



YOUNG PEOPLE: YOU ARE THE CHURCH OF TODAY

Resource 2 – How do we live mission in today's world?



“Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers and sisters, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit.”

- Pope Francis

Scripture Passage: 1 Peter 4:10-11

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”



Poem

The Bridge

Joy Cowley

There are times in life
when we are called to be bridges,
not a great monument spanning a distance
and carrying loads of heavy traffic
but a simple bridge
to help one person from here to there
over some difficulty
such as pain, fear, grief, loneliness,
a bridge which opens the way
for ongoing journey.

When I become a bridge for another,
I bring upon myself a blessing, for I escape
from the small prison of self
and exist for a wider world,
breaking out to be a larger being
who can enter another's pain
and rejoice in another's triumph.

I know of only one greater blessing
in this life, and that is
to allow someone else
to be a bridge for me.

Prayer - Prayer for Mission (Fit for Mission prayer)

Gracious and merciful God,
we pray that through the Holy Spirit
we may all hear your call to mission
and seek a deeper relationship with your Son, Jesus.

We pray
that our plan "Fit For Mission" will renew our diocese,
inspiring all Catholics to "go forth and make disciples of all nations"
and transform society through the power of the Gospel.

We pray
for all members of the Church,
that we heed the words of Christ
—"do not be afraid"—
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit's gift of courage,
give witness to the Gospel and share our faith with others.

We pray
that we may become
like the father of the prodigal son
—filled with compassion
for our missing brothers and sisters—
and run to embrace them upon their return.

We pray
that all people
yearning to know Christ and the Church
may encounter him through the faithful
who witness to his love in their lives.

We pray
that we may learn to use modern means of communication
to spread the good news, to reach out
and touch those who tweet and post and email and text. We ask that
you inspire us to embrace the new media in your name.

Loving God, our Creator,
strengthen us to become witnesses
to the saving grace of your Son,
Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Mission as the Church

CREATIVE PRAYER

Scripture Passage: Matthew 10:5-15; *The Mission of the Twelve*

Opening prayer

Begin by reading the scripture passage provided.

The task entrusted to me

God our Father,
How wonderful is your creation. All that is created
comes from your hand.
I too have been called into being by you, given a
task for my life, a task that no one else can fill.
I have a mission for life. Maybe I do not recognise
this mission clearly on earth, but one day it will
become clear to me. I have not come into being
without worth or purpose, but as a link in a long
chain, a bridge between individuals and
generations.
Lord, God, this is the good thing entrusted to me:
To complete your work, to bring peace, to do good,
to serve the truth, to live your word, wherever I
am, wherever I might be.
Amen.

Reflection

In the Auckland Diocese Pastoral Plan 'Fit for Mission' it says that "The Church does not have a mission. No, the mission of Jesus has a Church." In our reading for today the Apostles were sent out by Jesus on a mission, and their mission was basically to go where there is a need and to do something about it; and to do this without seeking repayment or glory but instead to always bring the glory to God as they did these things in His name. The Apostles were the early Church. Just as the Apostles were sent on mission, we are called to go on this same mission as the Church. To go where there is a need and to do something about that need. So we will spend some time reflecting on the needs of our communities, our country, and our world.

On an A3 sheet of paper there will be lines that say;
"Where there is _____, let me _____."

Firstly, ask everyone to reflect on something that is lacking in the world, or some sort of injustice that they feel passionate or strongly about. Give examples (e.g. hatred, refugees, poverty, etc.) When they are ready encourage them to write this on a blank line on the A3 sheet. Once everyone/most people have done this, ask them to reflect back on the injustice that they wrote and what they can do to address this. Give examples (e.g. hatred with love, refugees with welcome and friendship, poverty with generosity, etc). When they are ready they can write these in the second blank on the A3 sheet.

Conclude the time of prayer by reading aloud the prayer at the foot of the A3 sheet and inviting those who are ready to sign their names to the commitment.

Closing prayer/hymn

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Chorus:

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Together, let us conclude this time of prayer by
saying together our missions that we have written on
the board.



Hmm... will this work?

ICE-BREAKER

Materials:

- A3 Paper
- Felts
- List of questions (suggestions available on Appendix 1)

Dynamics:

1. Participants are grouped into 3-5's.
2. The leader will give a situation of a need that requires items. (For example; you are outside and it is raining; see appendix for more useable examples)
3. Participants will be given 1 minute (can vary) to write a list of as many things that could be used to fulfil this need. For more challenge, the leader may say that only things within this room may be used, or things you have on you at this moment, or things that you own. (For example; for rain to use a book, a curtain, a plate etc.)
4. After a minute, the team with the most unique and practical solutions wins. If more than 1 team uses a particular solution, that solution is taken out of their total counts.

