

## **SPEAKER 1 SIMON KAUFMAN - ADAPTED**

**Whitwell: ELAN:** We, the “Change the world. It just takes cents” students, Yael Kornfeld, Simon Kaufman, Dani Fried and I, Elan Leftin, congratulate Linda Hooper and the Whitwell students for sharing their lessons on the Holocaust with us and the world, and take this opportunity to thank you for the invitation to join you at this special event.

**WHITWELL/DC: SIMON:** On the Jewish High Holidays - Rosh Hashanah, the Rabbis speak of different levels of *t'shuvah* - repentance. They teach that the highest level of *t'shuvah* is when you are faced with the same situation in which you previously sinned or made a mistake and you don't make the same mistake again. **PAUSE**

As you can imagine, it is rare that a person is fortunate enough to encounter the identical situation again, so when it happens, it is especially important to do *tikun* - repair, and correct the error. **PAUSE**

It has been 63 years since we learned of the true extent of the Holocaust, when America and the world stood by as our brothers and sisters in Europe were being slaughtered by a government supported group called the Nazis.

It was because we took little action that 6 million Jews along with 5 million other civilians, 1.5 million being children, were murdered for no reason.

After the Holocaust we swore --- Never Again!

**Never again** would we stand by as innocent people were being killed.

Regrettably - it seems that we have forgotten, for today there is another Holocaust taking place in the world, and the world is again standing by, doing nothing.

This Holocaust is in Darfur, Sudan in East Central Africa. **PAUSE**

It seems that we have been presented with the same situation in which we stood by the last time and have an opportunity to do *tikun* - to repair our previous mistake.

**PAUSE**

As mentioned, I am Simon Kaufman and I am a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Herzl/RMHA.

Over the past two years I, together with my classmates, some who are here today, have taken a Service Learning class that focuses on learning **how** as Jews we are responsible for helping others.

We have learned about the atrocities taking place in Darfur.

While many people have heard of Darfur, few know the history of this present day Holocaust.

The conflict began in mid 2003. Like most wars it started over what seems a basic disagreement. Simply stated, the two main occupations in Sudan were Muslim nomads and Muslim farmers. The nomads would wander in search of land and water to feed their livestock. These same nomads began trespassing on the farmers' fertile land to graze their animals. This resulted in the farmers becoming angry and retaliating for this injustice. The farmer's formed rebel groups to fight against the nomads. However, the Sudanese government supported the **ideology** of the Arab nomads and offered **no help** to the African farmers.

Over the years the conflict has escalated to unimaginable proportions. Today a rag-tag, government supported militia, called the Janjaweed, meaning man on horseback, attack the innocent farmer civilians, burning whole villages, killing children, raping women and doing other horrible things. **PAUSE**

In 2006, the United States officially declared the situation in Darfur a genocide. Even though this violence has been taking place for almost five years, the world has taken very little action to stop the violence. To date approximately **five hundred thousand** people have been murdered, and more than **2½ million** people have been displaced as a result of this current day genocide.

It is easy to read articles about the Darfur atrocities, but my class at Herzl/RMHA understood that in order to make a difference **action** was needed.

My classmates and I started a student-led, teacher mentored learning process and social action movement called, *Change the World, It Just Takes Cents*.

We have attended and spoken at rallies and exhibitions, called and written to our elected officials, celebrities, and other human rights activists made ourselves and our cause visible to the broader community, collected loose change raising over \$25,000 to help rebuild a school destroyed in Darfur,. We tell all who will listen about our anti-genocide efforts, because we know we cannot stop genocide by ourselves. **PAUSE**

**YAEL:** Today we are here to honor the students of whitwell, Tennessee who, through their “PaperClips” process of learning have lured millions into better understanding of the effects of genocide and the benefit of informed social action.

Like these students, we want to do all we can to prevent such atrocities from happening again. Even at our age – we have a voice.

That is why we advocate and raise awareness of the world’s first genocide of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – The Darfur Genocide.

