



A Herst_ry PROJECT

MOVEMENT

TWO STORIES. **ONE HUMANITY.**

MOVEMENT SCHOOL WORKSHOP

PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

ABOUT THE MOVEMENT PROJECT

Herstory introduces **Movement**, a new international education project that explores the fact that emigration and immigration are two sides of the same story. In these triggering times, the Covid-19 pandemic is a reminder that borders and nationalities are fabrications that conceal our common humanity.

Movement presents a series of parallel life stories of emigrants and immigrants connected by common narrative themes. The project highlights our shared humanity and the interconnectedness of people beyond nationality, ethnicity and religion; whilst spotlighting the discriminations and double standards faced by immigrants and emigrants. The objective is to deconstruct the polarising rhetorics that define this era and co-create a new future inspired by the fundamental fact: we are **One Humanity**.

In March 2021, Phase 1 launches with school workshops and a student art competition. On Herstory's 5th birthday, 25th May 2021, phase 2 launches with an international exhibition of portraits and parallel life stories; a landmark light show, melting pot events, direct provision empowerment programme and the Parallel Peace Project with women's organisations in Northern Ireland, Palestine and Israel.

Movement celebrates the 20th anniversary of AkiDWA, Ireland's first women's migrant service: www.akidwa.ie

This new Herstory project is produced in partnership with AkiDWA (Ireland), Jerusalem Centre for Women (Palestine), APIS Institute (Slovenia), Charisma Arts for Development (Egypt), and Agency for Migration and Adaptation AMIGA (Czech Republic).

Movement is funded with the support of the Anna Lindh Foundation and co-funded by the European Union, the Bechaire Fund at the Community Foundation for Ireland, and philanthropists Abi and James Morrow.

SCHOOL ART COMPETITION

Herstory invites students to participate in the Movement Portrait Art Competition and create a portrait of a migrant woman who inspires you. She could be an immigrant or emigrant from your family, local community or anywhere in the world. Submissions are welcome on A3 landscape format in any artistic medium. Email your portrait as a scanned jpeg (300dpi / minimum

3MB) with 500 words about your migrant heroine to khanna.herstory@gmail.com. Deadline for submissions: 15th May 2021. Winners will be awarded quality art materials and their portrait will be illuminated on iconic landmark buildings for a special Herstory Light Show.

ABOUT THIS SCHOOL WORKSHOP

Migration is one of the few constants of the human experience. We are a migratory species. Homo sapiens have been travelling across the world long before the invention of the wheel. National Geographic maps reveal the extensive migration routes of our prehistoric ancestors. Diversity is not a modern buzzword. This is an ancient truth.

Ireland has one of the biggest diasporas in the world with 70 million people cherishing their Irish roots worldwide. However, the Irish migration story is marked by successes and struggles. We know only too well what it feels like to be excluded, stereotyped and discriminated against. The heroines of the RTÉ Herstory TV series and Blazing A Trail exhibition had to emigrate to realise their potential. Ireland didn't offer the opportunities at the time. Many were refugees, forced to emigrate and escape poverty in Ireland. As former President of Ireland Mary McAleese once said; "We are a vibrant first world country but we have a humbling third world memory."

The exercises are designed as lesson plans that are easy to integrate into the secondary school curriculum. This school workshop aims to introduce students to emigration and immigration stories, instil compassion and understanding for immigrants (In Ireland we call them the New Irish!) and inspire them to co-create a thriving multicultural society.

MATERIALS:

- Pen & paper
- Art materials
- Internet Access
- Glossary (provided on page 6)



ACTIVITY 1: ONE HUMANITY

STEP 1: PARALLEL MIGRATION STORIES

- A.** Read the parallel migration stories from the Movement project on the Herstory website: www.herstory.ie/movementstories. Explore the questions in STEP 4 in response to these parallel stories.
- B.** Read the photo essays entitled Sovereignty, Stay with Me Show and (A)dressing our Hidden Truths on the Herstory website: www.herstory.ie/photo-essays. Watch the movie about Ifrah Ahmed's life: A Girl from Mogadishu

Discuss the following questions:

How is art used to raise awareness of human rights issues? How can art help to process difficult emotions and experiences and catalyse healing?

PROJECT: Choose a cause close to your heart and create a poster, song or poem to champion your cause. How can you use your artistic medium to share different perspectives and spark action?

STEP 2: EMIGRATION STORIES

Read the HERSTORY: Ireland's EPIC Women TV Series biographies about Mother Jones, Lady Mary Heath and Kay McNulty in class (www.rte.ie/herstory).

Watch the Herstory RTÉjr animation about Mary Elmes (www.rte.ie/player/series/herstory-animations) and read her biography (www.herstory.ie/historic).

Discuss the following questions:

- How did emigration enable these individuals to realise their talents and dreams?
- What were the challenges they faced and how did they overcome them?
- What opportunities did they get abroad that Ireland didn't offer at the time?

