

RUGBY FOR PEACE PARISH GUIDE

**THANK YOU
FOR SCREENING
RUGBY FOR PEACE
IN YOUR PARISH.**

This pack includes some materials to use alongside the film to create a special evening focused on peace, justice and prayer.

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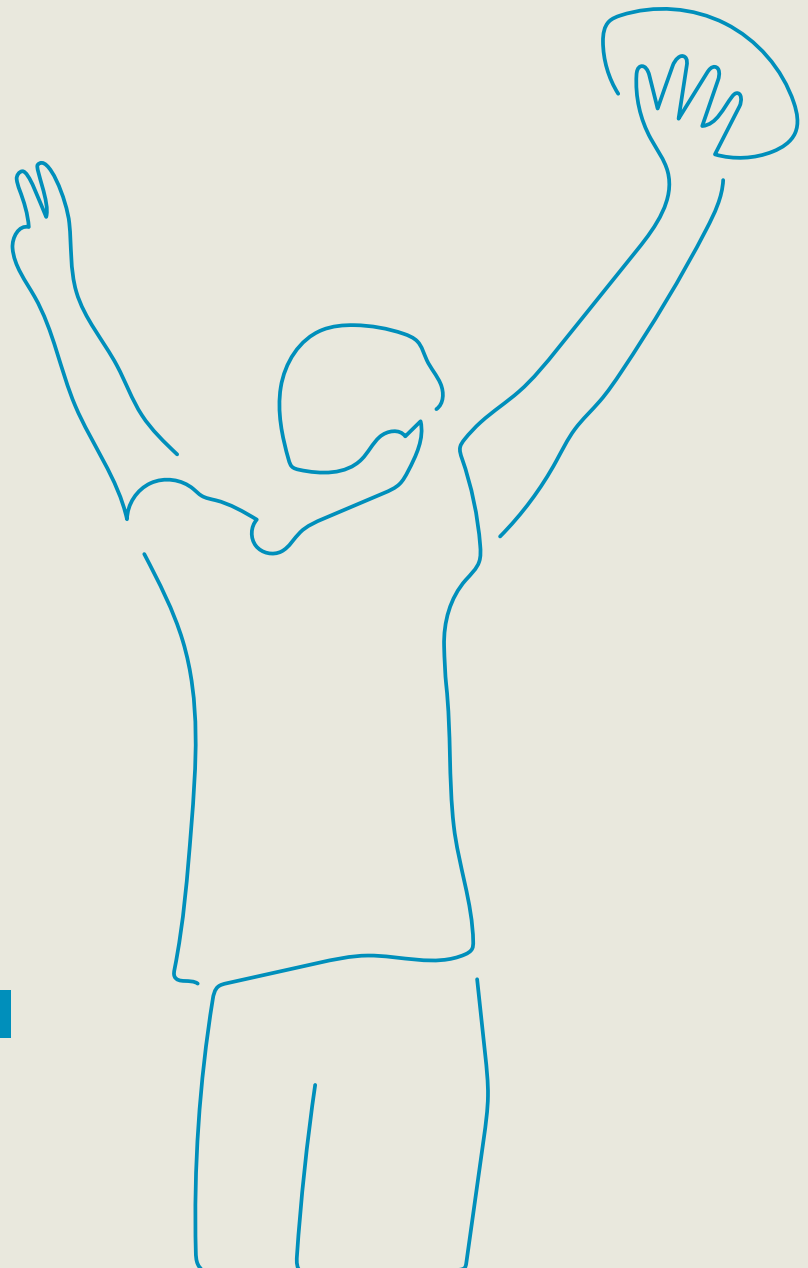
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INTRODUCTORY TALK 1 MINUTE

Hello and welcome to this special screening of the SCIAF documentary Rugby for Peace.

The film is 45 minutes, and afterwards we will have a short discussion.

Firstly, let me share some background to the project. SCIAF have been working in Colombia since 1985. Their work focuses on promoting peace and helping rural communities to preserve their land and protect their rights.

For six decades, a violent civil war involving guerrilla groups, private armed groups, drug cartels and government forces left hundreds of thousands of people dead and forced nearly seven million people to flee their homes.

Despite the 2016 peace agreement, conflict remains. Extreme poverty and the displacement of people continue to be significant problems.

These factors, along with the pandemic and the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, have left young people with few opportunities to improve their lives and build a brighter future. As a result, many are lured into a life of crime.

Thanks to the support of Scottish people, SCIAF's Rugby for Peace project has begun to transform the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in Chocó – and these are their stories.