Debrief:

- Was it hard to think of items that you could use other than what's usually used?
- How can you relate this to actual needs in the world such as poverty, hunger, loneliness, etc.?

There are many needs in the world, some more difficult and some easier to tend to, but there are many different ways to tackle them.

At times we may think we are unequipped for mission but it is important to know that we don't have to give everything, but simply give our best with what we have.

There will also be times that needs will already tended to in particular ways and during these we can tend to these in different ways.



Collect or Select

ACTIVITY 1

Materials:

- Hula hoops (around 4)
- Balls

Safety reminders:

- Check if anyone who is participating in this activity has any injuries that can be aggravated further. If yes, they can choose to sit out of the activity or they can be given a role that will allow them to still participate (eg. Linesperson, etc.)
- Make sure that the game is played in an open area, ideally outdoors on the grass.

Dynamics:

1. Group will be split into four teams. The teams will be separated into four corners of the venue/space and each team will be given a hula hoop - this will be their base. The teams will be named a colour.
2. In the middle will be another hula hoop that contains lots of balls of various colours.
3. Round 1: The group is instructed that they will have a limited time (e.g. 30 seconds) to gather as many balls as possible and put them into their hula hoop but one person can only pick up one ball at a time. They may steal from other teams. After this, only the balls with the colour that corresponds to the team's name will be counted (i.e. For the Red Team only the red balls count).
4. Round 2: The group will be given another turn to do this knowing that only the balls with the colour that corresponds to their team name will be counted. (Hopefully this round they will gather more balls than in the previous round).

Debrief:

- Did you do better in the first round or second round? Why do you think this is?
- What was your strategy in the first round vs the second round?
- Was there a difference in the difficulty of the two rounds?

We are all called to take action in our world but we can't solve all the issues, problems and needs of our world, let alone all of those within our community.

(Round 1) When we try to do this (aimlessly/purposelessly) we spread ourselves too thin and aren't as effective in actually doing the thing that we need to. Sometimes we may know that something needs to be done, however, without knowing how to do the task or even its purpose we may lose reason to strive to take action in excellence. You may desire to donate to a charity though you may not know how, where, why or what your donation goes towards. We may even strive to do too much simultaneously where the outcome of both aren't as great as they could be for the sake of getting things done.

This can be compared to *(Round 2)* where we concentrate and put our mind to a specific task or need and try to meet that specific need. When our efforts are specific, concentrated and purposeful we are more effective. When we know where we can help the world, how, and reason why we take action our efforts will go a long way. When our focus is on intentionally being a disciple we are able to meet a specific need all the more.



Cards For Humanity

ACTIVITY 2

Materials:

- 2 sets of card cut outs (See Appendix 2)
One set that has part of a sentence with a blank part (eg, “At Auckland City Mission they accept donations of _____.”) and another set that has phrases that would be able to fill in the blank (eg, “toys”, “food”, “clothes”).)

Dynamics:

Played like the game ‘Cards Against Humanity’ if familiar

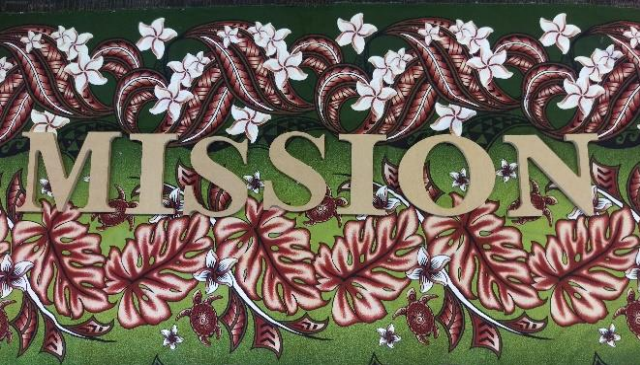
- Two sets of cards; one set that has part of a sentence and a blank and another set that has phrases that would be able to fill in the blank.
 - Question set has needs in the world, in Auckland, in our communities etc.
 - Answer set has actions that can be taken.
- Each person is given a number of answer cards (e.g. 5 answer cards. They always have 5 cards so once they use a card they pick up another one from the deck/pile). Each person takes a turn being the question asker. They pick a question card and read it out loud and the rest of the people in the group choose one of their cards to answer the question. The question person decides which is the best answer.

Debrief:

- Was that easy or hard?
- How did you feel about only having a limited number of answer cards? Was this limiting? Positives and negatives of this?
- During the game did you ever feel like you didn’t have a good answer card? What did you do?

