

A WOMAN

ON

THE

OUTSIDE



Watch Party Kit

A step-by-step guide to help you organize a screening of the award-winning film "A Woman on the Outside"



A WOMAN ON THE OUTSIDE

Watch Party Kit

Thank you for your
interest in screening
A Woman on the Outside!

By organizing a screening or event around the film, you join an international network of thousands of justice-impacted families and those working to examine how the carceral system shapes lives.

Whether you're planning an event for your friends, family, school, organization or company, this guide offers a step-by-step guide for organizing your screening, watch party, or panel.

A WOMAN ON THE OUTSIDE

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Growing up, Kristal watched nearly every man in her life disappear to prison.

She channeled that struggle into keeping families connected as a social worker and with her van service that drives families to visit loved ones in far-off prisons. But when Kristal's dad and brother return to Philly, her happiness meets the realization that release doesn't always mean freedom.

Passionate, funny, and resilient, Kristal remains determined to discover a different future for herself and her young nephew, Nyvae.

Part observational documentary, part family album, **A Woman on the Outside** is a tender portrait of one family striving to love in the face of a system built to break them.

A Woman on the Outside had its World Premiere at the 2022 SXSW Film Festival. In 2022, it won Best Documentary at the American Black Film Festival, Best North American Feature Documentary at the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival, Best Documentary at the Diamond State Black Film Festival, and Honorable Mention for Humanitarian Excellence at the Woods Hole Film Festival. The film premiered on PBS' America ReFramed in March 2024 as part of WORLD's Liberated Lives initiative.

We recommend watching the film then hosting a discussion afterward.

First, choose a way to watch:

- Host a Screening
- Purchase the film for your library, educational institution, or correctional facility through Women Make Movies [DVDs and digital licenses available]
- Stream online at WORLDChannel.org or the PBS Passport App

Then, host a discussion:

- Decide if it's public or invite-only
- Set a date, then send invites and RSVPs
- Plan your discussion
- Tell us about it so we can share! Send us a DM on Instagram @awomanontheoutsidefilm or email info@womanontheoutsidefilm.com!

STEP #1: PLAN

WHY

- What does your dream screening look like?
- Why do you want to host a screening?
 - **Some examples:**
 - Create a loving space for justice-impacted families
 - Educate the public about the experiences of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated parents and their children
 - Share stories of care within justice-impacted communities
 - Build dialogue among women with incarcerated loved ones

WHO

- Who do you hope to screen or discuss the film with?
- Who do you want to center in this conversation?
 - **Some examples:**
 - Women supporting incarcerated loved ones
 - Children of the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated
 - Currently and formerly incarcerated parents
 - Social Workers
 - Foster Parents
 - Caregivers

STEP #1: PLAN (cont.)

WHEN

- **Date & Time:** Decide on when you'll host your event.
 - **TIP:** Have your screening during a commemorative month or week, such as Second Chance Month, National Criminal Justice Month, Women's History Month, Black History Month or Restorative Justice Week.

- **Duration & Agenda:** Decide how much time you will need for your event and the agenda.
 - Include 5 to 10 minutes for the welcome and introduction.
 - The film is 87 minutes.
 - Add 30 to 60 minutes for the discussion portion of the event. For your discussion, decide
 - Who will lead or moderate the conversation?
 - Will you have guest speakers or a panel?
 - **TIP:** If you're unsure who to invite or who to be a moderator or panelist, consider requesting a Q+A with film participants, Kristal Bush, Nyvae Scott or anyone on our [filmmaking team](#), or the Impact Campaign Advisory Board Members listed on our website.
 - What will be the focus of the discussion?
We have discussion ideas in Step 3 of this guide [page 07].

STEP #1: PLAN (cont.)

WHEN (cont.)

- Plan 5 to 10 minutes for thank yous and a closing.
Make sure to:
 - Provide your audience with some takeaways or a specific call to action.
 - **TIP:** Is there a specific action you want to organize, like joining an organization, volunteering, etc? If you have guest speakers from topic-related organizations, do they have actions or initiatives to uplift your audience members?
 - Ask audience members to follow the film on social media and encourage others to host screenings.
 - Thank your staff, volunteers, special guests, and participating organizations.
 - Tell us how it went!

HOW

- Do potential audience members have unique needs?
 - **Some examples:**
 - Might your audience need child care?
 - Might your audience need translation or interpretation services?
 - If potential attendees might be on parole or probation, what permissions will they need to attend the screening?

STEP #2: INVITE PARTICIPANTS

- Use our Social Media and Promotional Materials [page 13] to create your invite and RSVP.
 - Make a guest list (and don't forget the kids!) This is a documentary meant for families to watch together.
 - If you have guest speakers, panelists, or a moderator, ask them to share the RSVP page on their social media and email/mailing list.
 - Add the event to your calendar, social media and newsletter/mailing list.
 - Email employees or volunteers to ask them to help spread the word.
 - Reach out to local organizations and the press to request help in spreading the word and inviting their members/community.
- **TIP:** Only 30%–50% of RSVPs attend the event, so plan to invite as many people as possible.
 - **TIP:** Send reminders a week before, the day before and the day of the event.

