



Dear Professor,

When hate persists, how will you coexist?

Rwandans featured in the 40-minute documentary film, *Coexist*, face this question every day. Now Rwanda's government is releasing tens of thousands of prisoners who participated in the genocide of at least 500,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu in 1994. Most released prisoners return to the villages where they once terrorized their neighbors.

What is *Coexist*? *Coexist* examines the Rwandan government's precarious social experiment of 'forced reconciliation'. The government strongly urges killers and survivors to come together in workshops, seminars, and healing groups where they are asked to face each other, and share their experiences and perspectives. The film explores whether these emotionally explosive interactions contribute to peaceful coexistence and begin the process of rehumanization of the killers. It also looks at the different responses of victims, from those who see forgiveness as the only way to survive, to those who are unwilling and unable to forgive.

How *Coexist* Fits in Your Syllabus: The themes and issues addressed in *Coexist* are pertinent to several academic areas including World/African History & Current Events, Political Science, Ethics, Sociology, Social Policy, Peace & Justice Studies, Gender Studies, Psychology, Journalism, and Film Making. The film explores the motivations for violence, and its impact on both perpetrators and victims. The *Coexist* 2-disc educational set includes several supplementary short films, including: the history of Rwanda leading up to the genocide, an inside look at a reconciliation workshop in Rwanda, a story of reconciliation as a man who helped kill a woman's family now builds her home, and a behind-the-scenes look at the making of *Coexist*.

"A marvelous, creative effort" Social Science writer and lecturer at the University of Michigan, Dr. Helen Fox, reviewed *Coexist* and found the videos to be, "a marvelous, creative effort at promoting reflection about peace and conflict." Fox also wrote that the interviews featured in *Coexist*, "are remarkable for their candor, clarity, and genuine feeling."

What Makes *Coexist* Unique: The *Coexist* team spent more than a year screening rough versions of the film in a variety of classroom settings to sharpen the film's message. We believe this rigorous process of critical evaluation is vital to creating a useful resource for your courses and seminars. I am the film's Director and am available for Q & A sessions related to the film and to discuss issues within my area of expertise including Rwanda, Journalism, and Film Making. Please feel free to contact me to order DVDs and request a visit.

Sincerely, Adam Mazo,
Executive Producer & Director of *Coexist*

