



SCREENING TOOLKIT

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Background information: The film, *“Insecure Communities: Families Under Threat”*

“Insecure Communities: Families Under Threat” is a poignant 12 minute film documenting the dangerous effects of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) programs that place local police at the center of immigration enforcement. The film follows Djibril, Maria, and Jose, whose lives have been impacted by programs such as Secure Communities (S-Comm) and who now fear being separated from their children and families. “Insecure Communities” is a stark reminder that every day communities are broken up because of unjust and immoral immigration enforcement programs with many more living in fear that they may be next.

“Insecure Communities” was funded in part by the Judson Memorial Church, New Sanctuary Coalition of New York, Andrus Family Fund and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

Plan a Community Screening / Event

The purpose of the “Insecure Communities” film is to educate and discuss Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s deportation program known as Secure Communities (S-Comm) Program. The film can be used to promote discussion of S-Comm’s impact on your community and in your ongoing efforts to engage further on the issue. Several ways to do this, include but are not limited to:

- Organizing a public screening of “Insecure Communities.” This can be a small, casual gathering or a large event;
- Screening the film for presentations in your community;
- Using the film in trainings on the impact of ICE-ACCESS programs along with other educational materials;
- Screening the film (or the short video clip) during advocacy sessions with policymakers, law enforcement and community leaders; and
- Inspiring viewers to join an organizing effort to oppose the program.

Whichever option you may choose, please consider the following:

1. Consider potential allies.

Identify like-minded allies, organizations, and groups that may be interested in collaborating on screening “Insecure Communities”. By collaborating or co-sponsoring a screening event with them, you can raise more awareness as well as gain a larger audience by means of reaching out to more community supporters and members. You may decide to have several working groups that take on certain aspects of the event planning (including fundraising, securing the venue, publicizing the event and selecting speakers).

2. Determine the goal or aim of the screening.

Identify a desired goal or outcome from the screening. Perhaps you want to educate the public or your community, raise awareness, influence local stakeholders or decision makers or build bridges and coalitions between community members to work together against the implementation of the Secure Communities Program. If you hope to engage your audience members in advocacy or action, consider how to keep them involved beyond the screening.

3. Decide on the format of the event and select a location, date and time.

Determine how the film will be screened. Perhaps it will take place during a town hall meeting, community center, church, school, library or house party or followed by a panel discussion. If the goal is to have people take action post-screening by writing and lobbying their legislative representatives, you should ensure there is an opportunity to do so. Consider who you want to speak, and the organizations you want present. When choosing a venue, consider if the building is accessible for the audience, if the venue is one where people feel safe or comfortable and if the room has the necessary equipment for a screening (DVD player, computer, projector, adequate sound equipment, seats, screen, etc)? If providing childcare, do you need a separate or adjacent space?

When choosing a date, consider holidays, other pre-arranged gatherings and festivals.

Use “Insecure Communities” for Advocacy

“Insecure Communities” can be used for advocacy around the issue. With the growing influence of social issue documentaries as a channel to broaden public awareness and concern, this is a perfect opportunity to address the issues surrounding S-Comm. We encourage you to enlist the support of individuals that may identify with the cause or have an interest in doing so.

Ensure your target has the authority, leverage or ability to achieve the change you seek. Research who you want to meet with. Look into their history and their “take” on the particular issue. If your local group or coalition is interested in legislation or resolutions, consider whether it is an election year and how this impacts the official’s stance on the issue, and whether they chair public safety committee, the judiciary or oversee law enforcement or the jails. Do you consider your target an ally or someone who is likely to be sympathetic to your concerns? Have they passed legislation or made a public statement that is in line or similar to the issue you’re working on? How do they feel about immigration, criminal justice and racial profiling?

Identify what you want your target to do (sometimes called an “ask”). Perhaps you want them to take action on your behalf by introducing or supporting a resolution or legislation, intervening to stop the deportation of a community member, or issuing a letter or public statement expressing concern about the Secure Communities program?

Spread the Word

Spread the word about your screening or event through phone calls, mass emails, social networking mediums such as Facebook, MySpace Twitter, etc. Partner up with like-minded organizations to spread the word. Copy posters or flyers and put them up throughout your community. Consider adding information about the event on local community calendars, and send a press release to local media about 7-10 days in advance of the event. Make sure to include mainstream, community and alternative media as targets. Consider sending the release to reporters that are covering issues that affect your community, as well as larger cross-related issues: immigration, law enforcement, racial profiling, community policing, community relations, etc.

You may also want to contact your local radio station and ask them to add the screening to their calendar of events or to record a Public Service Announcement. Some radio stations have deadlines several weeks ahead of when an event is announced, so check with them about their specific requirements.

