



A Documentary Film Project • [coexistdocumentary.org](http://coexistdocumentary.org)

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **TOMORROW Dec. 14: Seeking solutions to violence and bullying filmmakers engage Tyngsboro students with stories of Rwanda**

**WHEN: TOMORROW** Tuesday December 14<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**WHERE: Innovation Academy Charter School**  
72 Tyng Rd. Tyngsboro 01879 - 978-649-0432

Bullying, scapegoating, name-calling, and “othering” are getting a lot of attention lately. Who's fighting to stop the violence and start cultivating peace? Tomorrow 8<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in a unique workshop designed by Boston-area filmmakers.

The Director and Learning Director of the documentary film *Coexist* will engage in activities and dialogue with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at IACS about these vital issues, which directly impact the ability of youth to succeed and thrive. Veteran Boston journalist and filmmaker Adam Mazo made the film in collaboration with Watertown resident and Learning Director Dr. Mishy Lesser.

*Coexist* explores the painful and personal stories of Rwandan genocide survivors as they are made to try to reconcile with perpetrators being released back into their communities. There are no easy answers in this story and critics say that *Coexist* masterfully captures the nuance and complexity of the situation.

The filmmakers' goal is for *Coexist* to be used as a tool to foster understanding about how violence escalates, how it can be interrupted, and the potential each of us has to be victim, perpetrator, bystander, and upstander.

In a unique collaboration Mr. Mazo developed this film with Dr. Lesser through interaction with students and teens in schools and youth groups. The *Coexist* team screened the rough cut of the film for hundreds of young people who helped sharpen its message for greater clarity and impact.

\*Clips of the film and photos are available at [www.coexistdocumentary.org](http://www.coexistdocumentary.org)

\*There will be 3 workshops beginning at 8 a.m. For inquiries during the workshops please call IACS at 978-649-0432



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# Coexist Fact Sheet

## PRE-PRODUCTION

- 1 year of fundraising, planning, and developing the project
- 7 members of the *Coexist* Advisory Board
- 100+ private donors and foundations supporting the film

## PRODUCTION

- 1 month of production in Rwanda
- 5 member production team in Rwanda
- 4 translators
- 3 languages spoken in the film (Kinyarwanda, English, & French)
- 3 times the crew was detained in Rwanda
- 34 interviews conducted
- 3 reconciliation workshops visited
- 65,000 airline miles traveled
- 63 reels of video
- 682 gigabytes of video

## POST-PRODUCTION

- 2,000+ hours of editing
- 10+ rough cut screenings for dozens of students, filmmakers, and advisors
- 34 page *Coexist* Viewer's Guide including 5 lessons built around the film
- 100+ professors, activists, & peacebuilders engaged at the International Peace & Justice Studies Association Conference in Winnipeg, Canada
- 1 Hollywood premiere at the Artivist Film Festival on December 4<sup>th</sup>
- 2+ years from conception to completion of film (July 2008-Sept 2010)

More information: [coexistdocumentary.org/main/press-kit](http://coexistdocumentary.org/main/press-kit)

Production Stills: [coexistdocumentary.org/main/gallery](http://coexistdocumentary.org/main/gallery)

Crew Bios: [coexistdocumentary.org/main/team](http://coexistdocumentary.org/main/team)

Advisory Board: [coexistdocumentary.org/main/board](http://coexistdocumentary.org/main/board)

