

*Name of Practice:* **One World in Schools: Human Rights Documentary Films**

*Name of organisation:*  
**People in Need**

# **ONE WORLD IN SCHOOLS**

## **An educational program of People in Need**

### **THE MISSION**

To engage Czech youth through the powerful medium of human rights documentary film and audio-visual tools. At the present time One World in Schools's materials are used at 2 200 schools throughout the Czech Republic and the project is beginning to spread even beyond this country's borders.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

One World in Schools educates Czech pupils and students through the **use of human rights documentary films** and other audiovisual materials. The project forces students to discuss the meaning of human rights and tolerance, basic values on which a democratic society is based. Project films help increase awareness among young people by raising questions and pushing students to search for answers, drawing parallels to the students' own lives and **encouraging them to form independent opinions**. One World in Schools utilizes films that reflect today's world without lecturing the audience. Films are selected because they are thought-provoking and pose basic questions that the students can relate to. By using the medium of film, the project gives the students the **chance to experience emotional conflict and interact** with others as opinions form and understanding grows.

In addition to films, One World in Schools also provides participating teachers with complete **educational materials** including handbooks, scripts for discussion, and scripts for interactive games and other activities. **Seminars** are also organized for participating schools, to help teachers understand how to use the materials and implement innovative teaching methods. In 2004, a group of active and experienced teachers formed an **expert group** that is now participating in the creation of project materials, planning and preparation of activities, and mentoring teachers with less experience.

One World in Schools believes in the value of regularly-published and up-to-date support materials. A monthly **electronic newsletter** is published consisting of current information about projects, and all teaching materials are also published at **[www.jedensvetnaskolach.cz](http://www.jedensvetnaskolach.cz)**

#### **Student activities**

Another integral part of One World in Schools is One World **Film Clubs**, which students themselves start up at secondary schools. Students organize screenings of films, debates with guests, concerts and exhibitions. There are currently hundreds of members in forty-five active clubs in the Czech Republic. **Link magazine** is published and literary and art competitions are held regularly for students.

#### **Parts of project**

Another development of One World in Schools is a collection of documentary films mapping the key events in **modern Czechoslovak history**. The collection covers the beginning of Masaryk's First Republic, the Second World War, the Communist seizure of power, the era of Stalinism and the crimes of Communism, the Spring of '68, the Soviet intervention and the following normalization, the activities of the dissidents and their persecution, 1989 and the Velvet Revolution, and the resulting transition to democracy.

We are currently directing the One World in Schools project towards **media education**. Our aim is to increase the ability of young people to critically view the media, whose influence they are exposed to on a daily basis, and at the same time to develop their knowledge of how to use the media.

The Czech Republic is currently in the process of **educational reforms** for primary schools. One part of this project concentrates on the integrating this methodology into the reforms.

The favorable reactions of students, teachers and experts to One World in Schools has proven the great potential that documentary films have for opening young people to discussions and an understanding of human rights issues.

## **THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONE WORLD IN SCHOOLS**

One World in Schools started as a complementary educational program connected to the One World human rights film festival. In 2002, the first screenings of documentary films were organized for schools. Due to the resounding success of these early screenings, the project was developed and continued. In order to enrich the screenings, festival staff visited the schools, screened the individual films and participated in debates with the students.

The demand for the project quickly became greater than People in Need could manage alone from Prague, and twenty local non-profit partner organizations were approached to organize screenings and to take part in the follow-up debates. The majority of these organizations are partners in the One World Film Festival, allowing them to integrate the efforts of the One World Film Festival in Regions and One World in Schools. The project is not a one-time screening, but rather a thematic series, touching primarily on the following themes: regions in crisis, refugees, minorities, racism, and accepting diversity and tolerance. After a certain amount of time it became apparent that even this group of twenty non-profit organizations was not able to meet the demand from the schools and to organize the screenings in all the areas in which there was an interest, so the project then developed an even more systematic and organized approach.

## **ONE WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL**

In 1999, People in Need organized the first One World festival with the aim of using the powerful medium of film and video to foster mutual understanding between cultures, heighten public awareness about human rights, and promote global responsibility. Since then, One World has developed into one of the largest and most important human rights film festivals in Europe. The One World human rights festival is the biggest awareness-building event staged in the Czech Republic. Last year the festival was attended by the 32,000 viewers in Prague, and 30,000 more in fourteen cities around the Czech Republic.

One World features documentaries that explore, question, and challenge the complexities of the times in which we live. Through documentaries that unveil the realities behind the global media, One World operates as a forum for initiatives towards change. It is our intent to reach our audiences in such a way as to awaken a sense of urgency for change in each individual — and as a result of this urgency, complacency would be deemed unacceptable. One World is also driven very much by its young audience. Eighty percent of One World viewers are between sixteen and twenty-eight years old. In an effort to reach diverse groups of people, our venues extend far beyond those of a traditional film festival by bringing films to schools, prisons, refugee centers, and social care institutions.

