

Nobel Prize Lessons

Student worksheet – The 2018 Peace Prize

The 2018 Peace Prize

Denis Mukwege and **Nadia Murad** are being rewarded “for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict”.

Rape and other forms of sexual violence are systematically used as weapons in many wars and armed conflicts. Women and girls are subjected to terrible atrocities, while families and communities are torn apart.

Denis Mukwege is a gynaecologist – a physician specialising in the functions and diseases of women and girls – in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For many years, Dr Mukwege has treated thousands of women and girls who have been subjected to torture and repeated rape. By telling about the suffering and injuries that he witnesses in his work, he is trying to get world leaders to do more to protect women.



Nadia Murad is a human rights activist who belongs to the Yazidi minority in Iraq. She was taken prisoner by Islamic State in 2014. After a nightmarish three-month period as a sex slave, she managed to escape. She works today to spread knowledge about trafficking and sexual violence. In its Peace Prize citation, the Norwegian Nobel Committee writes that both Laureates have shown great courage and have help draw attention to war-time sexual violence, which is necessary if the perpetrators are to be held accountable.

Discussion questions

- Imagine that you are asked to explain the work of the Laureates to a friend.
 - Why did they receive the Nobel Prize for their work?
 - What do you think was the most interesting thing about the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize?

- Alfred Nobel wanted the work of the Nobel Laureates to have "conferred the greatest benefit to humankind".
 - What do you believe the Laureates' contributions can lead to?
 - Can their contributions help other people in any way?