STEP 3: IMMIGRATION STORIES

Read the story and article about Cessair, the first mythological woman in Ireland who was a migrant, as recorded in The Book of Invasions. Link to story: www.herstory.ie/mythicwomen/cessair and the article 'The Power of Storytelling: Cessair vs. Eve' by Dr. Sharon Blackie: www.herstory.ie/photo-essays.

CandleLit Tales have created immersive school workshops including 'A Hundred Thousand Welcomes: Ireland's Ancient Immigrants.' Discover more: www.herstory.ie/workshop-events. Book a workshop for your students: bookings@candlelittales.ie.

Watch the YouTube video "What does "Irishness" look like?" by Ola Majekodunmi

Using these women as inspiration, get your class to conduct a research project on the New Irish (those who have recently immigrated to Ireland) in your local community. Some suggestions for doing this could involve speaking to international students in your school, or visiting your local Direct Provision centre (due care and permission must always be sought prior to doing this). Students could interview participants and represent their stories through creative writing, mixed media, drama and / or drawings.

STEP 4: CLASS DISCUSSION

As a class group, discuss the following questions:

- What are the common humanity themes shared by immigrants and emigrants eg. did they migrate for education, work, to escape war, for a better life, adventure, activism etc.
- What are the common humanity attributes shared by immigrants and emigrants eg. courage, compassion, perseverance, adaptability, determination, justice etc.
- How are the stories of immigrants and emigrants similar / different?
- How are the immigrants and emigrants treated differently by citizens / media / government?
- Are they welcomed in their new home country?
- Did they experience racism or prejudice?
- What are the challenges they faced and how did they overcome them?
- Are you interested in studying or living abroad when you finish school?
- How does your community benefit from multiculturalism?
- How could the local community make the New Irish feel more at home?
- What would you appreciate if you were to live abroad?
- What challenges might you face?
- What help would you appreciate most?



Lady Mary Heayh by Szabolcs Kariko



Fatin Al Tamini illuminating the GPO by Dodeca

STEP 5: HOST A MELTING POT EVENT

Host a Melting Pot gathering in your school and invite people from your local community or Direct Provision Centre to attend. Herstory partnered with Our Table to create the Melting Pot events, inviting people from all cultures to come together to share food, stories, music and our common humanity. For more information: www.herstory.ie/melting-pot

ACTIVITY 2: YOUR FAMILY'S MIGRATION STORY

STEP 1: Read the Humans are Migrants article by Chaobang on the Herstory website: www.herstory.ie/movement.

STEP 2: Research a family history of your choice. It could be your biological family, foster family, or friend's family. Talk to your parents, grandparents, adoptive parents or friend's family about your family's migration story. Here are some questions to ask:

- Who from your family emigrated in this generation or previous generations?
 - What was their reason for migrating?
 - Where did they migrate to and in what year?
 - What opportunities did emigration present?
 - Did the experience live up to their expectations?
 - Did they experience racism or prejudice?
 - How did the experience of being a migrant change their identity?
 - Did they embrace dual identity or find it challenging?

STEP 3: Create a project that documents their life story including a collage of photographs and any memorabilia from their life. Discuss Chaobang's article and explore how we are all migrants.

ACTIVITY 3: PEACE HEROINES OF THE WORLD

STEP 1: War and conflict leads to forced migration and the displacement of millions. Read the article 'Women and the Northern Irish Peace Process': www.herstory.ie/photo-essays. You can also read individual biographies of the NI peace heroines (Saidie Patterson, Dr. Mo Mowlam, Inez McCormack, Derry Peace Women, Monica Patterson & Ruth Agnew, Eileen Weir, Anne Carr, Monica McWilliams, Mairead Corrigan & Betty Williams, Bronagh Hinds, Baroness May Blood) on the Herstory website: www.herstory.ie/modern and www.herstory.ie/historic. How did the peace heroines overcome the fear and anger to create peace and stop forced emigration?

STEP 2: Research the stories of international peace heroines from Palestine, Israel, Rwanda, Congo, Columbia, East Timor, Syria, Somalia and Tibet. Create research projects and share their stories with your classmates.

STEP 3: Create a portrait of your heroine for Herstory's future Peace Heroines of the World exhibition. Send a high resolution jpeg scan (300 dpi / 3MB) with 500 words about her to Katelyn: khanna.herstory@gmail.com by 31st August 2021.



Susan McCrory by Ellen McGreevy

AKIDWA



ACTIVITY 4: EPIC THE IRISH EMIGRATION MUSEUM

Organise a school trip to EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum to discover more stories from the Irish diaspora, and complete the below tasks to delve deeper.

