

# TEDTalks

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## Topic: Social Justice in Healthcare; Structural Violence

### [Mary Bassett: Why Your Doctor Should Care About Social Justice](#)

**Summary:** As NYC's Health Commissioner, Mary Bassett looks to speak out on structural violence and how it affects health. She says, "structural because inequalities are embedded in the political and economic organization of our social world. Often in ways that are invisible to those with privilege and power. And violence because its impact... suffering is violent. We do little for our patients if we fail to recognize these social injustices." Mary Bassett's discussion is useful to introduction the topic of structural violence and how it affects the health of people worldwide.

## Reflection Questions:

1. What is structural violence? What does it mean to you?
  - a. Have you seen this in any of the communities we have visited?
  - b. What are some examples of structural violence you have seen here, at home, or at any other place?
2. How does structural violence affect the health of patients?
  - a. Specifically, how does structural violence affect the health of our patients here in Peru?
  - b. In what ways can we work to help these patients from the boundaries and constraints of structural violence?

## Topic: Global Citizenship; Active Citizenship; Community Development; Sustainability

### Video: [Hugh Evans: What Does It Mean to Be a Citizen of the World](#)

**Summary:** Hugh Evans goes into depth about man-made poverty and structural violence. He reveals that the core of the problems that those suffer are not surface. This video is a good way to teach how global issues need to be handled in a global way. Systematic change is the way to relieve those who suffering from their sufferings. Since MEDLIFE recognizes the importance of cooperation in community development and sustainability, this video is a good reinforcement of

these ideals. Additionally, we are hoping that our volunteers return home to become global citizens. This will start an important discussion on what being a global citizen is.

### Reflection Questions

1. What does it mean to be a global citizen to you?
2. Do you feel that, in your time here with MEDLIFE, are you acting as a global citizen?
  - a. Why or why not?
  - b. If so, how so? What are you fighting for as a global citizen?
3. Evans says, "Why does anyone have to live like this, when I have so much?" Do you ever feel this way? What does feeling this way say about privilege? How have you, or how can you process through this feeling? How can we use this realization or feeling to become global citizens?
4. Evan explains how while volunteering and aid is great, it is not the solution to the problem. He states that while he worked on community development, he realized that community development must be driven by the communities themselves. Why?
  - a. How does this relate to MEDLIFE and how MEDLIFE operates within communities?

### Post-Round Table Talk:

- How can we be better in engaging volunteers in a bigger way, then why?
- What do we want to ask for?
- What is MEDLIFE's missions?
- What are goals and millennial goals that MEDLIFE are working towards.
- Setting up a point system for chapters?

## Topic: Social Determinants of Health; Preventative "Medicine"

**Video:** [Rebecca Onie: What If Our Healthcare System Kept Us Healthy?](#)

**Summary:** This discussion is based off an organization called Health Leads. Health Leads, started in Boston, works to help doctors ask the *hard questions*. Questions like, do you have enough to eat? Are you living in a shettler? Before Health Leads, doctors were scared to ask these questions because they didn't feel equipped to help. Rebecca Onie's discussion is an introduction into how social determinants affect health and how our healthcare system fails us sometimes. This discussion is a useful introduction into how social determinants affect health, how we begin to help by asking the right questions and how medicine needs to be **preventative**.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Rebecca Onie mentioned we can measure the success of our healthcare system not by how many diseases cured, but how many prevented. How do you feel about this statement?

- a. Why is preventative medicine important?
2. Doctors are scared to ask the “hard questions” because they are not able to provide the resources. How do you feel that social determinants, such as where someone lives, affect health?
  - a. Have you seen this at any of the mobile clinics? How did this make you feel? How do you think we can help?

## **Topic: Sanitation and Health; Human Rights**

**Video:** [Francis de los Reyes: Sanitation is a Basic Human Right](#)

**Summary:** Sanitation is an issue that MEDLIFE works with on a consistent basis. Francis de los Reyes talks discusses how inadequate access to sanitation affects health. 1.5 million children deaths per year because of this poor sanitation. Francis de los Reyes wants to change the perception of sanitation. Sanitation should be a basic human right.

Additional video: [MEDLIFE Why Hygiene Projects?](#)

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Before this trip, have you ever thought of sanitation?
  - a. How do you feel now about sanitation and inadequate access to proper sanitation?
2. Sanitation affects water health. How have you seen this here in Peru, or elsewhere?
  - a. What are some things you have seen at the mobile clinics, at project, or on the tour that affected the way you see sanitation

## **Topic: Social Determinants of House; Sanitation and Health**

**Video:** [Paul Pholeros: How to Reduce Poverty? Fix Homes](#)

**Summary:** “Washing it the antidote.” Paul Pholeros’ discussion discusses the importance of sanitation health. He states that the illnesses walking into the clinic, were due to a poor living environment. This discussion is useful and interesting introduction in sanitation health and how clean water can affect help. In our MEDLIFE presentations, we discuss the number of children under 5 years old who are dying because of poor conditions. Paul Pholeros mentions this statistic and discusses this. This video is useful in introducing water health, sanitation projects, as well introducing the idea of social determinants of health.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. What is your reaction to when Paul Pholeros says, “Eighty percent of what walked into the door, in terms of illness, was infectious disease- third world, developing world infectious disease was caused by a poor living environment.”?
  - a. Were you surprised by this? Why or why not?
2. What do you think of the nine healthy living practices?

- a. Washing, clothes, wastewater, nutrition, crowding, animals, dust, temperature, and injury?
  - b. What do these mean to you?
- 3. “People are not the problem. We’ve never found that. The problem: poor living environment, poor housing, and the bugs that do people harm. None of those are limited by geography, by skin color or by religion. None of them. The common link between all we’ve had to do is one thing, and that’s poverty.”
  - a. React to this.
- 4. “Poverty is not natural. It is man made and can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.” - Nelson Mandela

Additional video: [MEDLIFE Why Hygiene Projects?](#)

[Bill Davenhall: Your Health Depends On Where You Live](#)

Topic

Summary

Reflection Questions