

# Can you imagine it could happen again?

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Are we reminded enough about all the things that should never happen again? Think about it. Last Thursday I attended, for the first time, the annual Holocaust Commemoration at the Stone Center theatre. I listened Max Steinmetz telling his story, how he lost his family and was the only one to survive the concentration camps, including Auschwitz. I listened but I couldn't comprehend. How can you even imagine something like that? How can you possibly understand what any of the survivors went through?

I was deeply affected by the Holocaust Commemoration and it made me proud to think that, at least, our school and community cares. Still, do we think about it enough? Are we doing everything we can so it would never happen again? Do we really see the whole picture of this horrible act? Do we acknowledge that it happens everyday all around the world to different kinds of people because of the color of their skin, the religion they believe in, or just because they are innocent bystanders?

Just the other night, I watched a movie called "Veronica Guerin." This movie is about an Irish journalist who challenged some of the most powerful underworld drug lords in Ireland. Only after she was shot to death, some changes were made and people woke up and realized that there really was a problem with drugs. Whether it is one innocent person, or millions of people, it shouldn't go that far to make us realize the problems in our society. Why does somebody always have to lose their life in order for us to change things?

What makes me humble in front of people like Steinmetz or hearing a story, like that of Veronica Guerin's, is the way they lived on even after everything, including their dignity, was taken from them. Steinmetz lost his house, his family and his name, all in that order. I don't know about you, but after everything else had been taken away from me, including my freedom, and then even considered a person, but a simple number, would probably crush me. How would I go on, what would I have faith in after that?

Veronica Guerin lost her life because she wanted to make a difference. She lost her family and a life with them, because she cared about everyone in her community. In the end she did make a difference, but it cost her everything. Ireland rose to the barricades and demanded changes be made, but not until Guerin was shot six times. She had to die, before people believed her.

We should be aware of how lucky we are. We are lucky because we can live as who we are, we are referred by our name, we have our families around us and there is nobody we should be hiding from. I couldn't imagine living as Steinmetz did for a period of time. But if I were constantly reminded about the madness of this world, I know it would be easier to appreciate everything I have, all the time.