

Nobel Prize Lessons

Teacher's manuscript – the 2018 Peace Prize

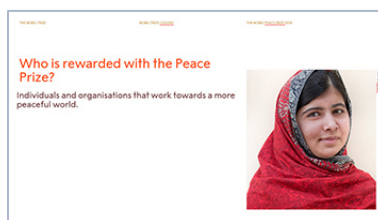
The Nobel Peace Prize

- The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five prizes founded by Alfred Nobel and awarded on December 10 every year.
- Before Nobel died on December 10, 1896, he wrote in his will that the largest part of his fortune should be used to fund a prize to those who “have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind.” One of the five prizes should go “to the person who has done the most or best to advance fellowship among nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the establishment and promotion of peace congresses”.



Who is rewarded with the Peace Prize?

- In 1901 the first Peace Prize was awarded to Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross. Right from the start, the Norwegian Nobel Committee thus adopted a broad interpretation of the peace concept; humanitarian work is also a way of promoting peace.
- The Prize can go to individuals and organisations that fight for disarmament, conflict resolution and human rights. One example of a Laureate in recent years is Malala Yousafzai (2014), who was rewarded for her struggle for the equal right of all children to education.



The Nobel Laureates

- Half of the Prize is being awarded to Denis Mukwege (born in 1955) from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo).
- Dr Mukwege works as a gynaecologist, and he has treated thousands of women and girls who have been subjected to rape and sexual violence in war-torn areas.
- The other half of the Prize is being awarded to Nadia Murad (born in 1993), a human rights activist who belongs to the Yazidi minority in Iraq.
- In 2014 she was taken prisoner by Islamic State and held as a sex slave for three months before managing to escape. Today she is fighting to persuade world leaders to do more to stop sexual violence against women and girls.



Denis Mukwege

- Denis Mukwege lives and works in the city of Bukavu in DR Congo. In 1999 he established Panzi Hospital, which has treated tens of thousands of women and girls who were subjected to terrible atrocities. Many of the victims are children. In 2012 Mukwege delivered a speech at the United Nations, in which he criticised the Congolese government and other countries for not doing more to stop brutal sexual violence. When he returned home, he was the victim of an attempted murder, but he survived. At the risk of his own life, Mukwege has refused to give up his work.



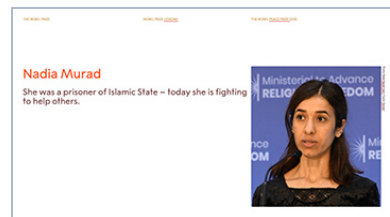
The civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- Many of the rapes in DR Congo occur as part of the armed conflicts that have plagued the country for many years. Between 1998 and 2003 there was a civil war in DR Congo, in which several other African countries were also involved.
- Even after the war formally ended, fighting has continued, especially in the eastern parts of DR Congo. The conflict is fundamentally about control of the country's natural resources. Rape is being used systematically as a weapon to harm and frighten the civilian population.



Nadia Murad

- Nadia Murad grew up in the village of Kocho in northern Iraq. She belongs to the Yazidi minority.
- In August 2014 Islamic State carried out attacks against Yazidi villages in northern Iraq.
- In Murad's village, hundreds of people were killed, including her mother and several of her brothers. Young women were abducted as slaves. For three months, Nadia Murad was subjected to torture and repeated rape, before she managed to flee.
- Today she is a human rights activist, who works very courageously and single-mindedly to increase public knowledge about trafficking and sexual violence against women and girls.



UN Security Council Resolution 1820

- In 2018, ten years have passed since the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1820.
- This resolution condemns rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflicts.
- According to the resolution, the use of sexual violence in conflicts can constitute war crimes and is a threat to peace and security.



The Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee

- In an interview, Berit Reiss-Andersen, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, says that sexual violence in armed conflicts must receive more attention.
- It is a weapon that makes its victims feel guilty, while tearing families and communities apart. But to enable us to combat this type of warfare, we must realise just how horrible and brutal it actually is.