The words must be conveyed, .....**NEVER AGAIN**

**PAUSE**

**SIMON:** We, need to stand united in speaking out against genocide - with a sense of Ah-ray-voot - responsibility for, and obligation to, each other, and our fellow man ...much like Moses who gathered his people, from the exalted to the lowliest, old and young, men and women, to unite them as one people – each responsible for the other.

Today we have an opportunity to perform the greatest type of *teshuvah* – repentance , simply by not repeating the same errors of past generations.

We are a people of deed - not creed.

To say never again is not enough; each one of us must take action to make sure there is never another Holocaust.

Elie Wiesel said,... “I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor and never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

**PAUSE**

So, I ask you, no, I beg you - **Join** me and my classmates and DON'T stand by silently.

**Spread** the word.

**Call** your elected officials

**Support** student humanitarian movements like *Change the World, It Just Takes Cents* with a loose change contribution. Every cent donated makes a difference in the life of a Darfuri child.

**Join us** as we take a stand against evil.

**Join us** as we **live** the concept of *Ah-ray-voot* – **responsibility** for our fellow man!

**PAUSE**

**THANK YOU .**

## SPEAKER 2 & 3: (DC ONLY - YAEL & ELAN)

**YAEL:** During the course of our studies we are exposed to and inspired by the words and writings of many famous leaders, authors, philosophers, educators, clergymen, survivors of genocide, and human rights advocates.

**ELAN:** One such leader was the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. who developed the 6 principles of non-violence

### Principle 1

**YAEL:** “Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.”

**ELAN:** *Do not stand idly by*

### Principle 2

**YAEL:** “Nonviolence means seeking friendship and understanding among those who are different from you.”

**ELAN:** *Stretch out a helping hand*

### Principle 3

**YAEL:** “Nonviolence defeats injustice, NOT people.”

**ELAN:** *Justice, Justice YOU shall pursue*

### Principle 4

**YAEL:** “Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform people and societies.”

**ELAN:** *Education is more important than mere action because it leads to informed action*

### Principle 5

**YAEL:** “Nonviolence chooses loving solutions, NOT hateful ones.”

**ELAN:** *Advocate for the oppressed and needy.  
Where there is a will, there is a way*

### Principle 6

**YAEL:** “Nonviolence means the entire universe embraces justice.”

**ELAN:** *Repair the world so that we all benefit from what it has to offer  
If peace never begins, Genocide will never end.*

## [SPEAKER 2 & 3 & 4 : \(Whitwell & DC\)](#)

[DANI](#) Over the past 3 years, Herzl RMHA students have extensively studied the background to the Darfur genocide. This inspired us to devise a campaign in order to "do something". And so,... "Change the world. It just takes cents", now in its third year, was created.

"Change the world. It just takes cents" is the only interdisciplinary, interactive, anti-genocide, social action educational program, focused on process, driven by middle and high school students from the Denver metro area, as well as from throughout the USA, and as far as England, Israel and Sweden.

[YAEL](#) To date, we have raised sufficient funds to rebuild the D-Kaire school in Korma, Darfur in Western Sudan. Our current fundraising efforts benefit Darfuri refugees seeking a safe haven in Israel, as well as those who have settled in Colorado.

**BUT our work is not yet done.**

**PAUSE**

We continue to advocate and speak out, loudly and clearly, at every opportunity for the people of Darfur. We write letters, make phone calls, distribute informational materials, and keep the fire burning nationwide by collaborating with national and international initiatives such as the Damanga Coalition for Freedom and Democracy, Darfur Alert, Genocide Intervention Network, Enough, Save Darfur, Amnesty International, and "Tents of Hope", ...just to name a few.

**PAUSE**

As recently as May of this year we launched an extensive letter writing and telephone campaign calling for the release of Alghali Shegifat, head of the Darfur journalist association, and other Darfuri unjustly arrested in Khartoum.

This call to action was picked up by Jen Marlowe - author of Darfur Diaries, Amnesty International and other major human rights agencies and resulted in Alghali's release in July ...

...so you see, even our efforts help...if only in a small way.

We also organize an annual student forum so that our fellow students can join us in making the "necessary noise". The 2008 Forum was attended by 580 students representing 19 schools.

