

# **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

# I LOVE MY BROTHER WITH ALL MY HEART BUT I FEEL A KIND OF HATRED FOR HIM TOO. I DON'T EXPRESS MY FEELINGS VERY WELL. I'M CRAZY. I HATE HIM BECAUSE I KNOW THE SITUATION WE'RE IN, BUT FOR ONE DAY, JUST ONE DAY THAT HE RESTS AND SAYS, "FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, I'M YOUR FATHER. BUT TODAY I'M YOUR BROTHER."

Rocío, in The Other Side of the Wall

# **FILM SYNOPSIS**

In Director Pau Ortiz' *The Other Side of the Wall*, siblings Alejandro (18) and Rocío's (13) relationship is challenged when their mother is imprisoned under dubious charges. Initially they promise to help each other care for their young siblings and keep their family together until their mother is released. But as undocumented Honduran immigrants their right to live, work and study in Mexico was already under threat. And soon, the prison wall that keeps their mother away gives rise to other emotional barriers that prevent the brother and sister from understanding each other.

**CENTRAL FILM QUESTIONS** 

What is the meaning of "family"?

How does immigration impact families?

What are the social, political, and economic factors that influence families immigration decisions?

#### **CREATING CONVERSATION AROUND** *THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL*

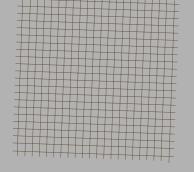
Every audience member will watch *The Other Side of the Wall* with a different lens and set of experiences that inform how they respond to the film. As the host of a screening event, you can direct the tone and nature of your event to create a productive dialogue around the main themes raised in the film.

#### Let your audience know the purpose and intention of your screening event,

to learn from and explore the experience of relationships within this family, not to debate any specific immigration policies. If the conversation drifts, gently redirect to the film.

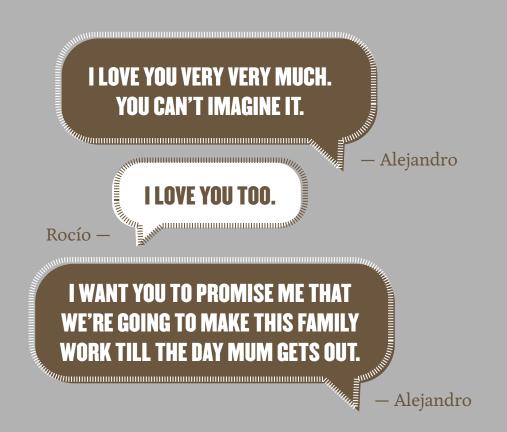
#### Encourage audience members to listen to and learn from one another's perspectives,

rather than trying to persuade or change minds. It may be helpful to create group agreements by asking your audience to share their own ideas about guidelines that encourage this kind of listening.



## **DISCUSSING THE FILM**

The Meaning of Family



• What inspired Alejandro and Rocio to work so hard to keep their family together?

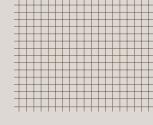
• What strengths and resiliencies did you see the family demonstrate?

In what ways does their mom's incarceration impact the family?

• What kind of support do you think the family would need in order to thrive? From one another? From the surrounding community? From governments?

Learn More About Families and Resilience

What Makes Families Resilient? **>** 



### **DISCUSSING THE FILM**

**Trauma and Its Effects** 

SINCE SHE WAS PUT IN JAIL I HAVEN'T BEEN DOING VERY WELL IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MYSELF. SOMETIMES I THINK, WHY AM I ALWAYS ANSWERING BACK TO MY BROTHER? BUT SOMETIMES I SAY TO MYSELF, IT'S NOT MY FAULT! IT'S OBVIOUS. I'M AT AN AGE WHERE I THINK I'M THE QUEEN OF THE WORLD BUT I'M NOT. I DON'T INOW HOW TO EXPLAIN HOW I FEEL I'M CONFUSED.

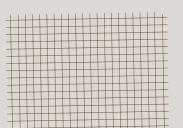
Rocío

• Discuss the impact that their mothers' incarceration had on Alejandro, Rocio, and the other children in the family.

• How do you think this period of separation might influence the children as they grow?

Learn More About Young Immigrants and Trauma Mitigating the Effects of Trauma among Young Children Immigrants and Refugees: The Role of Early Childhood Programs A

Helping Immigrant Children Heal 🗷





• What attitudes and assumptions about immigration and immigrants, particularly those from Honduras, became apparent in this film? How did those influence the lives of this family?

• In what ways do those attitudes and assumptions resemble and differ from those in your own community? Are there different ideas in your community about immigrants from different countries or regions? How do you think those ideas influence the ability of different families to thrive?

• How do you learn about the experiences of immigrant families in your own community?

Learn More About Myths and Misperceptions About Immigrants Migrants are on the Rise Around the World, and Myths About them are Shaping Attitudes 10 Facts About Refugees - UNHCR **A** 

### **DISCUSSING THE FILM**

**The Motivation to Migrate** 

ON ONE HAND, HOPE IS GOOD; BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S BAD. IF I HAVE HOPE THAT MY MUM WILL BE RELEASED, I'LL CLING TO THAT IDEA AND WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD. NO.THE SECOND OPTION IS TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES. OLGA, MY MUM, AND I HAVE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT IT. IT'S A BIT DRASTIC BECAUSE IT MEANS WE WOULD SEPARATE COMPLETELY. THE CHILDREN WOULD GO TO HONDURAS WITH AN AUNTY. OLGA AND AUSTIN TO PALENQUE. MY SISTER ROCÍO WOULD STAY HERE WITH A FRIEND.

Alejandro

• What factors did you see that motivated and/or discouraged the family to immigrate to Mexico? Why does Alejandro consider moving to the US?

Learn More About Migration from Honduras to Mexico

"We Live in a Crisis in Honduras"↗

Rise in US Immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras Outpaces Growth from Elsewhere ↗





## **COMMUNITIES AND DISCIPLINES TO SCREEN THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL**



US History

Economics

Ethnic Studies

Sociology

Geography

## Demography

Law

#### Criminology

Immigration

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