

● Neville Shulman Award - Shining a light on world poverty

As featured in the Spring 2011 Bulletin

In 2005, renowned photographer Nick Danziger travelled to eight of the world's poorest countries to document the plight of those people living in extreme poverty. Five years later as world leaders discussed the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in New York during September 2010, Nick, with support from the Society's Neville Shulman Challenge Award, was revisiting those he photographed in 2005 to see for himself if the policies were making a real difference in the fight against poverty.

Though perhaps most well-known for his intimate photographs of Tony Blair on the eve of the Iraq war, Nick Danziger has spent much of the last 25 years photographing some of the world's most dispossessed and disadvantaged people. It was this interest that led him to focus on the MDGs, and in particular on the question of whether they have achieved tangible benefits for people trapped by poverty.



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Observing and documenting the world through the lens of a camera, Nick believes his images can make a difference.

Photography can certainly raise awareness. It's important to document the plight of the people I am photographing for many reasons; hopefully to give these people a voice, hopefully to bring a change in their circumstances – much of what I am photographing shouldn't have existed in the 20th Century, even less so today in the 21st Century," he said.

In 2010, Nick has travelled to Armenia, Cambodia, India, Niger and Zambia, trying to track down the people he photographed on his first journey. The

stories Nick has uncovered since have revealed both the progress that has been made against poverty, but also the many obstacles that remain. In India, for example, AIDS treatment appears to be improving with free antiretroviral drugs now widely available, while an orphanage for HIV+ children in Chennai has, after many rebuttals, found a school willing to integrate the children into the education system.



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In Armenia, however, Nick found a young teenager he met in 2005, now a young mother, living alone in a single room with no heating or running water while her husband works in Siberia to support them.



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"From my observations of the people I have met, I feel the MDGs haven't been making much difference, especially where people are living in extreme poverty. Too little is being done and what is being done is being done too slowly," he said.

The Society thanks Neville Shulman CBE, Life Fellow, for his continued generous support of this award.

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