

# NOTHING LIKE MY HOME \*

***A project to engage U.S. high school students and their communities in the Iraqi displacement crisis***

Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility is beginning an exciting new project that uses the arts and media to engage young people, their communities, and the public in a vital issue: the plight of the 4.7 million Iraqis who have been forced to flee their homes due to the violence and instability that engulfed their country after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003. The project is funded in part through a grant from the Open Society Institute.



Iraqi refugee family's crowded quarters in Jordan.  
*Photo©2008 Lori Grinker*

At the heart of the project is a powerful photography exhibit of Iraqi refugees by noted photographer Lori Grinker. The exhibit will travel to several high schools across the country, beginning in New York City. In conjunction with the exhibit, teachers at these schools will engage their students in the issue through an interactive curriculum developed for Morningside Center by staff member Marieke van Woerkom. For over ten years, Marieke has worked with students and educators affected by armed conflict (particularly in the Middle East), helping build their skills as communicators, negotiators, critical thinkers and community leaders.

One aim of “Nothing Like My Home” is to personalize the issue, humanize the crisis, and connect students to refugees, “internally displaced persons,” and immigrants in their own communities. At each school, students will organize a culminating event to share what they have learned with community members and the media. Morningside Center will provide support to help teachers implement the curriculum and help students plan an action project.

For more information on the project, please visit Morningside Center's website of teacher resources: [www.TeachableMoment.Org](http://www.TeachableMoment.Org); educator Marieke van Woerkom's website: <http://mariekevanwoerkom.googlepages.com/home>; or photographer Lori Grinker's website: [http://www.lensculture.com/webloglc/mt\\_files/archives/2008/01/iraq-scars-and-exile-by-lori-g.html](http://www.lensculture.com/webloglc/mt_files/archives/2008/01/iraq-scars-and-exile-by-lori-g.html).

*\* “I went to the house of God [the Ka’bah in Mecca] and returned,  
Yet I found nothing like my home.” —Iraqi proverb*

