

ZEKE

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THE MAGAZINE OF GLOBAL DOCUMENTARY

FEATURED ARTICLES

THE POSITIVE COMMUNITY

A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE
LIVING WITH AIDS

Photographs by John Rae

VIETNAM RECONSIDERED

Photographs by Catherine Karnow,
Monia Lippi, Sascha Richter, Astrid
Schulz, Mick Stetson

ISIS

THE IDEOLOGY OF TERROR &
THE BATTLE FOR MOSUL

Photographs by Younes Mohammad
and Gabriel Romero

Transsexual sex workers in El Salvador work with PLWA community to help each other.

The
POSITIVE
COMMUNITY

A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS

Photographs by John Rae

Text by Emma Brown



This sex worker in southern India is a peer educator for her area and works to keep her two young girls in school and out of the trade. Each night she sits in a wooden stall on a dimly lit street and brings clients back to this room.

John Rae has spent the last 15 years documenting the HIV/AIDS pandemic in developing countries throughout the world. He started his career as a commercial industrial photographer in NYC but found the work vacuous.

"I began to understand how photos and stories change the world," Rae says. "I wanted in."

For a decade and a half, Rae has been partnering with both NGOs and global partnerships such as The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria to promote their messages and raise funds for the fight against HIV/AIDS. He has seen "big strides" in efforts to combat stigma and discrimination, and has watched HIV evolve from a death sentence to a manageable disease. He is inspired by the sacrifices of the people he has met through this work, and he calls these people his heroes. Says Rae: "My heroes do not assault mighty castles, or slay evil enemies. They do not amass mighty fortunes. They work on the front lines of health, education, and poverty to make each day a little better."

Today, Rae is based in Montague, Massachusetts. However, his assignments often find him working in international locations with local activists and NGOs. While Rae claims that he is "not a photojournalist," he does consider himself incredibly fortunate to do the work that he loves.

"I am an advocate for the causes I believe in," he says. "It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to walk among some of the bravest people who work on the front lines of the HIV/AIDS pandemic."

Rae is the winner of ZEKE's recent Call for Entries. He has received prizes in over 55 international photography contests.



Laotian sex workers learning how to apply condoms with their mouths. Men often demand to have sex without a condom, putting these women at greater risk of infection. This seminar also included mental health services, lessons on negotiation, and education on how to prevent HIV infection.



Gay men's clubs are illegal in China. Underground communities are especially at risk for HIV infection. Often the only way to effectively reach these communities is through peer educators.

ment. According to the World Health Organization, nearly one in every 25 adults in sub-Saharan Africa is living with HIV. This population alone accounts for two-thirds of the world's PLWA.

In Mozambique, 13.2% of people aged 15-49 are HIV-positive. Rute Dos Santos, the Health and HIV Program Manager for Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), works with PLWA in Manica and Maputo. Her organization helps equip communities with the knowledge and skills they need to lead healthy and productive lives. Part of this work is ensuring that their clients always have access to ART. "The drugs

"We need to change our way of thinking and addressing PLWA and be able to explain to the communities what this disease is, what causes it, how it is transmitted, and prove that we can live positively with HIV."

— Rute Dos Santos

Health and HIV Program Manager for Voluntary Service Overseas

scientists have developed new drugs to target HIV-negative individuals who may be at high risk of becoming infected. One such preventative medication is Truvada for PrEP, which has been shown to reduce transmission rates when used in combination with safe sex practices. Rodney Lofton, Deputy Director of Diversity Richmond, an organization that provides services and programming for the local LGBTQ community in Richmond, Virginia, has spent the past two decades educating communities about HIV. "As much as we talk about how many people are on PrEP, we need to increase accessibility to it. If we know that this is a drug that is going to dramatically decrease transmission rates, we need to make it more affordable and accessible to communities who may not be able to access it."