We all have things that we can do; skills, talents, abilities etc. but we can’t necessarily do everything (we only ever have 5 cards)

There are needs in the world that we can meet with our particular talents/abilities but there are also needs which we may be unable to meet, however, we are able to call upon those more experienced/qualified to do these.



What's the sitch?

ACTIVITY 3

Part I

Materials:

- Newspaper article photos
- See Appendix 3 for possible photos and Appendix 4 for guidelines on selecting photos

Dynamics:

1. Each member is given a different newspaper article photo. If the article has a title let this be hidden from participants.
2. Others then take turns to title the article photo and shortly describe, in more detail, what is going on in the photo.

Debrief:

- How did your made up story differ with the actual story behind these photos?
- How did this make you feel/what did you think about this?

There are so many things happening in our world, our country and our communities. If we aren't aware of these things and the reality of what's going on we can become blind to the needs that may be around us.

In New Zealand we are blessed with a clean green and safe living environment. We may tend to forget worldly problems because of routine and comfort. How many times have we roamed around the streets of Auckland CBD? Here alone, over 200 people find themselves homeless. At the same time, 295,000 New Zealand kids are living beneath the poverty line. In 2016 alone, there were over 24,000 cases of crimes involving violence in New Zealand. In the same year we were hit with a series of life-changing earthquakes. This is the reality of it all and something we may or may not realise. All of this shows us that though we are blessed to live here, the world is still not perfect. But there is something we can do. For us to be able to offer our help we must first be aware and know about the things going on around us.

Part II

Materials:

- Letters that spell MISSION (block letters or cut outs. See Appendix 5 for cut outs template)
- Permanent markers / Felt tip pens (if using letter printouts)
- Paper

Dynamics:

1. In pairs, brainstorm what mission means to you now. Write this down on a sheet of paper.
2. After 5 minutes, join two other pairs to form a small group. In your small group, discuss what mission means to you. As a group, you may choose to take off words/add words. Transfer the words that you are happy with on a new sheet of paper.
3. After 10 minutes, form one big group with everyone in the room and discuss/debate on words that best describe mission. Transfer the words that you are happy with on a new sheet of paper.
4. Once the group is content with the final list, each person will be asked to write one word from the final list on to the MISSION letters.

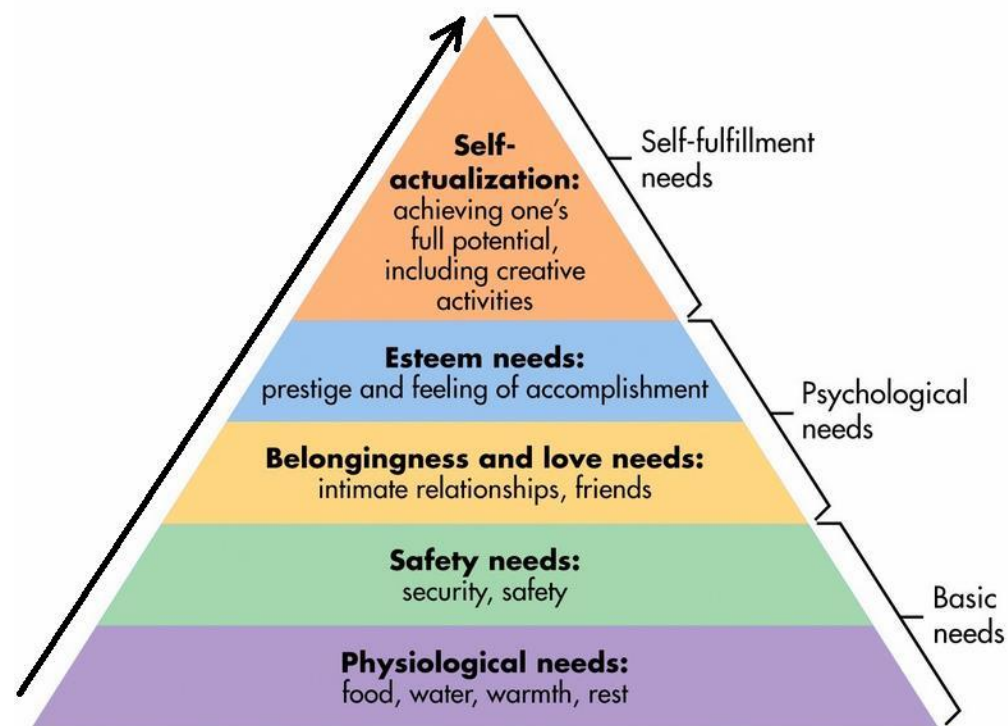
Debrief:

- The words that we have written on the block letters define what mission is to us as a group. The challenge for us now is to translate the words into reality through how we live our lives in the world today.