Please enjoy the film.

DISCUSSION

Use these questions to facilitate a discussion about some of the issues raised in the film.

- What are some of the challenges facing young people in Chocó?
- How do you think sports can develop skills for life?
- In what ways do you think young people, especially in marginalised communities, gain confidence through sport?
- In what ways do you see the so-called five pillars of Rugby (discipline, respect, integrity, passion and solidarity) reflected in Rugby for Peace project?
- How do you think the film represents indigenous and marginalised communities in Chocó?
- In what ways do you think sport can break down social barriers and empower women and girls?
- How do you think sport can promote peaceful co-existence?

LEARNING POINTS FOR THE FACILITATOR

- Chocó is the poorest region in Colombia and is home to indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.
- The communities in Chocó continue to reel from the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, the coronavirus pandemic, and an ongoing conflict driven by the illegal drugs trade.
- The Rugby for Peace methodology, of teaching values and life skills through sport, is supported by academic research.
- Young people are developing skills, values and knowledge to interpret events in their life.
- The Rugby for Peace project widens young people's horizons and personal development.
- SCIAF co-created the Rugby for Peace project with local sports specialists Fundación Buen Punto.

SPORT AND SCRIPTURE ACTIVITY

You can use the **Sport, Scripture & CST PowerPoint** for this activity, or ask participants to locate the following passages in their bibles.

2 Timothy 2:5 / 2 Timothy 4:7 / Hebrews 12:1

'AND IN THE CASE OF AN ATHLETE, NO ONE IS CROWNED WITHOUT COMPETING ACCORDING TO THE RULES.'

2 Timothy 2:5

This verse compares a person living a life in accordance with God's will to an athlete receiving a prize after competing fairly.

- Ask participants to think about parallel examples between an athlete competing according to rules and a person living a Christian way of life.
- In each case what does that look like?
- What does the opposite look like and what are the implications for that person and others?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Why do you think that sporting analogies are used in Scripture?
- How does this connect with the vision and values of Rugby for Peace?

'I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.'

2 Timothy 4:7

'THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US ALSO LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT AND THE SIN THAT CLINGS SO CLOSELY, AND LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US.'

Hebrews 12:1

These two verses suggest that the Christian life is a race and we need to run it with perseverance.

- Ask participants to think about how sometimes a Christian life might seem like a 'fight'. It may be challenging at times. How can we bear witness to others that our faith means something through our actions?
- In what ways do you think that Christian life is like a race or a fight?

SPORT AND POPE FRANCIS ACTIVITY

Pope Francis has spoken several times about sport and the links to Scripture and the teachings of the Church. He encourages us to rediscover the true value of sport; which is about playing fairly and enabling everyone to play to their best.

You can use the **Sport, Scripture & CST PowerPoint** for this activity, or simply read out these quotes from Pope Francis.

"Everyone who wants to join in sports should be welcomed, not just the best, but everyone, with the advantages and limitations that everyone has, indeed, focusing on the most disadvantaged, as did Jesus."

"Sports in a community can be an optimal missionary tool, where the Church comes close to each person and helps him or her to excel and to encounter Jesus Christ."

"Sport is not only a form of entertainment, but also - and above all I would say - a tool to communicate values that promote the good that is in humans and help build a more peaceful and fraternal society."

"To belong to a sports club means to reject every form of selfishness and isolation, it is an opportunity to encounter and be with others, to help one another, to compete in mutual esteem and to grow in brotherhood."

"In sports clubs one learns how to accept. One accepts every athlete who wishes to join, they accept one another with simplicity and kindness."

"When we develop the talents that God has given us...sport transcends the level of pure physicality and takes us into the arena of the spirit and even of mystery. And these moments are accompanied by great joy and satisfaction, which we all can share, even those not competing."

"And you, boys and girls, who experience joy when you receive your jerseys, the sign of belonging to your team, you are called to behave like true athletes, worthy of the jerseys you wear. I hope you can merit them every day through your commitment as well as your hard work."

DISCUSSION

- What connections can you make between the Pope Francis quotes and the Rugby for Peace vision and values?
- How can we incorporate these ideas into our own participation in sport and physical activities?
- Can you think of any other examples of when Pope Francis has spoken about his love for football?



RUGBY FOR PEACE PRAYER

Use this prayer alongside the film and the activities.

Heavenly Father,

Grant Your loving embrace to those who are marginalised and oppressed in Colombia, pour out Your mercy upon the displaced and the vulnerable.

Help them find hope, comfort and peace amid their challenges, surround them with your love, protection and blessings.

