



What Can We Do?

The Freedom Now February 22 Global Art Exchange & Exhibit

“You may ask: what can one person do? Let me tell you a story I remember from my childhood: A terrible fire had broken out in the forest. All the animals were running away, including the lion, king of the forest. Suddenly, the lion saw a tiny bird rushing towards the fire. He asked the bird, “What are you doing?” To the lion’s surprise, the bird replied, “I am on my way to extinguish the fire.” He laughed and said, “how can you kill the fire with just one drop of water, in your beak?” The bird was adamant and said, “But I am doing my bit.”

–Kailash Satyarthi, 2014 Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech

One student’s voice raised against injustice—though small—is powerful. A group of students each speaking out together is even louder. An entire school full of students voicing their minds is thunderous, and if 100 schools around the world each did their part—however small it seemed—to stand up and speak out, it would create a roar so loud it would reverberate around the entire globe.

That is what we are doing on February 22, 2018.

Our Participation:

After learning about human trafficking, we will be participating in a worldwide student awareness project orchestrated by the non-profit anti-trafficking organization, Guria, called *The Freedom Now Global Art Exchange & Exhibit*. Each participating school is committing to learn about human trafficking, create art about it, share and exchange the art with each other, and put on art exhibits in each of their schools on February 22, 2018.

If you would like to participate, use the knowledge you have gained through our discussions about human trafficking to produce art. This art can be an expression of your thoughts about human trafficking, your feelings, your desire to see it end, etc. Express yourself honestly and in any form that you feel comfortable with: drawing, painting, poetry, dance, videos, song, or any other medium.

Why Are We Doing This?

Our goal is to grab the attention of the world regarding the highly-organized international crime of human trafficking by creating a tidal wave of art and awareness. The project will empower and educate all parties involved – children affected by trafficking, teachers, students themselves, and many more. In a joint movement of solidarity, we will demonstrate the power of youth to make change and the power of art to transcend borders and celebrate plurality. We are students, we are Guria, we are artists, we are speaking out, and we demand Freedom Now for victims of human trafficking.