STEP #3: THE DISCUSSION

Start with general questions

- How do you feel after watching the film?
- What moments in the film resonated with you?
- Was there anything, or anyone, in the film that you see reflected in your life?
- Choose topics to discuss that may resonate with your participants. Here are some examples:

For Women Who Support Incarcerated Loved Ones

- How did you feel when you first realized that your loved one would be incarcerated?
- What does being a “woman on the outside” mean to you?
- How have your responsibilities changed since your loved one was incarcerated, and how have you adapted?
- In what ways do you relate to Kristal’s experience?
- What are some of the ways Kristal created mutual networks of care? Have you done something similar?
- What are you doing to meet your emotional needs, or have you even had the time and space to consider them?

Adult Children of the Currently or Formerly Incarcerated

- How did you feel when you first found out that your parent was going to be incarcerated?

STEP #3: THE DISCUSSION (cont.)

Adult Children of the Currently or Formerly Incarcerated (cont.)

- Think back to your childhood and name how you received care from those outside your immediate family.
- What support do you wish you'd had when you were a child?
- Was your life impacted by the child welfare system? If so, how did your foster parents or your social worker maintain your networks with your family?
- What advice would you give to a young person who has a parent who is incarcerated?
- In what ways did you try to maintain the relationship with your parent who was inside?

For Current & Formerly Incarcerated Parents

- How did you tell your kids that you were going away?
- What assumptions or stereotypes have you had to combat?
- What is/was the most challenging part about maintaining your relationship with your children?
- How often were/are you able to see your children? If you are formerly incarcerated, did you want your children to see you while you were on the inside?
- After your release, what were some of the challenges you experienced reconnecting with your children?

STEP #3: THE DISCUSSION (cont.)

For Family Members on the Outside

- Where do you need support?
- What specific actions can you take to support the currently or formerly incarcerated parent and their child?
- Kristal speaks about the challenges of trying to “do it all.” How can you relate? What are some tools you use to help you not get overwhelmed?

For Social Workers and Students

- Historically, what has been the role of social workers when engaging with justice-impacted families? Have these interactions been helpful or harmful?
- Have you worked with justice-impacted families? What has worked well? What hasn't?
- What have you learned professionally about maintaining kinship networks?
- How do you bring liberatory practices to the work of supporting justice-impacted families?

◦ **TIP:** Watch our panel, [“Caring Collaborations: What Social Workers Can Learn from Families Impacted by Incarceration”](#) for additional ideas

For Pre-teens and Teens who have Currently or Formerly Incarcerated Parents

- What was your favorite part of the movie, and why?

STEP #3: THE DISCUSSION (cont.)

For Pre-teens and Teens who have Currently or Formerly Incarcerated Parents (cont.)

- What are some ways you connected with Nyvae?
- What do you miss the most about not having your parent(s) at home?
- Who are the people, and where are the places that you feel heard? Where are spaces where you feel silenced?
- What do you wish you were getting from your parent(s) that you aren't?

Consider holding screenings within afterschool programs, middle and high schools, or faith-based pre-teen and teen programs. Working with youth who have parents who are incarcerated must be done with care. Look at the section [On Trauma](#) for resources on navigating these conversations and fostering empowered sharing of stories.

- **TIP:** Watch our panel, [“Family Ties: Amplifying the Voices of the Children of the Incarcerated”](#) for additional ideas.

DISCUSSION TIPS

- Send questions and the agenda beforehand to give your moderator and panelists a chance to prepare, as well as the trailer and/or how they can watch the film.
- If you have multiple panelists who have never met, consider doing a meet-and-greet beforehand. This can be virtually or, if your event is virtual, as part of the tech check.

Moderating Difficult Conversations for Justice-Impacted Families:

Documentary film provides a unique platform for people to open up about their experiences. For many of your audience members, your event may be the first time they have discussed this topic publicly. Keeping that in mind, it's essential to balance having a robust discussion and being thoughtful about your audience members' needs.

Justice-impacted families experience a unique form of grief and trauma. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other conditions, such as Post Traumatic Incarceration Syndrome (PTIS), are not signs of weakness. They are a cluster of symptoms that are a normal response to traumatic events as a person attempts to process what happened.

As a screening host, you can set the tone by creating a safe space for your audience by outlining the agenda for the event and encouraging attendees to be mindful of their feelings; if they feel overwhelmed, they can step out. Let them know if there will be an allotted time for discussion. Lastly, you can provide community-specific resources such as a list of free or low-cost mental health professionals.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

You can also look to these guides that provide frameworks for audience members to share their stories:

- **Ethical Storytelling** is a community of nonprofit practitioners and storytellers offering resources to promote truthful, nuanced, educational, and empowering storytelling.
- Casey Family Programs & Foster Care Alumni of America's **Strategic Storytelling Guide** provides a step-by-step guide for engaging audience members in telling their stories from a place of empowerment.

Social Media & Promotional Materials

Use the assets below to create promotional materials and promote your event on social media!

- [Press Kit](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Trailer/Vimeo](#)
- [Trailer/Youtube](#)
- [Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [Linktree](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- Hashtags: #AWOTO, #justiceimpactedfamilies, #childrenoftheincarcerated #everydayincarceration



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