In addition to poverty, stigma plays a major role in hindering prevention efforts and continues to influence who is more likely to become infected. Although HIV/AIDS affects people of all races, genders, sexualities, socioeconomic statuses, and geographic locations, it has been proven that disease risk does discriminate, and those at highest risk of becoming infected with HIV are often society's most marginalized — the LGBTQ community, people of color, sex workers, and intravenous drug users. In 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that of the 32,000 new HIV diagnoses in the United States, 26,375 of them were acquired from male-to-male sexual contact. The CDC also estimates that one out of every two gay black men will become HIV-positive over the course of his lifetime.

In contrast, on a global scale, the face of HIV/AIDS is female. The majority (51%) of PLWA around the world are women. In low and middle-income countries, AIDS is the leading cause of death for women of childbearing age. Limited access to proper reproductive healthcare and a lack of education about safe sex practices are directly cor-



These women are learning how to cook for a large group of AIDS orphans in Zambia. These skills can be transferred to jobs in the private sector.

related to increased transmission rates.

In the global fight against HIV/AIDS, there are disparities in access to preventative care, education, and treatment, and the burden of the disease and its effects falls most heavily on the marginalized. Koek understands that to fight HIV/AIDS, it is imperative for agencies like USAID "to keep those who are most vulnerable at the center of our work." To address these disparities, VSO in Mozambique often focuses its programming on young women and girls, encouraging youth to make healthy choices that will reduce their risk of early marriage, teen pregnancy, HIV, and STIs.

Dos Santos from VSO believes that education is imperative in preventing the spread and combating the stigmas of HIV/AIDS.

"We need to change our way of thinking and addressing PLWA and be able to explain to the communities what this disease is, what causes it, how it is transmitted, and prove that we can live positively with HIV."

Much of this educational work is done by volunteers, activists, and PLWA themselves. Those who are affected or infected with HIV partner

with local organizations to raise awareness and spread messages of prevention. They also participate in other important activities like peer support groups, where they can share experiences, improve self-esteem and coping skills, and support one another's medication adherence and plans of care. Despite the challenges brought on by poverty and discrimination, Dos Santos is hopeful about the future of PLWA in Mozambique and around the world.

"PLWA in Mozambique are resilient to the challenges," she says, and she trusts that those who are well-informed will continue to support others by providing information about HIV and improving access to necessary services.

A NEW FUTURE FOR PLWA*

*PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS

Today, with access to proper healthcare, an HIV-positive diagnosis is no longer a death sentence.

Text by Emma Brown

Photographs by John Rae

There are approximately 37 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide (PLWA). That number has been steadily increasing over the past decade due to successful life-saving treatment for those affected. Today, with access to proper healthcare, an HIV-positive diagnosis is no longer a death sentence. Antiretroviral treatment (ART) can prevent the onset of AIDS and the transmission of HIV. When taken daily, HIV-positive individuals can expect to live just as long as their HIV-negative counterparts.

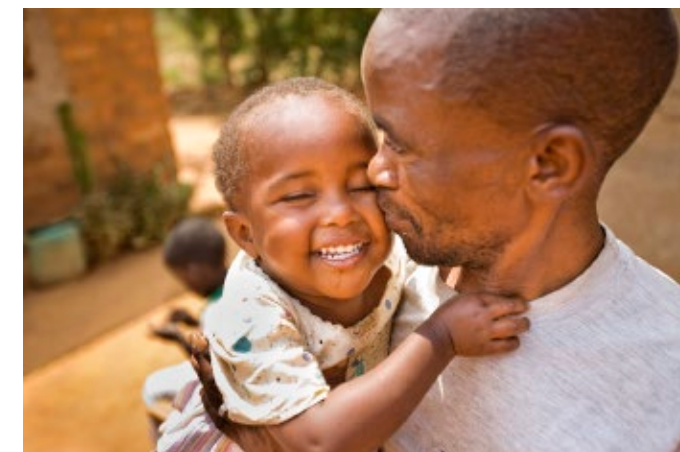
In the United States, ART is covered by most health insurance policies. But, around the world, access to these drugs can be limited and the cost can be prohibitive. Fortunately, there are many global orga-

nizations working tirelessly to provide communities with the resources they need to treat HIV/AIDS. Eleven of the 19.5 million people currently receiving treatment for HIV are doing so through programs supported by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. And, in 2003, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) began implementing PEPFAR, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