ABOUT EPIC THE IRISH EMIGRATION MUSEUM

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum tells the story of the Irish diaspora across the globe, the impact they have had, and the contributions and influence they have made globally. Through the stories of the men and women who left and the Irish culture they brought with them, visitors find out what it means to be Irish expands far beyond the borders of Ireland. Described as one of Ireland's National Treasures, EPIC was named Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction in the 2019 and 2020 World Travel Awards. The Sandford Awards, promoting high quality in heritage education, announced EPIC as their only Irish Awardee of 2020. EPIC is a partner of the Herstory 20/20 project, Herstory TV series and podcast series produced in partnership with RTÉ, BAI and Underground Films. The Museum opens daily from 10.00am to 5:00pm. Book a school visit: <https://epicchq.com/education>

TASKS

1. While at the museum, ask students to note down the name of one emigrant whose story impacts or interests them.
2. For homework, set students the task of researching more about their chosen person online. If your class has access to the Dictionary of Irish Biography, you can also encourage them to use this to search for their chosen emigrants. Using the information that they find, students should create a mini biography for their figure, detailing information such as their name, date of birth, emigration story, why they chose them, and one or two notable achievements or interesting facts about their life.
3. Finally, get your students to present their findings to the class.



ACCESSING THE DICTIONARY OF IRISH BIOGRAPHY IN YOUR SCHOOL

The Dictionary of Irish Biography features the life stories of over 1000 extraordinary Irish women and is now accessible online for free to all libraries and schools. On-site access, facilitated through Scoilnet (www.scoilnet.ie) For Northern Ireland, the Dictionary of Ulster Biography is accessible for free to the public: www.newulsterbiography.co.uk

GLOSSARY

Definitions from the Oxford Dictionary

HEROINE

a girl or woman who is admired by many for doing something brave or good
the main female character in a story, novel, film, etc.

MIGRANT

A person who moves from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions.

REFUGEE

A person who has been forced to leave their country or home, because there is a war or for political, religious or social reasons

DIASPORA

The movement of people from any nation or group away from their own country; people who have moved away from their own country

EMIGRATION

Emigration (of somebody) (from...) the act of leaving your own country to go and live permanently in another country

IMMIGRATION

The process of coming to live permanently in a country that is not your own; the number of people who do this

PREJUDICE

An unreasonable dislike of or preference for a person, group, custom, etc., especially when it is based on their race, religion, sex, etc.

RACISM

The unfair treatment of people who belong to a different race; violent behaviour towards them

ASYLUM

Protection that a government gives to people who have left their own country, usually because they were in danger for political reasons

DIRECT PROVISION

Direct provision is a means of meeting the basic needs of food and shelter for asylum seekers directly while their claims for refugee status are being processed. The system has been criticised by human rights organisations as illegal, inhuman and degrading.

DIVERSITY

A range of many people or things that are very different from each other

MULTICULTURALISM

The practice of giving importance to all cultures in a society

“Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, belonging is having that voice heard.”

- Anonymous

“Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.”

UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (Article 1)

RACISM DEFINITION BY AI CHAOBANG

The belief that human beings can be divided into races, those being groups with different traits that are innate, heritable, and reflected in physical appearance such as skin colour, and which may be held as superior or inferior to one another; and/or prejudice, violence or unfair treatment directed at someone on the basis of this belief, consciously or otherwise, by individuals or social systems. The idea of race was an invention of European colonial history and has no scientific basis in human biology.

ABOUT HERSTORY

Founded in 2016, the Herstory movement tells the stories of modern, historic and mythic women. Our mission is to give the public authentic female role models and a game-changing education programme, inspiring countries around the world to start their own Herstory movements. Since 2017 the annual international **Herstory Light Festival** lights up iconic landmarks and sacred sites in honour of women to mark Brigid's Day. In 2018, Herstory initiated and co-produced **Blazing a Trail** with the Department of Foreign Affairs and EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum – it is the first women's exhibition to tour the Irish Embassy network worldwide. In 2020, Herstory partnered with RTÉ, Underground Films, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum and the BAI for **Herstory on RTÉ** - the first comprehensive women's storytelling platform on Ireland's national broadcaster - featuring a major documentary TV series, animation series, podcasts, school workshops and microsite on RTÉ Culture.

CONTACT

For more information about the Movement project and to sign up for our newsletter: www.herstory.ie/movement.

For all RTÉ Herstory productions: www.rte.ie/herstory

You can follow Herstory on social media:

Facebook: /herstoryireland

Twitter: @HerstoryIreland

Instagram: Herstory_Ireland

Special thanks to the following individuals and organisations for your contribution in co-creating the school workshop: AkiDWA, Jerusalem Centre for Women, APIS Institute, Charisma Arts for Development, Agency for Migration and Adaptation AMIGA, Dr. Emma Black, Andy Simpson, Ai Chaobang, Fiona Lowe, Katelyn Hanna, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Bard Mythologies, CandleLit Tales and Szabolcs Kariko.

The workshop is copyright free and created by Herstory as a gift to the world.

PROJECT PARTNERS



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