**In January 2006, the festival was awarded the UNESCO Honorable Mention for Peace Education.**

**Available to Teachers:**

- Complete teaching materials
- 260 documentary films and other audiovisual materials
- Professional handbook on how to use documentary films in education
- Methodical instructions – detailed film synopsis, scripts for discussions with students
- Sample screening of films and discussions
- Examples of interactive teaching methods
- Training seminars
- A group of experienced experts who act as a project consultancy team
- Internet informational sources
- Electronic newsletter

**Available to Students:**

- One World Film Club - screening and discussions organized by participating students (currently 45 clubs)
- 260 documentary films and other audiovisual materials
- Meetings of One World Film Club organizers
- Link Magazine: a youth magazine with information about human rights, current affairs and social issues in an attractive format combining text, photographs and comics
- Literary and photo competitions
- Screenings for children in isolation — diagnostic institutions, prisons, hospitals, treatment centers, excluded localities, refugee facilities etc. — with the direct involvement of the most active students who run film clubs at their schools
- Internet informational sources
- Electronic newsletter

**Areas of Focus:**

- Regions in Crisis
- Racism
- The Roma
- People Stuck in Destructive Cycles or Lower Social, Economic, or Political Situations
- Development Cooperation
- Czechoslovak History
- Docs for Kids – short documentary films for primary school pupils
- Drugs
- Generation Next
- Reconciling the Past
- Media Education

The One World in Schools project represents a systematic method of education with a purpose of long-term sustainability, which implies the application of effective and modern methods of education and the use of resources and tools with a significant potential to be of interest to younger generations. A key to success of this methodology is the personality of the teacher. Success of the project mainly depends on a teacher's ability to present the given topics to the students in an interesting and exciting way, and also to educate them about tolerance and respect. In the seminars incorporated in the projects, teachers are motivated and instructed so that they are able to apply the chosen methodology in their schools. The project expands the existing supply of teaching tools and at the same time offers an accessible methodology of education for students as well as teachers.

**EVALUATION BY TEACHERS**

VLASTA VYČICHLOVÁ, *SOŠT Liberec*: “The One World in Schools project offers something that was hopelessly absent from my job: the possibility to get more insightful understanding of the events that are covered in the mainstream media in too fragmented a manner. The project also gives students a chance to discuss and reflect more thoroughly the news they see on the TV and too often do not understand or do not care about.”

JARMILA MOJŽÍŠOVÁ, *VOŠ Palestra, Prague 9*: “I became involved in One World in Schools because so often in day-to-day work with students I see how intolerant they are in so many areas. Words are not sufficient to change their views.”

HELENA KOUBKOVÁ, *SOU Engineering and Trade School, Plzeň*: “Concrete and emotionally powerful human stories told through documentary films can have a much deeper impact than hundreds of words.”

JITKA KODROVÁ, *Jan Palach High School, Prague 1*: “I consider education in the area of human rights to be an important part of the learning for each individual. Unfortunately teaching materials currently available do not deal much with this issue, which is why I welcomed the possibility to use the One World documentaries.”

JAROSLAVA SCHLEGELOVÁ, *Eliška Krásnohorská High School, Prague 4*: “The One World team was able to accomplish what different institutions, educational experts and ministerial authorities are just writing about and discussing among themselves. They offered the schools contact with the contemporary world, forced teachers and students to experience, think and discuss about the world in which we live.”

VÁCLAVA ŠNOKHOUSOVÁ, *Český Krumlov High School*: “I would like to praise the fact that the organizers of the project did not just deliver video tapes, but also organized seminars and provided materials for teachers, so that they could find the most effective way to work with the films. These seminars were the best examples of supplemental learning that I participated in this year.”

ALENA STANOVSKÁ, *Boskovice High School*: “The documentaries together with interactive games, discussions and other activities that are incorporated in the project force students to think, react, and take a position on issues. This project contributes to the raising of active, critically thinking citizens, which are so necessary in the world.”

PAVLA TOLÁŠOVÁ, *SPŠ a SOU Letohrad*: We are a technical school, where social studies subjects used to be considered as an optional extra only, yet today this view has changed with the absence of decent behavior, which is a problem on a world wide scale. Thanks to your project not only students, but also teachers can see the differences between states, continents, nationalities, but also the things that connect us. And mainly we can express our opinions, ideas, thoughts, and at the same time learn to listen to others, think about them and understand them, which is often a problem even for teachers.

ROSTISLAV RADIMECKÝ, *OA a VOŠE Tábor*: I saw the organization of the seminars as a huge plus of the project with the model projects and discussion with the guests. We are able as teachers then to introduce a given problem, discuss it with interesting guests and most importantly to learn how to work with and use the material.