Let the spirit of Rugby be a catalyst for unity and peace in Colombia.

Guide and protect SCIAF's partners as they work to transform lives and build brighter futures, may their efforts foster harmony, healing and reconciliation among communities in Colombia.

Amen

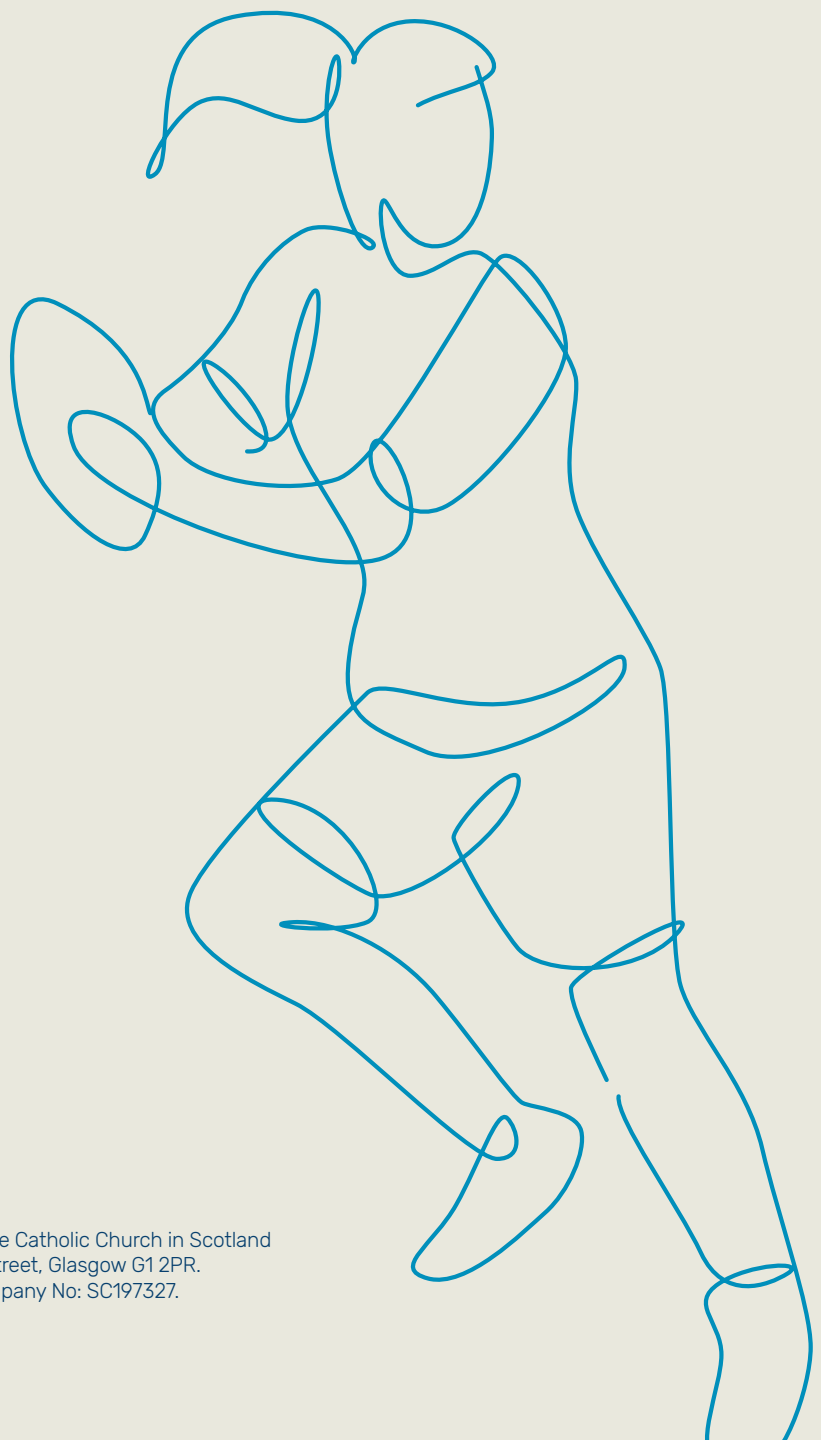
St. Sebastian, pray for us (patron saint of athletes)

St Isidore the Farmer, pray for us (patron saint of rural communities)

Our Lady of Guadalupe and St Rose of Lima, pray for us (patron saints of Latin America)

Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, pray for us (patron saint of Colombia)





Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PR.
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Photos by Santiago Ramírez.