

# MOVING BEYOND PREJUDICE

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The Moving Beyond Prejudice Day programs (MBP) create an intimate and fun experience that invites participants to see a critically important part of our society—prejudice and diversity—with new eyes. It begins with screening the award-winning documentary, *Prom Night in Mississippi*, featuring Morgan Freeman. The movie is entertaining, powerful and profound. It fills audiences with hope as it portrays a group of young people who, in the face of resistance and oppressive old prejudices, take charge with compassion and courage—successfully standing up for their core values of diversity and inclusion.



“true magic...it gets us  
thinking in many directions”

WALL STREET JOURNAL

“moving...inspirational”

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

“a forceful documentary”

The New York Times

Consistently, in screenings with over 45,000 students (grade 6 through university), youth-at-risk, and adults the movie creates a visceral experience of prejudice, and the triumph of focused reason and compassion. In the enlivened atmosphere following each screening, we have a short Q&A, then move into the discussion-based portion of the seminar with full audience participation. Promoting equity begins with addressing the attitudes, beliefs and prejudices we harbour within ourselves, which leads to greater tolerance of our differences and fairer treatment of others. Moving Beyond Prejudice delivers both the inspiration and the necessary tools for this to occur, in real time.

In the MBP spirit of openness we teach new tools for non-violent communication, conflict resolution, reduction of prejudice and discrimination, reduction of fear and the resulting increase in healthy relationships, creativity and productivity, and increased civic and citizenship pride.

The incentive to apply what has been learned comes not from moral obligation, but rather from how much better people feel and perform when they move beyond prejudice. In other words, the efficient and effective quality of this training is that it is self-reinforcing and self-actualizing.

*The Results*—Increased individual responsibility in students, youth-at-risk and adults in identifying and overcoming prejudice towards others; increased interaction and cooperation between diverse ethnic, faith, immigrant and cultural groups; increased sensitivity and vigilance among educators; increased sensitivity and responsiveness in federal public institutions.

*For More Information*—Contact Paul Saltzman, President & CEO, Moving Beyond Prejudice, at [paul@movingbeyondprejudice.com](mailto:paul@movingbeyondprejudice.com)

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## The Feedback – GRADES 6-12



With the experiences of prejudice I had in school and in the neighbourhood as a person of mixed heritage, I didn't think anyone cared what I had to say about it. When the presentation was finished... Soon enough, I was surrounded by a crowd of people who were inspired by the whole experience and wanted to discuss ways that we can come together and continue to move beyond prejudice.

MICHELLE ZORZELLA, 17. STUDENT,  
DR. D.W. WILLIAMS SECONDARY SCHOOL

One of the most powerful and tangible results of our Moving Beyond Prejudice Day was it gave us a language for discourse. Through *Prom Night in Mississippi* and their visit to our school they offer three of the most cherished jewels of education: courage, compassion and creativity. It also inspired our students to connect to the power and beauty of listening, speaking and working from the heart. I know that today's all-school assembly [is one that we will be talking about for a long time.

LEILA ANGOD. DIRECTOR: EQUITY AND DIVERSITY,  
APPLEBY COLLEGE

The kids stood up and gave (the film) a standing ovation! Afterwards, it was the first time all year that all my students voluntarily participated in a classroom discussion.

TASHA SERBA, LIBRARIAN-TEACHER,  
LESTER B. PEARSON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Why did the film have such an impact on my grade 12 students? First of all, it caught their attention with well-paced delivery, crisp photography, current music, a recognizable actor, and students who were their age. Then, it related to many of the topics discussed in our Geography class: race relations, hierarchies of authority, components of culture, recognition of opinion and bias, social activism, gender relations, solutions to issues and their consequences—all are applicable. Finally, the documentary left everyone feeling the optimistic hope that change is possible.

DAVID W. JOINER,  
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY, ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE

The movie seemed to evoke something within our school. Many students came forward with their own stories of prejudice and discrimination. It's still everywhere, even at our school. It's so important to make movies like this for the exact reason of influencing people to even just think about how they can make a change.