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

TOOL



When we think of the needs of the world often the first things that come to mind are hunger, poverty, homelessness and lack of basic necessities. Maslow's hierarchy of needs (see diagram) shows us that not only are there physical/physiological needs we can address but there are various levels of needs that may not immediately come to mind but are just as valid and may very well be where we can best give our time, efforts and talents. The needs start from the basic to finding one's self but each tier can only be reached after the level prior. The easiest thing we can do is to first help build the foundation of one's life starting from the bottom. In addition, we can use this diagram to better understand that different individuals, groups of people, or areas may be at different levels of the hierarchy in terms of their needs. For example, some people lack basic needs such as food and a place to stay, while other people may feel like they don't belong or are struggling seeing their own self-worth or potential. We, as missionaries, should be open to all of these different kinds of needs and where we may be able to offer our help.

Examination of Conscience

- Have I contributed to saving water today?
- Have I been careful in the way I have prepared and consumed food (non-wasteful)?
- Have I contributed to the security of my life or future?
- Have I contributed to the security of my relationships?
- Have I loved all those around me?
- Have I made those around me feel they belong?
- Have I contributed to the growth of my relationships?
- Have I been grateful for my accomplishments and opportunities?
- Have I shown respect to others?
- Have I sought self-fulfillment through my everyday actions?
- Have I sought to better myself personally, mentally and spiritually?

There's something about Mary

Mary, the first missionary.

At the visitation, St. John the Baptist leapt in the womb at the joy of meeting his Saviour. It is held that at the moment of the visitation, St John was baptised, cleansed of his Original Sin and became the first disciple of Jesus. Mary therefore, was the first person to take Jesus to someone else and to bring them to salvation. Mary was truly the first missionary. Mary was not hesitant when she said yes to God and through her acceptance and understanding of the Truth, she was able to succeed in being a great Missionary. May we continue to be like Mary in our call to mission.



HAIL, MARY,
FULL OF GRACE,
THE LORD IS WITH THEE;
BLESSED ART THOU
AMONG WOMEN,
AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT
OF THY WOMB JESUS.
HOLY MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD,
PRAY FOR US SINNERS,
NOW AND AT THE
HOUR OF OUR DEATH.
AMEN.

As a disciple | what can I do?

Going to the next level



Learn more:

What is the task of the church?

123. The Church's task is to make the kingdom of God, which has already begun with Jesus, germinate and grow in all nations.

What corporal works of mercy are we called to do?

450. To feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and the imprisoned, and bury the dead.

Going deeper:

Read a letter from Pope Francis on missionary discipleship:

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/05/15/pope_franctis_message_for_world_mission_day_2016_full_text/1229979

[bracket numbers refer to Catechism of the Catholic Church]



Do more:

How can you (or your faith group):

- Reach out to those outside your community (other youth groups, parishes, communities)?
- Communicate the message of Jesus within and beyond the Catholic community?
- Collaborate with wider society on issues of justice and peace?
- Assist families who may be facing difficulties?
- Cooperate with other Christian churches and other faiths?

[Source: *Fit for Mission* Pastoral Plan]



Live more:

As a group can you plan and implement one mission activity that speaks to ONE of the following:

- Mission in pairs or small groups or use new technologies to communicate? The goal is to reach out:
 - To those in any kind of need, physical, spiritual or emotional
 - Collaborate with wider society on issues of justice and peace
 - Link with other churches or civic organisations serving people in need.
- How can you share about this experience with your wider faith community (eg parish, school or ethnic community)?

Appendix 1 | ICE-BREAKER QUESTIONS | Leader Version

- You're outside and it starts raining.
- You're going out but have no shoes.
- You're going to eat but have no plate.
- You need to carry stuff but you have no bag.
- You want a drink but have no cup.
- You want to contact a friend but have no phone.
- You want to pray but aren't close to a church.
- You want to play music but have no instruments.
- You're cold but have no jacket.
- You want to play cricket but only have a ball no bat.
- You want to clean your teeth but have no toothbrush.
- You want to decorate your Christmas tree but have no decorations.

Appendix 2 | Cards for Humanity | Card Cut outs

Cards in following pages.

Note: blue cards – questions; yellow cards – answers.

