

Activities to Engage Your Community

The facilitator's guide, Web site and tool kit for *Well-Founded Fear* were developed to help individuals and organizations use the film as a springboard for constructive dialogue and education about human rights, asylum and refugee issues. Below are suggestions for activities you can schedule in connection with, and following, the national P.O.V. broadcast of *Well-Founded Fear*.

Before you get started, contact the public information department of your local public television station to get the exact air date and time of *Well-Founded Fear* (P.O.V. episode 1210). Alert key station personnel to your community event and invite them to participate and partner with your organization. If you would like help with any of the following activity suggestions, please contact the Television Race Initiative or P.O.V.

Community-Based Organizations

Hold a sneak preview screening/discussion Organize a sneak preview of the film before the broadcast and invite local organizations to partner with your group. Planning a simple gathering like this can help your organization build partnerships, coalitions and public awareness. The *Well-Founded Fear* facilitator's guide was designed especially for these purposes.

Collaborate with local experts Asylum experts, refugee service providers and human rights specialists can help you tailor an event to your community needs. Create your own local fact sheets to draw attention to the specific issues that refugees and asylum seekers face in your region.

Tell your story You also might want to invite local media to your event (see attached sample media advisory). Pitch the event by identifying a powerful local "hook" such as local asylees or contacts at local organizations that are working on amnesty and human rights cases.

Example: Amnesty International and the San Diego Public Library are hosting a community sneak preview screening of *Well-Founded Fear* at the county public library. The screening and panel discussion will feature local experts who hope to increase public awareness of how the political asylum process works.

Individuals / Community

Spread the word Encourage your friends and colleagues to tune-in to *Well-Founded Fear* on June 5, 2000 (check local listings). Help us spread the word by sending e-mail alerts and highlighting the film in your organization's monthly newsletter. You can find text and graphic art to help you craft these personalized messages at: www.pbs.org/pov/tvraceinitiative.

On-line discussion/dialogue After the broadcast, log on to www.pbs.org/pov/well-foundedfear and join the dialogue, share your viewpoints and tell us about your human rights and political asylum work. Add your organization to the *Your Town* section – a database of national organizations.

Letter to the editor A letter to the editor is an excellent way to publicize your point of view and draw attention to pressing local and national concerns. The attached sample letter to the editor worksheet can help guide your message. It's always best to keep letters to the editor as brief as possible. Try and keep your letter to three short paragraphs.

E d u c a t o r s

High school teachers and college professors can use the *Well-Founded Fear* facilitator's guide to help lead classroom discussions about the film. Educators may videotape and playback the program, for educational purposes only, for up to 30 days from the date of broadcast. Teachers may want to tailor lesson plans according to curriculum requirements. For additional resources and curriculum suggestions, contact us at tri@pov.org or connect@pov.org.

Example: New York City high school students – 15- to 18-year-olds with diverse backgrounds, many of them immigrants – engaged in poignant dialogue after screening the film. They shared stories of how hard it had been coming to the United States, what it felt like to be seen as outsiders, and the kinds of conflicts and misunderstandings they had with American-born students. The film proved to be a springboard for many topics, not just asylum.

L a w y e r s a n d L e g a l O r g a n i z a t i o n s

Many nonprofit organizations rely on pro bono (volunteer) lawyers to represent individual cases related to asylum, amnesty and refugees. *Well-Founded Fear* is a great "hook" to help recruit new volunteer lawyers for human rights and political asylum cases. If your organization is looking for ways to recruit volunteer legal expertise, organize a screening of *Well-Founded Fear* and provide local context to the film by sharing compelling cases that require legal volunteers. The film also can help train new pro bono attorneys, new immigration lawyers, interpreters and paralegals working on human rights cases.

Example: Heartland Alliance's Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center, a nonprofit legal service provider, has suggested using segments of the film at recruitment and training meetings for pro bono lawyers.

F a i t h - B a s e d O r g a n i z a t i o n s

Many faith-based organizations have human rights, immigration and refugee programs that help new arrivals and their families settle into the community. Catholic Charities and Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services have specific refugee service programs. If you are a faith-based leader you might also consider making an announcement about the film to the members of your congregation.

Example: The FAITHS Initiative, a San Francisco faith-based network of leaders, is organizing a sneak preview of *Well-Founded Fear* as a way to engage the faith community, educate its members about current immigration trends, and encourage them to proactively address human rights, asylum and refugee issues.