"PEPFAR is the largest commitment by any nation to address a single disease in history," says Irene Koek, USAID's Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health. Its efforts are primarily focused on saving lives and preventing the spread of the disease on the African conti-

are free," says Dos Santos, "and rarely out of stock." However, the real challenge is keeping HIV-positive individuals on the medication. About a third of Mozambique's infected population quits ART within the first year. Poverty is often to blame; Dos Santos explains that to challenge ART's side effects, one has to have at least three meals a day and some patients need to travel more than 10 kilometers on foot to reach the nearest health facility.

The international response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic has been successful in saving lives and improving the quality of life for those affected. However, prevention efforts have yet to achieve similar progress. In 2016, there were more than two million new HIV infections around the globe. To curb the spread of the disease,



An HIV positive father greets his HIV negative daughter after a day at work in rural Kenya.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
www.theglobalfund.org

Diversity Richmond
www.diversityrichmond.org

United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
www.pepfar.gov

Voluntary Service Overseas
www.vsointernational.org

VIETNAM

RECONSIDERED

Photographs by:
Catherine Karnow
Monia Lippi
Sascha Richter
Astrid Schulz
Mick Stetson

Text by:
William Thatcher
Dowell

Photograph by Astrid Schulz
From *100 Faces of Vietnam*

Nguyen Thi Nhu Hue (33) is working as an art teacher. She lives with her mother and just moved from a small rented house in the citadel to a newly built two story building on the outskirts of Hue. Hue is passionate about fashion; she loves bargain hunting at a local second hand market. She has a good eye for details and many of her collected items cost less than one dollar.





Photograph by Catherine Karnow
From *Agent Orange: A Terrible Legacy*

Both Nguyen Thi Ly, 9, and her mother, Le Thi Thu, 39, are afflicted with diseases associated with Agent Orange, passed down from Le Thi Thu's father, who was a soldier in the Vietnam War. Danang, Vietnam.

For many Americans, the Vietnam War is remembered as a costly lesson in the limits of global power. In contrast, most Vietnamese see the end of the war as a definitive finale to more than a century of colonial occupation. For the first time since the middle of the 19th century, Vietnam was on its own again and responsible for defining its own destiny. Despite the domino theory that incorrectly predicted an eventual Chinese Communist or Soviet takeover of Southeast Asia, Vietnam has jealously guarded its independence, and it is emerging today as a dynamically independent force in Southeast Asia and a potential ally of the United States. After an admittedly rocky start, the country has largely abandoned the more impractical notions of Marxism-Leninism, and adopted a largely free market approach to the global economy, albeit with socialist restrictions.

In this issue of ZEKE, five adventurous photographers take a look at Vietnam as it appears now. Catherine Karnow bears witness to the terrible legacy of Agent Orange. Monia Lippi looks at the inventive fashions of Vietnam's myriad scooter drivers desperate to maintain a light complexion despite a merciless sun. Mick Stetson offers us a "Portrait of the Enemy," former fighters who have returned to ordinary lives. Sascha Richter shows us the colorful indigenous tribes and the harsh but beautiful landscapes of Vietnam's northwest mountains, and Astrid Schulz introduces us to Vietnam's newly emerging middle class, caught between tradition and modernity.

Far from dwelling on the past, an increasingly forward-looking Vietnam, today, has focused its energy on a future in which anything seems possible.

—William Thatcher Dowell



**Photograph by Monia Lippi
From *White Skin***

The Vietnamese love to keep their white skin, and even in the humid tropical heat, they wear many layers to keep out the sun. This cult of whiteness for the youngest generations has given rise to exciting, colorful, and modern expressions of scooter fashion "cover-up style", a mix of Japanese Hello Kitty accessories, hipster Western jeans and sweatshirts on which any logo is welcome.