While walking through town I see a homeless person asking passers-by for spare change, so I begin _____.	Positive vibes from _____.	A _____ a day, keeps me positive all day.
A lost stranger asks for help, so I can offer assistance by _____.	Today I need to give _____ to others.	_____, thankful for this.
If all else fails I have _____.	Dear God, I'm having trouble with _____ and would like your help.	_____, that'll help!
Life is better with _____.	_____ always seems to make my day.	Today on Oh Yeah!: "_____, that was fulfilling!".
What made them smile?	My friend is sad, so I start _____.	In my free time, I like to take up _____.
I don't know them, but they're sad. I should start _____.	I see a child crying at the park, I can help by _____.	Step 1: _____ Step 2: _____ Step 3: Happiness

If you could build a monument for anyone or anything, who or what would it be for?	Earlier I passed a group of homeless people, the best way I can help is by _____.	Offering my leftovers from lunch
Giving the \$2 in my pocket	Buying enough lunch for two	Hope
Giving a hug	Gift shopping	Round of offerings
Catholicism	Food	Toys
The Rosary	Mass	Pointing them that way
Listening	Searching	A helping hand

Helping the homeless	Feeding the poor	Visiting a rest home
Jesus	The Bible	Taking action
Pastoring	Smiling	Looking for someone to help
Donation	Talking to them	Doing good
Happy families	Prayer	Home
Friendship	Support	Keep trying

Asking for help	Providing assistance	Praying
Helping	Being happy	Gift giving
Cooking food	Talking to the poor	Spending time with others
Enjoying the simple things	Making a donation	Thinking of others
Having God	Going to mass	Carolling
Being more patient	Looking for people I can help	Providing what I can

Effort	A simple song	Time
A smiling child	A visit to the local city mission	Providing first aid
Helping where possible	Giving them shelter	Giving them a lolly
Asking what's wrong	Offering time	Offering food
Offering my jacket	Offering some clothes	Saint Teresa of Calcutta
Saint John Paul II	Mother Mary	Heart

A Crucifix	An Angel	The Little Sisters of the Poor
The Missionaries of Charity	Cycling	Walking
A water bottle	A candle	Bill English
Jumping	Playing	Eating
Sleeping	Believing in God	Accepting them
Joey Bonnevie	Teresa McNamara	Rochelle Dias



Appendix 3 | Activity 3 (Part I) | example photos

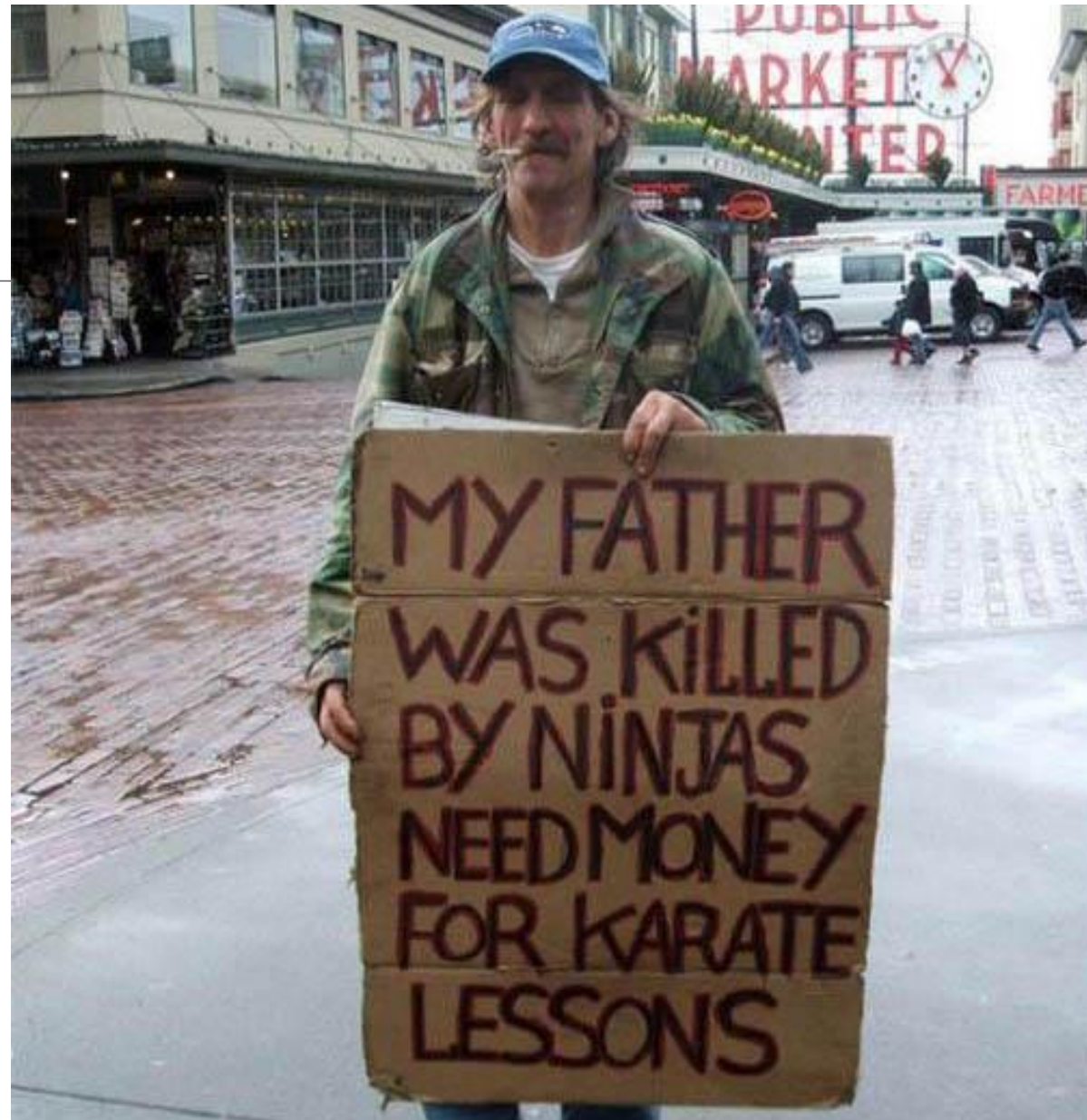
Biker playing in aftermath of Christchurch earthquakes.



