

PHOTOGRAPHY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Today we're going to use photography to introduce ourselves to issues of social justice.

First we'll view and discuss a TED Talk about modern slavery, which is a topic you'll encounter again during the poetry performances later today.

After viewing this video we'll be looking at photographs of various other social issues and discussing the questions they raise.

TED Talk



Lisa Kristine: Photos that bear witness to modern slavery
http://www.ted.com/talks/lisa_kristine_glimpses_of_modern_day_slavery.html

AN INTRODUCTION TO THREE SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Closely examine the following photos. For each, generate a list of all the fine details you notice in the photo.

Use the questions that accompany each photo to guide your discussion.

Use the following slide to reveal the context in which it was taken.

**PHOTO
#1**

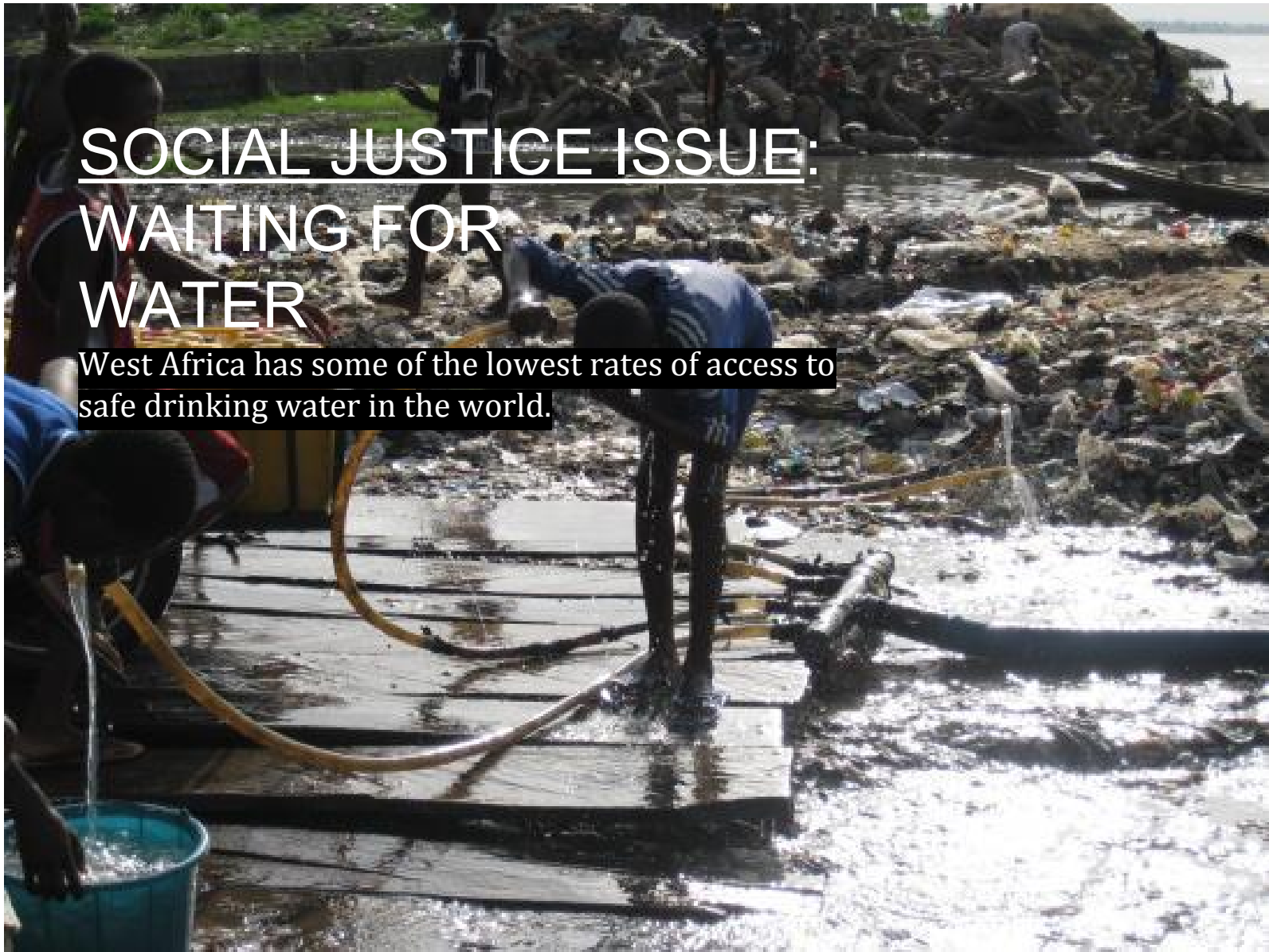


- Where do you think this photo was taken?
- Who are the subjects of this photo?

**PHOTO
#1**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE:
WAITING FOR
WATER**

West Africa has some of the lowest rates of access to safe drinking water in the world.



In Wadata, a neighborhood in Makurdi, Nigeria, water comes from the Benue River. The pump feeding these hoses floats in the river, amid garbage and human waste. Image by Peter Sawyer. 2011.

**PHOTO
#2**



- How do the subjects look? (i.e. What are they wearing? What are their expressions? - How do their appearances tell a story?)
- What other items do you see in this photo? And what stories do these items tell?

**PHOTO
#2**

SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE:
**TOO YOUNG
TO WED**

Child marriage exists in more than 50 developing countries.



Nujood Ali was 10 when she fled her abusive, much older husband and took a taxi to the courthouse in Sanaa, Yemen. The girl's courageous act -- and the landmark legal battle that ensued -- turned her into an international heroine for women's rights. Image by Stephanie Sinclair. Yemen, 2010.

**PHOTO
#3**



- What seems to be the overall mood of this photo?
- Overall, what does this photograph reveal about experiences of the people depicted here?

**PHOTO
#3**

SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE: GLOBAL GOODS, LOCAL COSTS

Global demand for fast fashion has come at the expense of poor, uneducated workers who toil at the lower end of the supply chain.



More than 1,100 poorly paid garment workers died last April when the eight-story sweatshop where they worked collapsed. Retailers in America and Europe who profit from cheap Bangladeshi labor have reverted to business as usual. Reporting & Image by Jason Motlagh, 2013

Critical Thinking about Photography's Role in Promoting Social Justice

Use the following questions to reflect on photography's role in documenting stories related to social justice issues.

- How do photographs convey meaning? How do viewers contribute to constructing that meaning?
- Overall, do you think the photos included in this slide show appropriately capture the social justice issues they were meant to represent? Why or why not?
- How can photographs humanize or dehumanize a social justice issue? Do you feel that images you studied today humanized or dehumanized the individuals presented within them?
- What role can/should photographs play in revealing injustice?
- What role can/should they play in encouraging people to take action against injustice?



NEXT:

Select the photo that most interests the class. The next slide provides three video links, each related to one of the photos you've just discussed. Play the video link that corresponds with the photo chosen by the class to learn more about the issue. Afterwards, discuss the information in the video.

VIDEO LINKS ABOUT:

PHOTO
#1

WAITING FOR WATER:

What's Causing Water Shortages
in Ghana, Nigeria?

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vN8iEEWeTGM>)

PHOTO
#2

TOO YOUNG TO WED:

The Secret World of Child Brides (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYleXcpbzKY>)

PHOTO
#3

GLOBAL GOODS, LOCAL COSTS:

The Real Cost of Fast Fashion (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NA2YXJRrLBA>)