AWARD WINNERS

HONORABLE MENTIONS

FROM SDN'S CALL FOR ENTRIES ON
CELEBRATING THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY



Giorgio Bianchi
Donbass Stories: Spartaco and Liza

Right after the outbreak of the conflict in Donbass, Ukraine, Spartaco left his job and the house where he was living with his mother to enlist as a volunteer in the ranks of the pro-Russian militias. Convinced he had nothing to lose, ideologically very motivated and relying on his previous military training, Spartaco decided to join the separatist cause, finally abandoning his life in Italy that disheartened and depressed him. Through Facebook Spartaco met Liza.

Aleksandra Dynas
Children of God

In Kampala, Uganda, there are more than 10,000 children living on the streets. To get money for food, they work in building demolition, unloading trucks or helping to sell food. The youngest children work collecting plastic bottles or metal scrap. Street children often lack access to clean water, food, medical attention, shelter, education, and protection. They are exposed to all forms of exploitation and abuse. Many children are exposed to violence, rape, beatings, drugs, robberies, or being arrested.



ZEKE presents these four honorable mention winners from SDN's Call for Entries on Celebrating the Global Community. The jurors selected John Rae as first place winner (see *The Positive Community*, page 3), and the four honorable mentions presented here.



Saud A. Faisal
Water Prisoners

Bangladesh is the worst casualty of global climate change, hence a huge population faces floods every year. People move to the nearest highland to take temporary shelter, leaving their home behind in the flash floods. Until the water reaches above their knees, they try to remain in their homes hoping the water will go down. They are the Water Prisoners of Bangladesh. These are the people least responsible for the climate change, but they are the most affected.

Sara B. May
After the Crisis

With its insidious onset in May 2014, the Ebola epidemic proceeded to ravage Sierra Leone for nearly two years, leading to the deaths of nearly 4,000 people. In December 2014, Francis Yorpoi lost both parents within two weeks of each other. He was adopted by his paternal aunt and uncle who already had three sons of their own. Even before Francis' arrival, they lived hand to mouth and his uncle was struggling to find work in the depressed economy. With the arrival of Francis, things didn't get easier.



ISIS THE IDEOLOGY OF TERROR & THE BATTLE FOR MOSUL

Photographs by
Younes Mohammad and
Gabriel Romero

Text by Anne Sahler

Photograph by Gabriel Romero
From *Liberation and Longing: Inside
the Battle for Mosul*

ISIS fighter Hassan Falah is captured by Iraqi
forces in the Al Thawra neighborhood, West
Mosul, Iraq. April 19, 2017.



In June 2014, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, head of the Salafi jihadist militant group Islamic State (ISIS), declared his caliphate in the al-Nuri mosque in Mosul. Three years later, Iraqi military forces captured that mosque, celebrating victory over ISIS. But during those three years, Mosul's population had to endure physical and psychological oppression under ISIS, with thousands of civilians killed and displaced. The photographers presented here took risks to capture intense moments during the battle for Mosul in order to give a voice to the silenced.

Younes Mohammad is a Kurdish freelance photojournalist whose work focuses on areas of conflict. Born in Dohuk, Iraq, and now based in Erbil after 24 years as a refugee in Iran, he mainly works for national and international newspapers and magazines. In this photo series, Younes shows the suffering that civilians had to endure during the fight between coalition forces and ISIS in Mosul. "In the past two years, I got injured two times by shrapnel, but danger is part of my job. It was my destiny to document what happened. I felt it was an opportunity to document my past and my family's past." Younes' work has been internationally published and recognized.

The photos that Gabriel Romero, a freelance photojournalist based in Los Angeles, California, took in Mosul do not merely document the battle for the city against ISIS. His photos are a testament to the dignity, strength, and resilience of the people of Mosul. "I see photojournalism as an agent for change, that you can do something for the lives of others, something that is bigger than yourself." Gabriel's work specializes in areas of conflict, including environmental and humanitarian issues, and has been published internationally.



