

DIVERSITEA

A DUKE DPT DIVERSITY CLUB AND DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER



Rwanda Reds: How Football United a Nation Ravaged by Genocide

Few atrocities are as well-known as the 1994 Rwandan Genocide - massacre of nearly 1 million Tutsi and moderate Hutu people in 100 days. Less known are the means by which Rwanda healed. "Redemption," an episode from the 2019 Amazon Prime Series 'This is Football," tells the story of how football in part helped survivors of the Rwandan Genocide to recover, to forgive, and to eventually re-unite. Against the backdrop of the Rwanda Reds, fans of the English Premier Club Liverpool F.C., 'Redemption' guides the viewer through first-hand accounts of the 1994 atrocities. We observe the political events which facilitated the conflict and the systematic social breakdown that led to massacre. While undoubtedly horrific, the episode's more

painful scenes are of survivors recalling love and loss. An example is Joe, who remembers the love he and his father - who was ultimately murdered in the genocide - shared for the game. And Joe, now a parent, passing the game on to his young child. Most powerful, however, is the story of a game transcending the pitch, uniting survivors and enemies toward one goal. As one survivor states, "In football there's no such thing as Hutus and Tutsis, we all play together."

Armenian Martyrs' Day

The first genocide of the 20th century, The Armenian Genocide, took place from 1915 - 1923. April 24th is the date on which the massacre began in 1915, and it is now the date on which Armenian communities everywhere commemorate the 1.5 million Armenian lives that were taken by the Ottoman empire. An exclusive ethnic and religious ideology fueled the Young Turks and the Turkish Nationalists in their quest to try to eliminate the Armenian people via deportation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation. Leaders in the Armenian community were arrested and killed first; then, the elderly, women, and children were forced from their homes onto death marches through the deserts of Syria. 105 years later, the Turkish government still denies the Armenian Genocide, and claims the deaths were casualties of World War I. However, survivors and their families are boldly and vulnerably sharing their narratives with the world to raise awareness of how the beautiful Armenian heritage has been preserved despite their tragic history.





A Day of Silence

Born out of a [class project on nonviolent protests](#) at the University of Virginia in 1996, the Day of Silence, or DOS, has expanded to a student-led event that happens in schools across the nation. Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, [GLSEN](#), is now the [official sponsor of the event](#), and the organization was created by teachers in 1900 with a mission to "ensure that every member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression." "70% of LGBTQ+ students in grades K - 12 report verbal harassment at school due to their sexual orientation and nearly 30% were physically harassed," which can have a detrimental impact on school attendance and participation. By going through the school day in silence and completing the day with breaking the silence rallies, LGBTQ+ students, teachers, and allies are ensuring that educational spaces are safe, accessible, and affirming for all.

Yom HaShoah

Many can recall growing up and learning about the largest manifestation of anti-Semitism in recent history, the [Holocaust](#). Beginning in 1933, when the National Socialist Party, or Nazis, seized political power in Germany, over 6 million Jews were murdered and at least 5 million other prisoners of World War II (i.e. Roma Gypsies, Slavs, those who were disabled, and/or LGBTQ+). Lives were taken via concentration camps, most notably and the largest [Auschwitz-Birkenau](#), slave labor, and death marches. Shoah means catastrophe, utter destruction, or sacrifice by fire, and Yom HaShiah Ve-Hagevurah literally translated means the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and the Heroism. This year HoShoah began on [the evening of April 20th](#); Jews everywhere observe the day in a wide variety of ways, one of which includes a siren that elicits 2 minutes of silent devotion that [even stops traffic](#). While anti-Semitism is still a lingering issue today, there is strength, hope, and advocacy embedded in the [stories of those who survived](#) and their legacy.



Ramadan Mubarak!

[Ramadan](#) is a month of fasting in the Islamic faith to commemorate the first revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. Fasting takes place from dawn to sunset; there is a meal prior to dawn, suhoor or suhur, and a meal after sunset, iftar. Breaking fast at sunset is traditionally done with water and/or dates. This year, Ramadan is observed from April 23rd to May 23rd, and each year the fast ends with Eid al-Fitr, The Festival of Breaking the Fast. Ramadan is a communal, spiritually renewing, and generous time for Muslim communities worldwide. While Ramadan [looks a little different](#) due to COVID-19, its strength and beauty is still resounding throughout the

Muslim community. If you want to enhance your [knowledge surrounding Ramadan](#) as a student, clinician, [educator](#), and friend or ally, please view the linked resources provided by Duke DPT third year, Yusra Iftikhar ([The DPT Diaries](#)).