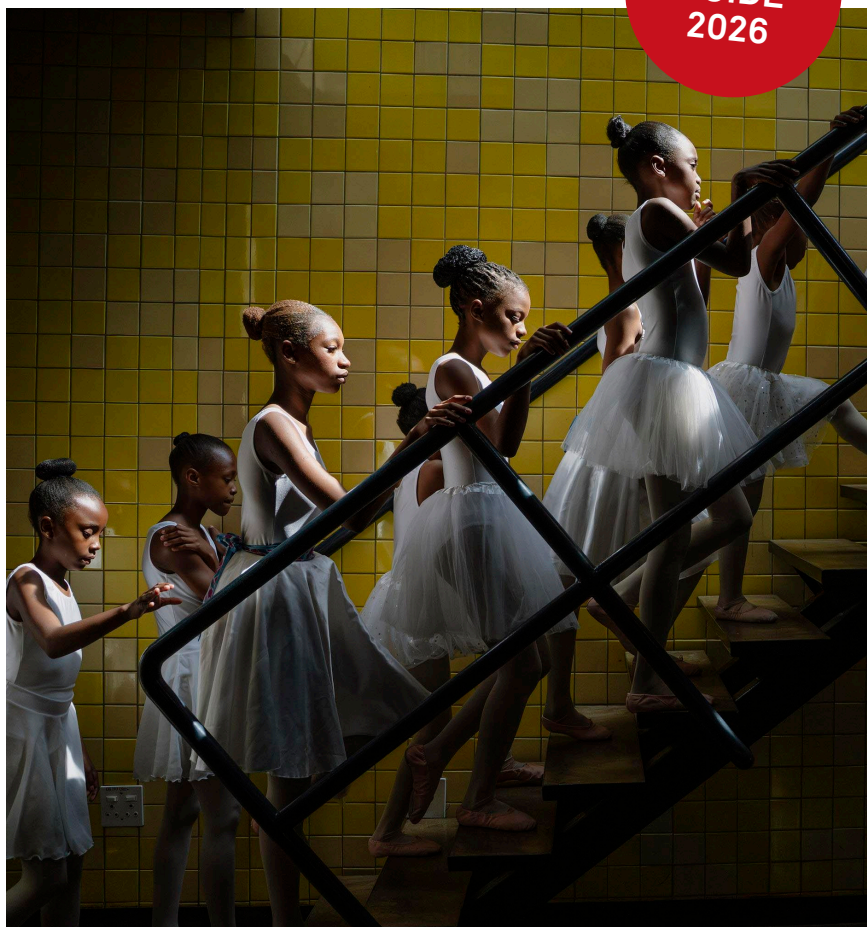


WORLD PRESS PHOTO

EXPOSITION
2026

SCHOOL
GUIDE
2026



© Ihsaan Haffjee, for GroundUp

Visual thinking: Questions from the stories

Name: _____

School: _____

Welcome to the 2026 World Press Photo Exhibition!

This guide will help you understand more about photojournalism. We invite you not only to **look** at the photos, but to **think** about what they show, and to **discover the stories** behind them.

These activities offer questions to spark reflection. Write your answers in the empty spaces.

Think about how each photo presents the news, how the way they are taken affects their meaning, and the importance of freedom of the press.

What do the credits tell you?

Each photo includes credits with its title, the name of the photographer, his or her country, and the agency that commissioned it or the publication where it first appeared.

How can photographers communicate the impact of politics on people’s lives?

World Press Photo of the Year 2026
Separated by ICE

Politics is often viewed as a broad and abstract concept, but what does it mean to “picture” politics through photography? This prize-winning photo from the 2026 Contest helps us better understand how politics affects people’s lives.

Carol Guzy is a photojournalist and winner of the World Press Photo of the Year. She independently documents ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) operations to show what people facing deportation are going through and to shed light on potential injustices.

This photograph, taken inside one of the few US federal buildings where photographers were granted access, captures a harrowing moment: a family separated by the state. Luis, an Ecuadorian migrant who his family says has no criminal record, served as the household’s sole provider. Cocha and their three children—ages seven, 13, and 15—were left inconsolable, facing immediate financial hardship and profound emotional trauma.



Luis's distraught daughters cling to their father as ICE agents detain him after an immigration hearing. New York City, New York, United States, 26 August 2025

© Carol Guzy, ZUMA Press, iWitness, for *Miami Herald*

Questions

- 1 What visual elements make this image personal and moving?

- 2 How can photos of people affected by political decisions influence public opinion?

- 3 What could we understand from this photo if we didn't know its context?

What can we learn from photographs of everyday life in times of crisis?

Hijacked Education

The news cycle can push some stories out of the headlines as conflicts drag on. Several World Press Photo images show what everyday life looks like in these situations.

Around the world, war, extremism, and displacement deny millions of children their right to education. Schools are destroyed, teachers forced to relocate, and classrooms turned into barracks.

According to the United Nations, millions of children affected by conflict lack access to school, which hinders their development. Since 2011, photographer Diego Ibarra Sánchez has been documenting this reality in several countries in Asia, Europe, and South America.



