

**The
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TRUMP'S WALL

BORDERS AND MIGRATION

THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION



**BURNET
NEWS CLUB**



For this Issue, schools outside of the UK were invited to take part in the Burnet News Club and join the discussion about Donald Trump's proposed wall between America and Mexico.

SEE EDITOR'S PICKS
bit.ly/EP-Walls

It was enriching to hear such a diverse range of perspectives on the Hub and amazing to know that sessions were happening in countries around the world. In this edition of Hub Highlights, we showcase excellent excerpts from the international conversations.



understanding_power
 SECONDARY SCHOOL
 Napoleone Colajanni, Italy

"I've found this project stimulating and very interesting because it has given to me the opportunity to compare my opinions not only with people from other parts of the world, but also with people who I've been knowing for a lot of time with whom I had never had the opportunity to talk about such a serious and challenging topic."





These students ask whether it's ever right to restrict freedom of movement, and the post sparks curiosity from a student in Italy.

amusing_impression, fearless_wolverine and cherished_petal

Building walls to keep people out: is it ever right?

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Noel Park Primary School, ENGLAND

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, many walls have been built with the purpose of keeping people out, for example The Great Wall of China, Hadrian's Wall and more recently Greece's border fence.

Talking about these walls got us thinking: is it ever right to build a wall to keep people out of a country?

We thought about the Peace Walls that were built in Northern Ireland to keep Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland separate. They were built to protect neighbourhoods and restore some sense of peace and, although they are no longer necessary as the killing has stopped, they still remain and have even become tourist attractions for visitors to sign! If these walls had never been built, many more people would have died, so of course the outcome was a positive one. However, we're still not convinced that it is morally right to separate people, regardless of the reason behind it. Building walls to separate countries can lead to discrimination and division, when we should really be bringing people closer together to solve our issues.

The Hungarian Border Barriers have been built to stop refugees entering the country. We understand some of the reasoning behind this: the number of illegal entries into Hungary was rapidly increasing, which would not have been good for the country.

Some European leaders have argued that barriers are necessary to protect their countries from criminals and would-be terrorists, with Viktor Orbán, Hungary's Prime Minister, even going so far as to say that "Every single migrant poses a public security and terror risk."

However, there are also moral issues with this. Those seeking asylum in Hungary now can only do so in two border zones, and under a recent law migrants have been detained and held in shipping containers. The Hungarian government has been accused of depriving asylum seekers of food and medical services at the Kiskunhalas camp, with local residents having to step in to provide supplies. This is horrible and simply not right!

What do you think? Can you think of any examples where it was right for a wall to be built? Or do they always have negative effects on the communities they are built to separate? ■

Comments

versatile_moon

Napoleone Colajanni, ITALY

Hi! I really enjoyed your article. I think the Peace Walls were made for a good social and moral causes, for the protection of the country, but the rest of the walls are only the fruit of human selfishness. It is morally wrong to close borders and deprive people of help. Excessive migration can often seem like a problem but with the right methods everything can be solved. Is immigration considered a problem in the country where you live? Is racism a widespread phenomenon? And what do you think?



What's worse: physical or mental walls? These students from Reading, England and Sweden shared their thoughts.

Sergei Bachlakov / Shutterstock.com

easygoing_rabbit

Is It All In My Head?

SECONDARY SCHOOL
Highdown School, ENGLAND

WE TALK about walls. Walls restrain us from things that we wish to do and from going somewhere we wish to go. Have you ever thought about the deeper meaning?

Mental walls/barriers; that is what I am talking about. I'm talking about the walls that dwell within our minds, which one can simply ignore. In some perspectives these are the more serious walls. Many of us have mental walls however, sometimes we don't even realise they are there. We need to take the time to realise that our walls exist and what they are doing to us. Mental walls can have bad side effects and maybe bad causes.

Some causes can be a trauma that may make you feel as though you have a wall in between doing something that you enjoy. Slowly, you develop a

border/wall in your mind. It could be failing the first time that you try to do something, like trying to score a goal in football, or as extreme as not getting good grades in a test and then not bothering to revise next time.

A big consequence could be not attempting to do something that you wish to do or even becoming hopeless. That is a really bad and sad consequence. I wrote this post also in order to raise awareness on this as I believe this a big issue that people don't realise that they are going through. ■

Comments

believable_mulberry
Skellefteå, SWEDEN

Wow! That's a whole new way to think about walls. I think mental walls and barriers are worse because if there is a physical wall stopping you from doing something it's probably also stopping other people and that means that you're not alone. Usually, it's always easier to stand up for something you believe in if there are other people who support you. However, if you have a mental barrier it's way harder because people will not know that they exist so you probably stand alone. Of course you can tell people how you feel, and I really encourage everyone to do that because "a shared problem is only a half problem", but I know it can be hard sometimes.



One Italian student shares their view and we hear a contrasting opinion from a student in London, England.

Sergei Bachlakov / Shutterstock.com

involved_duck

Don't build walls but bridges to make everyone in contact with each other!

SECONDARY SCHOOL
Napoleone Colajanni, ITALY

IDO not believe that separating states using a wall is a good idea regardless of economic, geographical and financial reasons, because I strongly believe that bridges must prevail. That is, all those means

and tools should be used to put people and nations in contact with each other, rather than adopting somewhat discriminating measures.

I also do not believe that a wall can solve the problems of immigration and drugs because a system is always found to obviate an architectural barrier. ■

Comments

good_hedgehog
Streatham Wells Primary School, ENGLAND

I disagree with you because we do need a wall sometimes. Around our houses, because you sometimes want personal space; in hospitals, as you don't want people seeing inside the surgical room. For example, we need a wall between North and South Korea because North Korea is led by a dictator. If we do not have a wall, he might think that the land is open and he can go and rule south Korea as well. Kim Jong Un's rule is to not let anyone out of North Korea and if we don't have that fence there then those people would be breaking North Korea's rule.