Syrian refugees
crowd boat in
escape of
homeland.



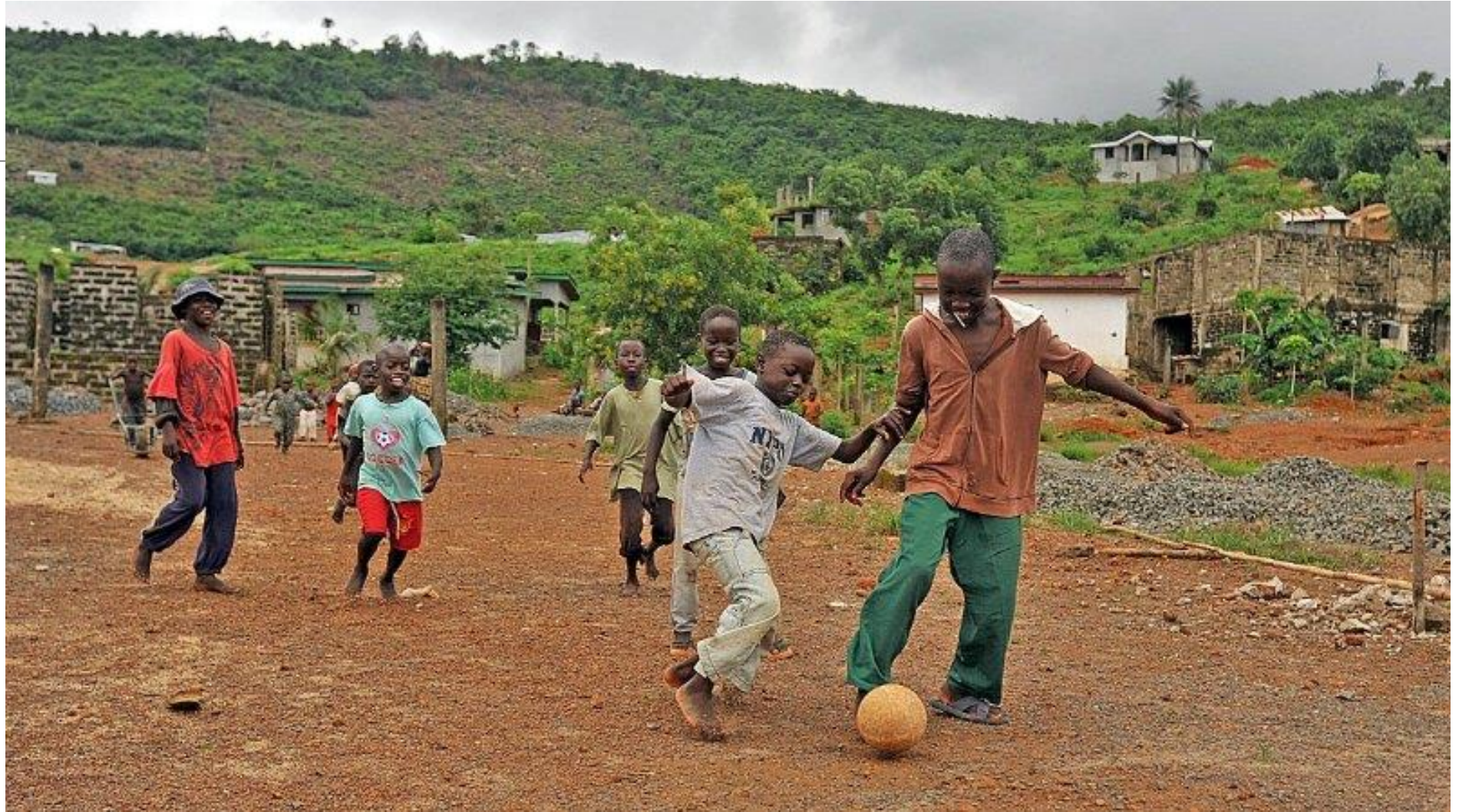
Man tragically finds himself on the street in a matter of days.