**PAUSE**

One of the highlights for the first generation "Change the World It just takes cents" students was learning about the political process surrounding Divestment.

The 2nd was standing alongside Governor Ritter as he signed the Colorado Divestment Bill into law.

**PAUSE**

[ELAN](#)

As a group we represented the Darfuri youth as runners and speakers at The Dream for Darfur rally, the Denver Olympic Torch Relay, and Colorado Springs' Torch Rally denouncing China's involvement in Sudan.

In the immediate aftermath of the Beijing Olympics, whose theme was "One world. One Dream" our voice, together with yours, clearly says, we refuse to be silent in the face of genocide. **PAUSE**

The Olympic five ring logo represents five continents participating in the Olympics; each interconnected ring symbolizing the international friendships gained through competition. The African continent's circle lies open, and alone. **PAUSE**

.....One world - One Dream

**PAUSE**

## DANI

For us, the Olympic Torch symbolizes a link between people and places, as well as a message of universal peace, unity and friendship.

Therefore, we make every effort to remain connected with the Darfuri people. **PAUSE**

We recently received an email from a friend in Darfur, a school principal. He wrote: ***"attached is opposite to what your children in grade 8 are doing.***

***They are collecting money to build a primary school while primary school children and their moms are massacred in the Kalma Refugee Camp.***

***Please speed up and spend every effort to stop it.***

***We believe this attack on children and women can be stopped from U.S.A. by adding further momentum to push the government in Sudan to stop its notorious acts against the children and women.***

***No impunity shall be allowed."***

Although we met many new people the second year of our campaign, we never forgot the inspiration for our initiative, Suad Mansour. We maintained contact with her and were only too eager to collaborate with Amnesty International, Darfur Diaries author Jen Marlowe and Darfur Alert, Suad's NGO, to spearhead efforts to apply pressure to release her brother, Elghali Shigefat, head of the Darfur Journalists' Association, unjustly detained and tortured in Darfur, by the corrupt Sudanese government. We also solicited advocacy from Damanga, Save Darfur, GI-NET, ENOUGH!, Tents of Hope, and an ICC-lawyer-friend of "Change the world..."™ we sought out regarding Elghali's dire circumstances. We are so very thankful that Elghali is (here in DC with us today and is) free from danger, as he seeks asylum in the USA.

**PAUSE**

As young Americans, we are free to pursue courses of action of our own choosing.

We choose to continue to raise community awareness about the Darfur crisis.

We choose to stand up and be the voice of the children of Darfur, who are also

entitled to the security of parents and a home, three meals a day, and an education.  
We choose to work towards creating a future for our Darfuri counterparts, filled with hope, and equal opportunities.

We choose to send a strong message that we will not tolerate injustice

We choose to make a difference in some way.

We choose to say, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

**PAUSE**

Darfur is a genocide we, the youth, together with you, can stop .

**PAUSE**

**look at audience**

**Thank you**

**TAKING ACTION**

## Gather Information

Learn all you can about the problems you see in your community through the media, social and civic organizations, and by talking to the people involved.

## Educate Others

Armed with your new knowledge, it is your duty to help those around you, such as your neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers, better understand the problems facing society. Build a team of people devoted to finding solutions. Be sure to include those who will be directly affected by your work.

## Remain Committed

Accept that you will face many obstacles and challenges as you and your team try to change society. Encourage and inspire one another along the journey.

## Peacefully Negotiate

Talk with both sides. go to the people in your community who are in trouble and who are deeply hurt by society's ills. Also go to those people who are contributing to the breakdown of a peaceful society. Use humor, intelligence and grace to lead to solutions that benefit the greater good.

## Take Action Peacefully

This step is often used when negotiation fails to produce results, or when people need to draw broader attention to a problem. it can include tactics such as peaceful demonstrations, letter-writing and petition campaign.

## Reconcile

Keep all actions and negotiations peaceful and constructive. Agree to disagree with some people and with some groups as you work to improve society. Show all involved the benefits of changing, not what they will give up by changing.