**Photograph by Gabriel Romero
From *Liberation and Longing: Inside
the Battle for Mosul***

Civilians are evacuated from a house in the Al-Thawra neighborhood by Iraqi forces. West Mosul, Iraq. April 19, 2017

THE AMBIGUITY OF PRESSING THE SHUTTER

ETHICS IN PHOTOJOURNALISM

By Allen Murabayashi

Originally published on the May 8, 2017 PhotoShelter Blog



◀ "I took almost a roll of Tri-x film of her then I saw her skin coming off and I stopped taking pictures. I didn't want her to die. I wanted to help her. I put my cameras down on the road." Nick Ut on photographing Kim Phuc and what became one of the most influential photos of the twentieth century. Courtesy The Associated Press.

A Historical Perspective

On August 6, 1945, the US detonated the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima which indiscriminately killed approximately 145,000 people within four months (half those deaths occurred on the day of the bombing).

On the ground, photojournalist Yoshito Matsushige took the only known photos from the day.

In a 1986

interview for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Matsushige said, "I saw [all this destruction] and I thought about taking pictures — so I got my camera ready — but I just couldn't do it. It was such a pitiful scene... But these children, any

moment they would start dying. It was so hard to take pictures of them." After twenty minutes, Matsushige mustered the courage to take two frames. "I felt like everyone's gaze was fixed on me. And they were thinking that I wasn't helping anyone, I was just taking pictures."

Upon hearing that biographer/photographer Howard Bingham refused to take a photo of friend Muhammad Ali after a devastating loss to Joe Frazier, legendary photojournalist David Burnett thought to himself "that is exactly when you HAVE to take a picture," but over time, he's come to believe that "the line gets fuzzy much more quickly than you'd expect."

The myth goes that Crazy Horse refused to be photographed, believing the image would steal his soul. In truth, the apocryphal tale has no historical evidence. But taking photos is intrusive, and most people would agree upon some near universal norms regarding photography (e.g. taking photos of children in public).

For photojournalists the ethics of photography are part and parcel of the job, and when to take a photo is a major component of those ethics. The issue boiled over again with the controversy surrounding disgraced photojournalist Souvid Datta whose shoddy plagiarism of

a Mary Ellen Mark photo eclipsed a prior discussion of his photo of an alleged rape ("alleged" because we have no reason to believe the veracity of his captions or whether he staged a scene). But questions regarding the rape photo remains central to the discussion of ethics. National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) President Melissa Lytle wrote, "According to the NPPA Code of Ethics, visual journalists are supposed to treat subjects with dignity and respect and to give special consideration and compassion to vulnerable subjects. As human beings, we have a moral obligation to do no harm."