Woman left with black eye after
domestic dispute



Group of young friends make do with what they have.



5 year old expelled
from school as
teacher claims they
want an easy life.



A Pakistani earthquake survivor shivers in the rain at a refugee camp in Balakot, Pakistan



Thousands of refugees
track towards Europe.



Family flees home after
town flood.



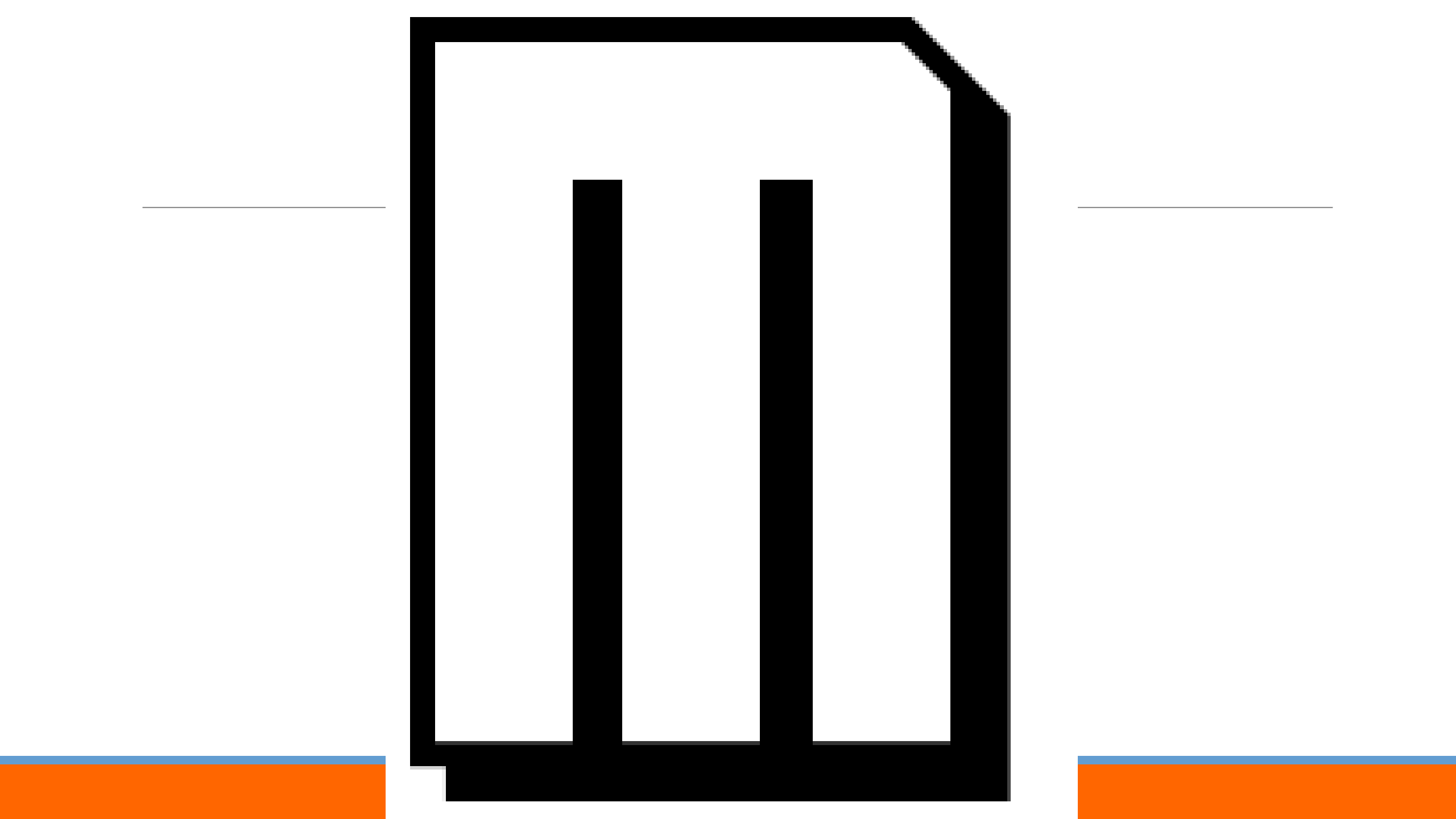
Appendix 4 | Activity 3 (Part I) | Guidelines for selecting photos

