

Host a Darfur Ally-Raiser

Hosting a Darfur Ally-Raiser is an easy way for you to help your community understand the current situation in Darfur, Sudan. As of July 2006 we have seen over three years of mass killings and millions of displaced Darfurians, increased violence after the May Peace Agreement, Janjaweed Militia spreading into Chad searching for more victims, and by the end of 2006 the African Union Peacekeepers will pull out.

Today is the time Organize Educate Act

Below are a few steps to help you host a Darfur Ally-Raiser in your community!

What do you want to do during the Ally-Raiser?

It is important to think about your objectives. What do you want people to walk away with? What do you want them to understand?

What kind of presentation suits your objectives? Some options may include: playing songs related to or supporting the campaign to stop genocide, slideshows, pictures, video clips, a discussion, powerpoint presentation, community art project.

In the end, do you want them to take action? If so, what type of action and how are you going to make it easy for them to take it right then?

Determine your Audience

Is this event open to the public or do you want to educate your friends? This will help you determine the tone, location, time and materials you wish to provide.

Donations

Decide ahead of time if you are going to take donations in the name of an organization. If you are, make sure you have provide a short informational piece somewhere in your materials or presentation about this organization.

Pick a date, a place and a time

Choose a date that is far enough in advance so you can prepare the items you want to share and have time to get people to your event. You also want to consider the day of the week. When are most of your friends free? Do they usually go out during the week or on the weekends? For a community event later in the week is generally better than early. Depending on your objectives (above), how much time do you need to do this? Do you want it to be part of, before or after another event?

Location

Picking a location is an important decision. You want to central if possible. You can host it at a private residence, like your house, or at a local business who will allow you to use the space for free.

Make sure the location is accessible by bike, public transportation and car. If you have it at a local business, it may peak the interest of other patrons but at your house your friends may feel more comfortable learning about such a hard issue; this too depends on your objectives!

Materials

Decide if you want to provide both paper and electronic copies of materials you wish to give out. Sometimes having both can be convenient for your audience to reproduce. If you are taking materials from another group, make sure you reference them. Have enough copies!

Getting People to your Event!

Whether your Ally-Raiser is open to the public or for your friends - Make sure you give people enough time to put it in their calendars. Send out invitations. Send out an Evite to everyone in your email box. Post it on listserves, contact local community media stations and newspapers. Post it on Community Calendars. A few days before hand, be sure to send reminders to your friends and listserves.

Check out Portland Coalition for Genocide Awareness toolkit Items:

- Genocide Books, Videos and Resources
- Websites to Know About
- Educators Toolkit to Genocide Awareness

Day of the Ally-Raiser

Be sure to arrive early at your location and set up and test any equipment that you need (even if your equipment worked at home, re-check it!). Start and end on time. Stick around to answer any questions and clean-up!

Have a Great Event!