JAN JIRÁTKO, *Gymnázium Zikmunda Wintra, Rakovník*: The collection of videotapes, which we received, has had a strong response among the teachers and especially among the students. It allows us to liven up the lesson and add to it a new dimension. As a part of this project we also made several works of art.

JAROSLAV ROTREKL, *Obchodní akademie v Opavě*: I am convinced that the whole project One World in the School is great and deeply meaningful. I think that the project is taking root in the schools, and its continued activities will do a tremendous amount. I wish you enough patience with us teachers and all of us intent on carrying this beautiful and pious intention to its goal – a spiritual and emotional cultivation of those who will be in charge of this difficult and troubled world in a few years.

VÁCLAVA ŠNOKHOUSOVÁ, *Gymnázium Český Krumlov*: At the end I'd like to offer one new experience. When I showed the film "Global Banquet" in the last hour, the students were so interested in the film that they stayed 10 minutes after the end of regular school hours, so that they could watch film until the end. They would hardly have been willing to do this for a lecture from their teacher. Even today (as well as many times before) I have experienced that film can be a good tool and liven up the lesson. I think that it has a great potential to make an impact on our young students and this potential should be used.

## **EVALUATION BY STUDENTS**

EDITA ZEIDLEROVÁ, *Gymnázium Horní Počernice, Praha 9*: "The One World Film Club is one of the few clubs in our school, which has a purpose. It is especially important for young people to have perspective and know what is happening in the world. Even in our 'civilized' and 'democratic' world there are still many places and areas where people do not know what freedom is and die from hunger and lack of health-care. By learning that, students will understand what is truly important and will be able to form a competent opinion about the world around us."

PETR NĚMEC, *Gymnázium Petra Bezruče, Frýdek-Místek*: "The main impulse for me for forming the One World film club was the war in Iraq and the period that preceded it. During the discussions about 'yes or no to war' we understandably did not solve anything, because everyone approached it from completely different point of view, some of a propagandistic nature. Many colleagues of mine were swayed by the simple phrase 'No war for oil' or 'We are fighting terrorism' and did not look further into the history of the conflict and the wider context. Therefore I welcomed the possibility of forming the Film Club, in order to increase the interest in 'politics' and human rights among students, but also in order to find and present new perspectives. The club offered us different points-of views and left the forming of opinions up to us. If anyone says after the screening of a film, 'Well, so I was wrong' or 'I did not know that', then we can say that the screening fulfilled its purpose."

## **EVALUATION OF THE MEETING OF STUDENT ORGANIZERS OF FILM CLUBS**

KRISTÝNA ANTOŠOVÁ, *Gymnázium Oty Pavla, Praha 5*: "The meeting was great for me, it was very valuable for us. We gained a lot of inspiration and ideas."

LADA VINŠOVÁ, *Střední odborná škola, Česká Lípa*: "Without a question, wonderful, although somewhat difficult. Expand, expand, expand! That is the only way to ensure that our and future generations will not be thoughtless and degenerated by the influence of the wider society."

HANA VITNEROVÁ, *Gymnázium Jozefská, Praha 1*: "It is incredibly important to exchange ideas, experiences and form new contacts. It appears to me to be a great idea. I think that feedback is always welcomed and necessary. I would be happy to participate next time!"

## **INFORMATION OF THE ORGANISATION:**

<b>Full legal name</b>	People in Need
<b>Acronym</b>	PIN
<b>Nationality</b>	Czech Republic
<b>Official address</b>	Sokolská 18, 120 00 Prague 2, Czech Republic
<b>Postal address</b>	Sokolská 18, 120 00 Prague 2, Czech Republic
<b>Telephone number:</b> country code / city code/ number	+420 226 200 400
<b>Fax number</b>	+420 226 200 401
<b>E-mail of the Organisation</b>	<a href="mailto:skoly@oneworld.cz">skoly@oneworld.cz</a> , <a href="mailto:skoly@jedensvet.cz">skoly@jedensvet.cz</a>
<b>Website of the organisation</b>	<a href="http://www.peopleinneed.cz">www.peopleinneed.cz</a> , <a href="http://www.clovekvtisni.cz">www.clovekvtisni.cz</a>

#### **INFORMATION OF THE PROJECT ONE WORLD IN SCHOOLS:**

<b>Contact person for the project One World in Schools</b>	Karel Strachota, project director
<b>Contact person's e- mail address :</b>	Karel.strachota@oneworld.cz
<b>Telephone number:</b> country code / city code/ number	+420 226 200 432
<b>Website of the project One World in Schools</b>	<a href="http://www.jedensvetnaskolach.cz">www.jedensvetnaskolach.cz</a>