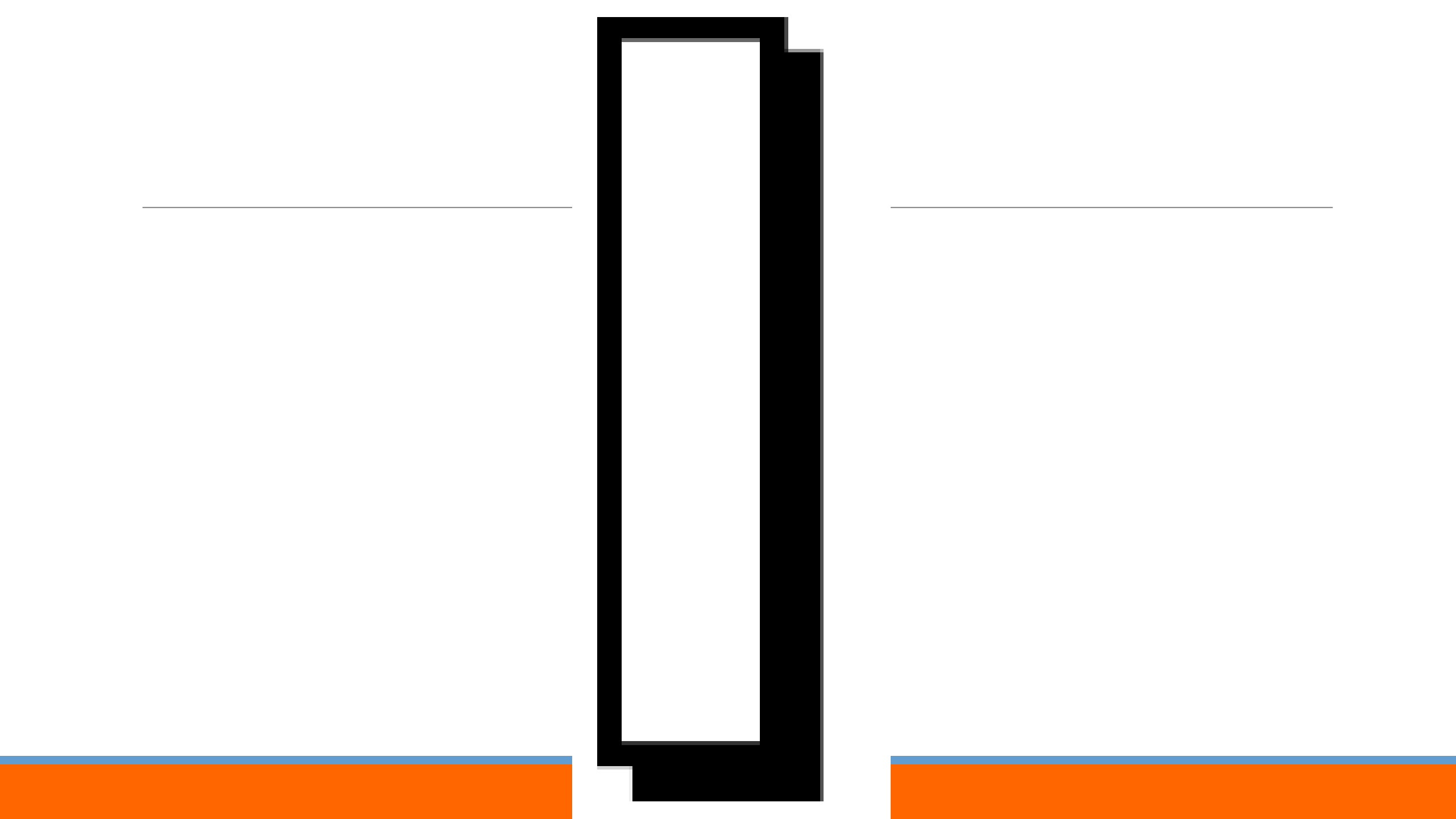
We recommend that you collect images that speak to a wide range of issues in our community and world.

Space is provided for your own input if desired.

	Local	National	International
Natural Disaster			✓
Refugees			✓
Homeless	✓		
Violence	✓		
Poverty		✓	
Loss of Education		✓	
Suicide		✓	

Appendix 5 | Activity 3 (Part II) | MISSION letters template





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