



Students Together Opposing Prejudice

S.T.O.P. is a youth education and leadership initiative. The program is a seven-week curriculum, targeted to **7th and 8th grade students**. The sessions take place in participating houses of worship and other organizations.



"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

~ Nelson Mandela

Through short teachings at the start of each session, students have the opportunity to learn and appreciate the similarities and differences among each other. Each session is specially designed, highly interactive, fun and is led primarily by trained high school facilitators who have graduated from the program.

Sessions are held weekly, on Thursdays, from 6pm to 8:30pm, starting with a pizza dinner and socializing for the first half hour, so the students are able to get to know each other informally.

2017 S.T.O.P. Sessions:
February 2, 9 and 16
March 2, 9, 16 and 23
(Snow date: March 30)

Our goals:

- **Heighten student awareness concerning issues of prejudice and discrimination of all types**
- **Give students positive and constructive strategies to confront prejudice and discrimination**
- **Develop and affirm student leadership skills**
- **Create meaningful connections among students from different backgrounds and walks of life**

S.T.O.P. addresses all forms of discrimination and prejudice, including prejudice based on race, gender, sexual orientation, physical appearance, class, disability, background and religion. Traditionally, sessions are held in houses of worship to give the participants an opportunity to learn about different beliefs, besides their own, but non-religious organizations are also involved.

We ask for a \$25 contribution for the whole program in order to cover our basic costs (copies, supplies, pizza...). It helps fund the resources we need to make sure the program continues. Financial assistance is available.

Be visible in the community and sponsor a unique program focusing on respect, tolerance and compassion!

1) Become a sponsoring organization by hosting 1 weekly session. A representative from your organization will welcome the program for one Thursday. At the beginning of the session, that representative will open the evening by presenting your organization's philosophy, values and heritage.
Commitment: Provide a space for the program and do a brief presentation to the students.

2) Promote the program to your congregation/youth group/ school/organization, etc.
 Invite us in to speak to your community and be willing to promote the S.T.O.P. program to them.



www.shrewsburystop.org

2 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

For more information:

- Mark (Congregation B'nai Shalom) at mark.sebell@icloud.com,
- Veronique (Congregation B'nai Shalom) at veroniqueo1318@gmail.com
- Sherin (Alhuda Academy & Worcester Islamic Center) at snayfeh@alhudaacademy.org,
- Badiaa (Alhuda Academy & Worcester Islamic Center) at bbegag@gmail.com,
- Sabina (Wellspring United Methodist Church) at sterrades@hotmail.com,
- Shiamin (India Society of Worcester) at shiaminm@gmail.com,
- Rev. Valeria (Trinity Church of Northborough) at trinitypastorvaleria@gmail.com
- Elizabeth (Counseling and Assessment Clinic of Worcester) at elizabeth.a.hylton@gmail.com
- Gina (St. Mary's Parish) at gina.kuruvilla@stmarysparish.org