- 1. Hundreds of textbooks burned by ISIS extremists inside Hani Hakuf's School. At least a quarter of Syrian schools have been damaged or destroyed. Al-Shaddadi, Syria, 11 April 2016
- 2. Yousef, 12, dreams of becoming a police officer. His school was heavily damaged during the battle for Mosul from 2016 to 2017. Mosul, Iraq, 6 March 2022
- 3. Students walk to Miadad Primary School in Khartanai Village. Hundreds of children across Afghanistan travel long distances on foot to attend classes. Haska Meyna District, Afghanistan, 13 November 2025
- 4. Female students attend class at their school, which was attacked by the Taliban on 21 December 2012 as part of a campaign to prevent girls from accessing education. Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, 4 June 2013

© Diego Ibarra Sánchez

Questions

1 Why is it important to document daily life during a conflict?

2 What visual details stand out in this series of images?

Are graphic or shocking images useful?

Sudan's War: A Nation Trapped

Since 2023, a war in Sudan has triggered a severe humanitarian crisis. Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes, and many civilians have been killed or injured. This photo directly illustrates the human suffering caused by the conflict.

Are graphic or shocking images effective for conveying a message? While they can reveal injustices in a clear and direct way, these images also have drawbacks. They can mentally affect those who view them, causing stress or trauma. That's why it's important to use such images with great caution, carefully considering the timing and manner in which they are shown.



Alhaja Abdallah, a displaced woman from Bara, shows her scars from a fire at Al-Mohad camp. Paramilitary forces have set multiple displacement camps ablaze. El-Obeid, Sudan, 10 December 2025

© Abdulmonam Eassa, for *Le Monde*

Questions

- 1 Do we need to see shocking images to understand what is happening in the world?

- 2 What should be considered before showing explicit or violent images?

- 3 What would happen if we never showed disturbing images?

What are the impacts of photojournalism?

Finalist for the World Press Photo of the Year Award

The Trials of the Achi Women

During the civil war in Guatemala, the army and paramilitary groups committed serious acts of violence against the Achi Maya, including sexual violence toward women in these Indigenous communities. In 2011, after remaining silent for nearly 30 years, 36 Achi women decided to take their attackers to court. They won their case 14 years later, demonstrating their courage and perseverance in a long struggle for justice. The photographer's choices—such as framing, composition, and lighting—also influence how we interpret their story.



Doña Paulina Ixpatá Alvarado stands with other Achi women outside a Guatemala City court. That afternoon, three ex-civil defense patrollers were found guilty of rape and crimes against humanity and sentenced to 40 years in prison each. Guatemala City, Guatemala, 30 May 2025

© Victor J. Blue, for *The New York Times Magazine*

Questions

- 1 How is this image different from others you often see in the media?
- 2 How does this image portray the women of the Achi community?
- 3 How do the title, caption, and context of the photo change the way we look at this image?

Why do we need stories of hope and change?

Mountain Resident of Wanglang

News and photojournalism often focus on the darker and more harrowing aspects of life—conflict, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises. While this coverage is vital, it is just as important to spotlight stories of resilience, hope, and positive change. These stories do not diminish the urgency of global challenges. They encourage audiences to act, by showing the value of individual and collective action.

Giant pandas are threatened mainly by habitat loss. Human activities such as deforestation, urbanization, and agriculture are shrinking the bamboo forests where they live. Climate change and poaching also threaten their survival. This photograph highlights the efforts of many people working tirelessly to protect giant pandas in the face of these challenges. It shows how each of us can take action to save endangered species. This project is a reminder that together, we can make a difference.



A wild giant panda is captured by a camera trap in the Wanglang National Nature Reserve. Established in 1965, Wanglang is one of China’s oldest wild panda nature reserves and today serves as a key site for education and scientific research collaboration within the larger Giant Panda National Park system. Sichuan, China, 11 November 2025

© Rob G. Green, National Geographic Society, Henry Luce Foundation

Questions

- 1

Do you think hopeful images can help promote change?
- 2

How is this image different from the images we often see about climate change?
- 3

What sorts of impact do positive images have in our lives?

Why do we need different perspectives to better understand a situation?

Extramuros

Photographers can tell stories about situations they encounter around them or experience personally.

In this series of images, William Keo—born to Cambodian refugees—captures his friends, family, and community living in France’s banlieues, disadvantaged neighbourhoods on the outskirts of major cities. His personal perspective shows a reality often associated with the challenges of immigration, including inequality and prejudice, but also reveals the solidarity, creativity, and sense of belonging found in these communities. By sharing these stories from the inside, the photographer offers a different perspective on migration and life in the banlieues, helping us better understand the diversity of human experience.



Young men gather on a rooftop in the Briques Rouges, one of Verneuil-sur-Seine's largest social housing projects. France, 21 July 2023

© William Keo, La Bibliothèque nationale de France, *Die Zeit*

Questions

- 1 Why is it important to see the same situation from different perspectives?
- 2 How can we tell if an image portrays people realistically and fairly?
- 3 How can images in the media influence our views of people or places?

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

EXPOSITION 2026

**MARK
YOUR 2027
CALENDAR!**

Starting 1 June 2027, you'll be able
to book your next field trip to the
World Press Photo Montreal Exhibition:

www.expo-wppmtl.ca/en/groups/

Email: info@wppmtl.ca

Thank you for joining us!

We look forward to
seeing you again next year,
between 25 August
and 11 October 2027!



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