding “Fact Sheet.” (If you have more than 12 people, some of them will be working on the same Laureate.)

STEP 2 // Explain that these three people worked with partner organizations of Development and Peace and were recognized for their work by winning the Nobel Peace Prize. The sheets that you have given them explain the Laureate’s connection to Development and Peace. Their task in the next 20-25 minutes will be to research the person and prepare answers to the questions on the sheet provided to share them with the class.

STEP 3 // Have each group present on their Laureate to the rest of the participants. If you have more than one group per Laureate, you can have a first group present and the others can add any additional facts they found, as well as share their answers for the last two questions.

STEP 4 // Write the following questions so they are visible to all. Give participants about 5-10 minutes to reflect on the questions quietly. This could be an opportunity for them to journal. Once they have had time to reflect, invite them to return to their groups and share their reflections on the questions.

- Which Nobel Laureate is most inspiring to you and why?
- What about their life do you hope to imitate?
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DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE’S NOBEL LAUREATES:

A FACT SHEET

RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM

was the head of the Development and Peace partner CUC (Committee for Peasant Unity) when she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. This happened in the midst of Development and Peace’s 1990-1993 education and action campaign called “Rebuilding the Americas: From Domination to Liberation.” Menchú asked our Central American Program Officer to accompany her to the awards ceremony in Sweden.


NELSON MANDELA

Development and Peace waged three education and action campaigns here in Canada to help dismantle Apartheid during the period 1978-1989. We also financially supported labour unions and other South African groups working to end Apartheid. Upon his release from prison, Mandela thanked Development and Peace for its support through his internment. When he visited Montreal in 1990 he said, “I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to your organization and its members for your solidarity with our people in their striving for a non-racial and democratic South Africa.” He later appointed a former Development and Peace executive director, the late Gabrielle Lachance, as the first Canadian director of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

For more information: https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1993/mandela-facts.html

BISHOP CARLOS FILIPE XIMENES BELO

Development and Peace supported Bishop Belo’s leadership in waging a peaceful struggle against its Indonesian occupiers and developed strong partnerships with a number of organizations that supported the liberation movement. When it came his turn to receive the Nobel Prize, Bishop Belo asked our Asian Program Officer to accompany him to the awards ceremony in Sweden.

For more information: https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1996/belo-facts.html
1. What country were/are they from?

2. What year did they win the Nobel Peace Prize?

3. What did or do they dedicate their life to?

4. What did they do to deserve the Nobel Peace Prize?

5. What was their connection to Development and Peace?

6. In what way does their work exemplify the light and compassion of Christ?

7. How can we follow their example in our own lives?