

## LOUNG UNG | SPEAKING TOPICS | RESPONSE – 2020



*"For me, writing is an internal journey where you go in deep, you reflect, you work to heal your traumas. As an activist, the journey is outward, going wide, where you connect to the larger world and realize that the story isn't about you. It's about a culture, a people, a nation, a family." ~ Loung Ung*

**LOUNG UNG** is a bestselling author, public speaker, activist and co-screenplay writer of **First They Killed My Father**, the critically acclaimed 2017 Netflix Original Movie directed by Angelina Jolie, based on her memoir, now streaming on Netflix.

### SPEAKING TOPICS

- Resilience: The Key to Bouncing Back Faster and Stronger
- Ordinary Citizens, Extraordinary Leaders: How We Can All Transform Our Community
- The Power of Narratives: Why Rewriting Your Story Will Change Your Life
- The Art of Memoir Writing: 7 tools to bring your story to life.
- First They Killed My Father: a Netflix Original Movie discussion + Q&A
- Never Silent: An Eyewitness Account of the Cambodian Genocide
- Lucky Child: A Refugee's Story of Transformation
- Love, War & Survival: lessons from a Cambodian Genocide Survivor on overcoming traumas, finding joys, and standing up against injustices.

### TRAVELS FROM

Cleveland, Ohio

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### RESPONSES TO LOUNG UNG'S TALKS:

"Loung Ung's story of surviving a brutal and terrifying childhood in the war zone of Cambodia reveals the depth and resiliency of the human spirit. Her capacity to share her own journey of surviving trauma and healing is nothing short of stunning. As a master presenter, Loung helps us grieve the horrors we are all touched by and inspires us to reach for a more peaceful and compassionate way of living. Her presence is sheer grace."

*Carla Goldstein  
Director  
Women's Institute at Omega*

"Loung delivered a powerful, moving, and yet very human story. People watched in total rapt attention, many with tears in their eyes. To this day many still talk about the event and the impact

she made. Once you have heard Loung speak, you are captivated, drawn in and left feeling good and wanting to do something positive with your life.”

*Tom Wright  
General Manager, India, Middle East, Africa & Pakistan  
Cathay Pacific*

“Loung Ung’s story as a young child in Cambodia and her struggles and triumphs to overcome her traumas in America were inspiring, eloquent, and powerful. The concept of the “American Dream” was put into perspective and made a powerful statement to our students. Individuals who were unaware of the genocide in Cambodia learned through the eyes of a young child and a woman who has made a commitment to speak on behalf of those who have passed.”

*Kristen Dvorsky  
Events Coordinator, Office of Student Activities  
Fisher College*

"Loung was a gracious, vibrant, riveting speaker. We greatly appreciated her all the ways she wove it into her interviews and address. Speaking before an audience of 1,500 at the organization's annual fundraising luncheon, she set a new record of attendees for us.”

*Michele Chiuse  
Director of Communications  
Rosie's Place, Boston, MA*

“Loung was personable, engaging, and thoughtful, and her interactions with my students was tremendously touching and authentic. The evening presentation brought in a full house (on a weeknight!) and the audience hung on her every word – you could have heard a pin drop. I would strongly recommend a visit by Ms. Ung – the impact she had on us as a school and as individuals was deep and moving.”

*Aya Murata  
Advisor to Asian and Asian American Student  
Phillips Academy*

“Of all the talks given by guest speakers at Andover, Loung Ung’s was the most powerful. The Khmer Rouge genocide is a significant tragedy that many people are still unfamiliar with and there is nobody who could have shared its stories better than Ung. Like her book, Ung’s speech was passionate and moving. When Loung Ung started speaking, the whole auditorium turned silent – everyone was captivated and many were in tears.”

*Yuni Sumawijaya '12  
Vice-President of Asian Society  
Phillips Academy*

"Loung Ung's presentation was truly inspirational. Her ability and disarming use of humor took the audience with her, no doubt surprised to find themselves sharing laughter along the way. Loung's life-affirming energy represents a triumph of the human spirit over adversity."

*John Watson  
Programme Director  
Amnesty International*

"Loung's voice is powerful! She reminds us of our common humanity while appreciating cultural differences that make us unique. She focused on the role of biography in shaping who and what we are – but not allowing it to limit our vision of ourselves or each other. Her message inspired our clinicians to better understand the perspective of those whom we serve."

*Shed Boren, PhD  
Administrator / CEO  
Sister Emmanuel Hospital*

"Loung was not only an outstanding speaker but also extremely skilled in shaping her passion and commitment to the theme of Seattle Human Rights Day. The audience was riveted to their seats during her presentation and there were few dry eyes in the house. We are still receiving heartfelt thanks and comments from both the Khmer community and the general public. Her event was one of our best ever."

*Germaine W. Covington  
Director  
Seattle Office of Civil Rights*

"The 'All Johnson County Reads the Same Book' planning committee selected Loung Ung's *First They Killed My Father* for its community read. It was an outstanding decision... The project culminated in a University of Iowa lecture in which Loung received a standing ovation from an audience of over 500 who were captured by the substance of the subject matter and her passion for social justice."

*Chivy Sok  
Deputy Director  
University of Iowa Center for Human Rights*

"Loung Ung is a rare and remarkable speaker. As a survivor of the Cambodian Killing Fields, Loung takes her audience into a world of unspeakable suffering, heartbreaking loss, and unimaginable hardship. Yet, it is not these things that remain with you after you have heard her speak. What stays with you is Loung's voice. A voice of strength, kindness, and most of all, of incandescent hope. A voice that boldly empowers us to put down whatever hardship we might have endured and forge ahead to create the world we all would like to see."

*Gail Straub  
Co-founder and Executive Director  
The Empowerment Institute*

“Loung Ung gives a face and voice to a topic that could otherwise be almost inaccessible due its great sadness and weight: the topic of war and genocide. Ms. Ung has the compassion and spirit necessary to connect with audiences that might otherwise be overwhelmed by the menace and malice of history. Her story, as tragic as it might be, fills the listener with a sense of hope, direction, and purpose. Whereas her subject matter is as difficult and challenging as it gets, Loung Ung’s presence is a straightforward testimony of human strength and the possibility of good rising from evil.”

*Dan Scheibe  
Assistant Head of School  
Middlesex School*

“Outstanding! She connected with students, staff and parents. Her sense of social justice and humanity have touched the minds, hearts and souls of our community. Although she is now gone, her influence will continue to resonate for many people. On a pragmatic level, her experience as a survivor and a humanitarian have provided us with insights and shifts that will shape the way we think about and support service learning for our students in our school.”

*Mark R. Boyer  
Assistant Superintendent for Learning  
Singapore American School*

"Loung Ung is an inspirational speaker and dedicated humanitarian. She empowered the UW Khmer students to learn more about their own histories, culture and to follow their passions to create change for a better tomorrow and future. Loung's strength and courage inspired them to take leadership positions and find their own opportunities for advocacy in both local and global communities."

*Linda M. Ando  
Academic Counselor  
University of Washington Khmer Student Organization Adviser*