



"The discussions are timely and thought-provoking! I left (once again) feeling energized, inspired and ready to take action."

— thoughts from the 2011 Celebration

Dear Friends of the Celebration of Teaching & Learning,
 Last March at the Opening Plenary of our 6th Annual Celebration, the audience of 2,500+ rose to its feet not once but twice during the [short but powerful talk](#) by the Liberian activist, Leymah Gbowee. Later that day, hundreds gathered into a packed room to attend her Featured Speaker session.

What was this about? Leymah Gbowee once organized the women of Liberia to stand up against that country's oppression, and she and her "sisters" played a major role in ending the long and bloody civil war that had ravaged the country for years. Her story is more than inspirational: it is transformational. And just as this woman and her story brought you to your feet last March, you can now do the same in your school and community.

Leymah Gbowee's story comes to life in the award-winning documentary PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL which premieres on PBS this Fall. It's part of the 5-part series called [WOMEN, WAR & PEACE](#), created by Abigail Disney, Pamela Hogan, and Gini Reticker, which airs on October 11th and continues every Tuesday evening through November 8th.

Backing the series is a strong community component where public television stations nationwide are already planning events in their city. These cities include: **Tampa, Las Vegas, Detroit, St. Louis, Houston, Syracuse, Southern California, Lansing, Roanoke, Columbus, Norfolk, Jacksonville, Montana, Nashville, and Harrisonburg (VA)**. And of course we're doing something here in **New York City**.

If your community isn't listed above, get in touch with your local PBS station and share your ideas and interest! I hope you - as an educator - will look at the [series website](#) and trailer and imagine ways that you can engage your colleagues, friends, students and their parents in this powerful story. There are many possible ways for you to get involved. Here are two that you might want to consider:

BOOK CLUB POSSIBILITY: You will be interested to know that Ms. Gbowee's new book, "Mighty Be Our Powers," will be released mid-September, and for all of you who are in book clubs, you might consider putting this book and the series into your fall reading schedule.

SCREENING POSSIBILITY: There are over a dozen WOMEN, WAR and PEACE local screening events across the nation already scheduled in the Fall. You may want to host your own screening event in your community or possibly a living room screening event with friends and family in your

own home. Visit the [screening page](#) for more information and series resources that you can use to help stir the conversation.

We care about your efforts and we want to help you get involved; please **let us know what you might be doing** around the series by [visiting this site](#) and leaving us a comment. This kind of partnership with community is something that sets public television apart from other media.

We look forward to learning more about how this conversation grows and we hope to see you again at the next Celebration of Teaching & Learning.

Ron Thorpe
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WNET