RACHEL KENNEDY, 17. STUDENT

The screening of *Prom Night in Mississippi* was a fabulously successful event at our school. The film itself was wonderful, and the discussion that followed was rich and engaging. Paul was a great facilitator. He quickly established an easy, comfortable rapport with the students and was masterful at encouraging their participation. He did an excellent job of making the content personally relevant to our students and context. I would definitely recommend this to other schools.

GINA THURSTON, TEACHER-LIBRARIAN,  
CALC SECONDARY & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

(The MBP) experience was undoubtedly unique and the integration with the students you created afterwards was fantastic. I was worried for you. I'd never seen a guest to our school successfully engage our students in such a large group—what followed was truly awesome. The feeling leaving the screening was that of euphoria and getting back to class the discussion continued, and my class was closer to understanding one another that much better.

STEVEN BATES. TEACHER, CALC,  
CITY ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Your program's method for touching the heart and engaging youth and their teacher mentors from inside their own experience is a model for true education. I can say for certain that individual schools and our own human rights committee have adjusted their programming for anti-racist education and activism as a result of contact with your film and program.

DOUG JOLLIFFE. PRESIDENT, STBU,  
ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS FEDERATION

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## The Feedback – COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



*Prom Night in Mississippi* is a film that is an excellent catalyst for reflection and is done with class and respect. We laughed and cried while watching this film. The candid discussion with the producers and audience following the film made us aware of the prejudices others in the room experienced. These conversations caused us to look deep inside our souls and revisit different life situations we experienced or observed regarding prejudice and race.

DEAN MICHAEL MOREHEAD, DEAN, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,  
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

*Prom Night in Mississippi* challenged us at Whitman College to confront prejudices that continue to remain hidden within our campus' façade of equality. The discussions that it spurred were candid, honest, and real; and its impact was profound. I was truly moved by this film, but even more so by the effect it had on all those around me.

MEGAN HOROWITZ, 19. STUDENT, WHITMAN COLLEGE

Paul and Patricia, you succeeded in encouraging students, faculty, and staff to do something that most people in the United States refuse to do: engage in a frank discussion about race and racial issues. The film is excellent. Respectful, yet candidly told. Auburn's students responded by sharing their own experiences of racial division and harmony growing up in the South. Your patient and respectful questions and, more importantly, willingness to listen to students, created an open and tolerant learning environment. That is quite an accomplishment and one of which you should be very proud.

SUSAN L. BRINSON, PROFESSOR, MASS COMMUNICATIONS,  
RTVF PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AUBURN UNIVERSITY

I am not Black. I am not White. Yet, this documentary made me feel like I was experiencing first-hand what the students in Mississippi were going through due to the unique student-centered perspective. Through the eyes of Jessica, Chasidy, and "Billy Joe" I learned that even in an atmosphere shrouded by the cloak of prejudice, you can be and do the extraordinary. This is a must-see for any educator, student, and activist working towards equality and social justice. *Prom Night in Mississippi* gives you hope, it give you inspiration, and it gives you a reason to believe that change is possible.

DR. AZADEH F. OSANLOO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY STUDIES,  
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

Thank you for the amazing screening and talkback discussion yesterday evening. The students till this day tell me how much this screening opened their eyes and they are now trying to stop discrimination in their high schools by being more proactive in extra curricular activities. I personally have devoted more time into providing more opportunities for these at-risk youths.

RICHARD FUNG, MANAGER, REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL  
(YOUTH-AT-RISK FROM REGENT PARK AND PATHWAYS)

Thank you for conducting the screening of *Prom Night In Mississippi* here at Columbia College Chicago. The film was a hit with our faculty, staff and students. In fact, one of our Board members is interested in hosting a special screening of the film for VIPs here in Chicago. It goes without saying that the film informs us that the struggle is far from over and that we must remain vigilant as we help others in the country come into the twenty-first century. The Master Classes were also received well. Our students learned the art of documentary making from you as professionals and learned what went into making this particular extraordinary film.

ERIC V. A. WINSTON, PHD. VICE PRESIDENT,  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

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## The Feedback – YOUTH-AT-RISK & COMMUNITY GROUPS



What a great event!! People were just blown away. The special screening of the film has started the conversation. We could not get people to leave. I heard that some people went to have a drink and talk some more.