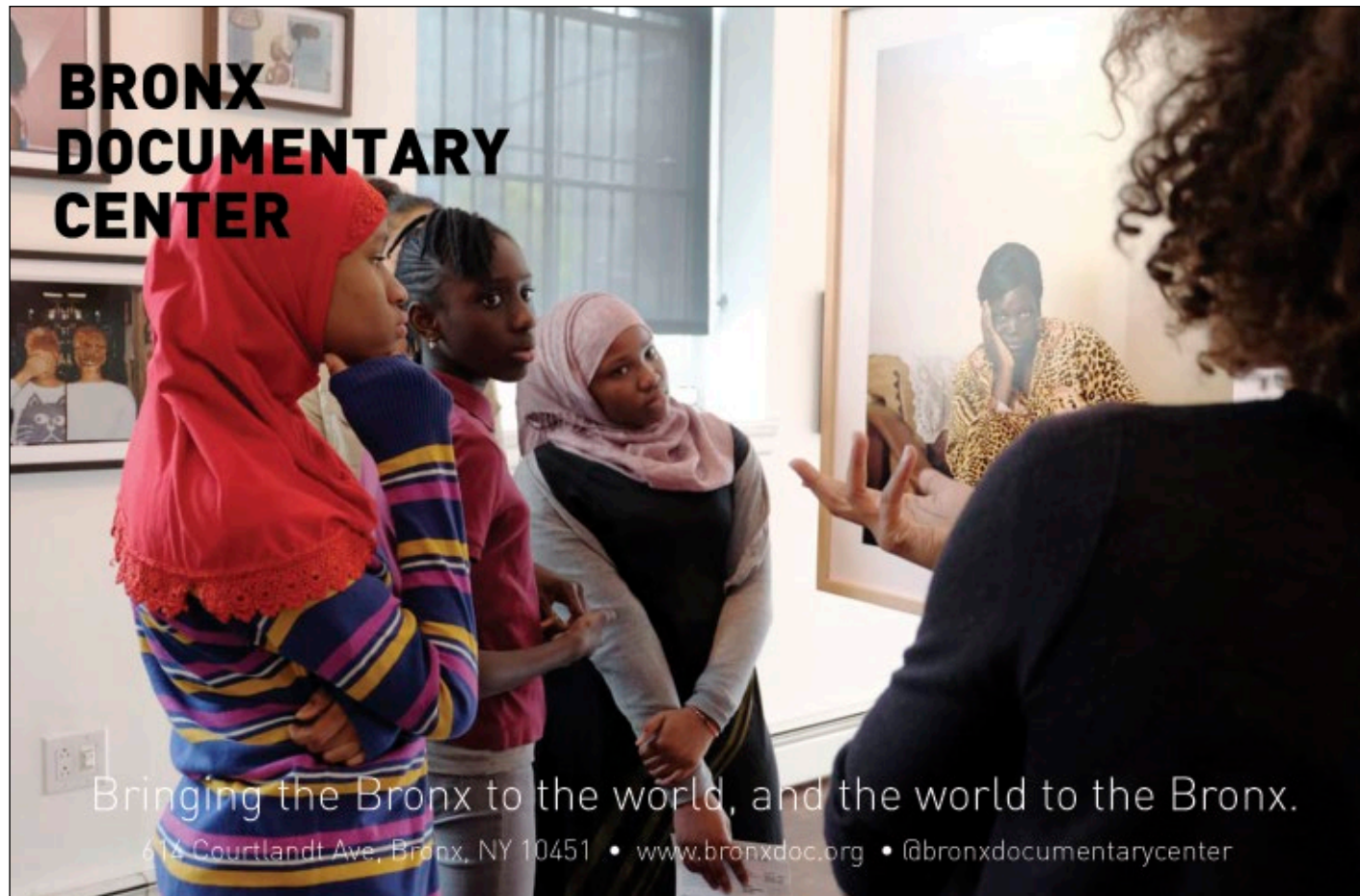
◀ Photojournalist Yoshito Matsushige took the only known photographs of Hiroshima on the day of the bombing, August 6, 1945. From the collection of Robert Del Tredici.



Photojournalist Souvid Datta's plagiarism of a Mary Ellen Mark photo this past year caused the photography community to rightly focus on professional ethics.

But the reality on the ground is often rife with ambiguity.

But the reality on the ground is often rife with ambiguity.



ZEKE

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Published by Social Documentary Network

Photographers and writers featured in this issue of ZEKE

Barbara Ayotte, U.S.	Gabriel Romero, U.S.
Emma Brown, U.S.	Anne Sahler, Germany and Japan
Caterina Clerici, U.S. and Italy	Astrid Schulz, England
Catherine Karnow, U.S.	Mick Stetson, Japan
Monia Lippi, U.S.	William Thatcher Dowell, U.S.
Younes Mohammad, Iraq	Quan Tran, U.S.
John Rae, U.S.	Frank Ward, U.S.
Sascha Richter, Germany	

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Photograph by Mehdi Nazeri

ZEKE is publishing great photography about important global issues by both established and emerging photographers from all corners of the world.

— Ed Kashi, Photographer



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