You can find templates for flyers and a sample release online at www.uncoverthetruth.org. They include:

- English Flyer with space for location;
- Spanish Flyer with space for location; and
- Image for Web-based advocacy.
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We can also list your screening on our event calendar at www.uncoverthetruth.org. Email us at sarahi@ndlon.org with information about your event, and we will list it online to bring national attention to your screening. After the event, please follow up with us to share photos, success stories, and any insights you have gained from the screening.

Screening Checklist

- Confirm the venue, date and time.
- Gather and photocopy all materials that you want to distribute or make available to the audience.
- Prior to the screening, test all the equipment to make sure the video, sound and projection are working correctly. Do you have a back up system ready?
- Confirm again with all speakers and any invited guests.
- Make sure to follow up with any media contacts to remind them of the event.
- Create a sign-in sheet for audience members, especially if you want to follow up with them.
- Make sure you have refreshments, snacks, or food available if you have decided to provide them.
- If you are engaging audience members after the screening in discussions, make sure you have discussion questions prepared (see enclosed guide on page 9) and volunteers who will help facilitate conversations. If you hope to engage audience members in an action, make sure you have all the necessary materials ready. If you want audience members to take away a factsheet or make calls, prepare all necessary materials to facilitate their follow-up.
- If there are photographers taking pictures at the event, get their business cards so you can get copies of the photos for future work.

Screening Guide and Post-Screening Discussion Guiding Questions

Below is a suggested list of questions that the audience can think about while viewing “Insecure Communities”.

Prior to your screening, consider whether S-Comm is already activated in your community and how many people have been deported from your community under the program.

Look up your jurisdiction by visiting http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities/, clicking on the “resources” tab and then the PDF entitled “Nationwide Activated Jurisdictions.”

Determine the number of people deported from your community by visiting the “ICE FOIA Reading Room” at <http://www.ice.gov/foia/library/index.htm#47> and clicking on the “Secure Communities Statistics” tab.

Pre-Video General Questions:

- What do you know about current US immigration policies? About the history of immigration to the U.S.?
- What is your – or your parents’ – country of origin? What was your/their experience? What would you change about the current policy?

Post-Video General Questions:

- What did you learn after watching the video?
- Who do you believe should view this video and why?
- Describe a scene in the video that was particularly moving or disturbing. What was it about the scene that affected you?
- What is most significant about this video?
Does current policy discriminate against people of color? How? Why?
- What steps must be taken to fix the current immigration system?
- How are Maria, Jose, and Djibril’s stories similar to and different from your personal story?
- How do Maria, Jose, and Djibril’s children’s stories compare with the youth in your community or to your own childhood?
- How will a program like S-Comm affect a community’s safety?

Specific Questions

- What is most compelling about Maria, Jose, and Djibril’s stories?
- Former police officer Ronald Hampton states that “community policing is about communities and police working together in a proactive way to talk about and solve the problems that exist in our communities.” How would local police enforcing immigration policy affect public safety and police-community relations? What are the problems that could arise with local police enforcing immigration policy?
- Reverend Jim Wallis states that “enforcement of a broken system that breaks up families is unacceptable to us as people of faith.” How is the immigration enforcement system immoral? What role should the faith-based community play?
- Maria said: “I thought that the police were there to help you, when you call them in an emergency, but it was the opposite... If something happens to me now I would not call the police.” What will happen in the future if Maria needs the police? How will this experience threaten Maria’s safety?
- Maria states that “even if women had a big problem with their husbands, like being beaten, they won’t call. Because they are afraid they will stay silent.” How does S-Comm threaten the safety of individuals who have to deal with domestic violence?
- How does Maria, Jose, and Djibril’s detention affect their young children? How would you feel if a loved one suddenly disappeared?
- What is the role of the general public in these situations?

Background information and Additional Resources: The Secure Communities Program

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency’s “Secure Communities” program (S-Comm) was launched in March 2008 and further involves state and local entities in the enforcement of federal immigration law. Secure Communities institutes a mechanism to run fingerprints through various databases when individuals are arrested – even for minor charges or if charges are dismissed. If there is a “hit” with the Department of Homeland Security immigration database – which was once known to contain unreliable and incomplete information – the person may not be released from jail and if ICE acts, the person is transferred to immigration detention centers. Many immigrants are sent to remote detention centers across the country, far away from their families. Moreover, the program leaves immigration enforcement to local police untrained on immigration laws.

As of May 2011, Secure Communities has been implemented in over 1200 jurisdictions in 42 states. The program has been advanced in secrecy despite significant public outcry over its devastating effects on communities, costs to local police and reports that crime victims fear coming forward due to the program.

Although ICE purports that Secure Communities is just an information sharing program, the program serves as a immigration deportation dragnet that unfairly funnels people into the inhumane ICE detention and removal system.

Additional Resources

Learn more at www.uncoverthetruth.org, www.ndlon.org and www.ccrjustice.org/secure-communities.

Email us at sarahi@ndlon.org with questions.