VERONICA TYRELL. CHAIR, CANADIAN CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF HALTON (CCAH)

We were all amazed at the reaction of the crowd: children, teenagers, adults and seniors were all impacted. It's a film all should see, to remind us of the power of honesty and dialogue that overcomes prejudice. MBP opened up great conversations that started with the closing credits and continue today.

The Jewish and Black communities have a common history, and on this night we got a chance to learn more about each other in a profound and moving way, enabling us to move forward to work together more in the future. This in turn would make our community more cohesive and celebrate our multicultural backgrounds, while making us stronger and more united.

RABBI STEPHEN WISE. SHAAREI BETH-EL SYNAGOGUE, OAKVILLE, ON.

The movie made me think about the very important contributions that many groups outside of the African- American community made during the long battle for freedom.

Working with the Shaarei Beth-El congregation of Halton to co-sponsor this extremely successful event is a testament to the power of collaboration and education as Halton continues to emerge as a model in terms of harmony, community, and culture for the rest of Ontario, Canada and the world.

JACKIE GORDON. ATTENDEE

I was moved by the insights and courage of youth to see the future through a lens that respects diversity and embraces the essential humanity in each of us. These young high school students made the decision that establishes a new practice that will change their community and their human interaction forever.

RICHARD PINNOCK. CCAH VOLUNTEER.

Thank you for the amazing screening and talkback discussion yesterday evening. The students till this day tell me how much this screening opened their eyes and they are now trying to stop discrimination in their high schools by being more proactive in extra curricular activities. I personally have devoted more time into providing more opportunities for these at-risk youths.

RICHARD FUNG. MANAGER, REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL (YOUTH-AT-RISK FROM REGENT PARK AND PATHWAYS)

I want to compliment you on this wonderful partnership. This is the first time I have witnessed both culture and religion work together on such a meaningful presentation.

It was an amazing evening of education, reflection and recognition that despite the progress we have made there is still so much work to be done. By raising these issues, it allows us all to examine our own belief systems, identify our own prejudices and begin to make the changes necessary to build an inclusive community in which all people are treated with respect regardless of their place of origin, race, creed, gender or religion.

Congratulations on a wonderful event!

ANONYMOUS ATTENDEE

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## Advisory Council

### **Morgan Freeman**

Actor; philanthropist.  
Los Angeles.

### **Harry Belafonte**

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador;  
Activist. NYC.

### **Isabel Bassett**

Past Chair & CEO, TVO; past  
Minister—Citizenship, Culture &  
Recreation, Ontario Government.  
Toronto.

### **Lecia Brooks**

Director, Civil Rights Memorial  
Center, SPLC, Montgomery,  
Alabama.

### **Mary Buckle**

Partner, The Goodwin Group;  
Past Chair, Women of Tocqueville  
Society. Atlanta, GA.

### **Morris Dees**

Founder, Chief Trial Attorney,  
Southern Poverty Law Center,  
Montgomery, AL.

### **Fiona Eberts**

Former Chair, Camfed International  
Founder, AMONG

### **James D. Fleck**

Professor Emeritus, Faculty of  
Management, University of Toronto;  
Philanthropist. Toronto.

### **Kay Koplovitz**

Founder, USA Network; Chair &  
CEO, Koplovitz & Company. NYC.

### **Lewis Lapham**

Founder-Editor, Lapham's  
Quarterly; past Editor, Harper's  
Magazine. NYC.

### **Bill Lockett**

Attorney; Entrepreneur.  
Clarksdale, MS.

### **Kamal Sharma**

CEO, The Indeka Group;  
Entrepreneur. Toronto.

### **Margot Stern Strom**

Founder & Former Exec. Director,  
Facing History & Ourselves.  
Boston.

### **Sabrina Williams**

National Educational Assoc.,  
Human & Civil Rights Department,  
Washington, DC.

## Mission Statement

To directly and positively impact the attitudes, beliefs and prejudices of students, youth-at-risk and adults using the film *Prom Night in Mississippi*, its Educational DVD Package, and the Moving Beyond Prejudice Day screenings, seminars, website and internet ARG.

As well, to train educators in maximizing the transformational impact of Moving Beyond Prejudice Days.