

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION: TRAPPED

Films can offer a good basis for discussion and further understanding of important subjects. A program that includes a film screening, facilitated discussion, and perhaps even a speaker, can be an excellent way for NCJW members and supporters to learn more about an issue and ultimately take action for social change.



Trapped, directed by Dawn Porter

From 2011 to 2013, more than 300 laws meant to impede and regulate abortion providers moved through state legislatures. Southern abortion clinics were hit hardest. *Trapped* interviews doctors, patients, and nurses from the few remaining abortion clinics of Mississippi, Texas, and Alabama, and follows the legal battle they fought that reached the United States Supreme Court.

Preparation for the Film Screening:

- ▶ Purchase the film at <http://www.trappeddocumentary.com/>.
- ▶ Confirm location and decide who is bringing snacks and beverages.
- ▶ Invite NCJW members and coalition partners.
- ▶ If appropriate, invite a speaker. Think about lifting up the voices of individuals most impacted by abortion restrictions — people of color, low-income people, young people, and immigrants. You can also consider inviting the filmmaker via the website above.
- ▶ Ensure a facilitator is prepared to ask questions and manage discussion.
- ▶ Remind participants to be prepared to discuss how the film relates to NCJW's mission.
- ▶ Encourage participants to review NCJW's materials on reproductive justice at act.ncjw.org/reproductivejustice, particularly including, "[The Basics: NCJW and Reproductive Justice](#)" and "[Jewish Values and Reproductive Justice](#)."

After the Film:

- ▶ Facilitate a post-film discussion. See questions below for guidance.
- ▶ Following the post-film discussion, ask if participants are interested in advancing abortion access. If so, plan a follow-up meeting to discuss an action plan.
 - See [NCJW's Social Change Action Plan Worksheet](#) for helpful tips!
- ▶ Make sure participants are signed up for the NCJW Action Center to receive updates and action opportunities. Direct them to ncjw.org/signup.
- ▶ Collect names and contact information from all participants, and follow-up with a thank-you message that includes future ways to get involved with NCJW.

RAISING AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Reproductive justice is a framework, movement, and vision. When reproductive justice is achieved, each person will have the power to make their own informed decisions about their body, sexuality, and future regardless of race, income and class, sexual orientation, immigration status, or other factors. The reproductive justice movement is committed to achieving human rights for all. Specifically, these rights include:

1. the right to have full autonomy over our bodies;
2. the right to have or not have children;
3. the right to birth and/or parent our children with dignity; and
4. the right to live and/or raise a family in a safe, healthy environment.

Discussion Questions to Consider:

- ▶ How did the film make you feel? What was the most powerful scene for you?
- ▶ Have you — or someone you know — ever experienced firsthand the types of restrictions raised in the film?
- ▶ The film focuses on efforts that make abortion more difficult to access through unnecessary clinic restrictions. What are some of the other ways in which abortion is pushed out of reach?
- ▶ Dr. Willie Parker talks about his faith, and the common misconception that holding religious beliefs and supporting abortion access are mutually exclusive. How do your Jewish values guide us to support abortion access and the right of every individual to make their own health care decisions?
- ▶ Reproductive justice uses an intersectional framework to explore policy issues; that is, it examines how different identities or systems of oppression influence a person's ability to have full autonomy over their bodies and exercise other basic rights (see *above*). How do race, socioeconomic status and income, age, and geographic location affect abortion access in *Trapped*?
- ▶ *Trapped* focuses on restrictions on abortion clinics and patients, and the resulting legal battles. Beyond abortion, what are some other services these clinics provide? Why do you think that these services weren't highlighted in the documentary?
- ▶ US senators help identify and recommend individuals to the President for nominations to fill judicial vacancies in federal district and circuit courts in their states. Such nominees are subject to confirmation by the US Senate and, if confirmed, serve in lifetime seats on the bench.
 - How do the federal courts and judges impact abortion access in the film?
 - What can advocates do to ensure that judges who fill these seats are supportive of a woman's basic constitutional right to make her own faith-informed decision about abortion?
- ▶ In June 2016, the US Supreme Court ruled to protect abortion access in *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*. The decision repealed two provisions of Texas' omnibus anti-abortion law, HB 2, and found certain TRAP laws (Targeted Restrictions on Abortion Providers) across the country unconstitutional. Where do you see the fight for reproductive rights, health, and justice going next?
- ▶ What role can you as an advocate play to advance reproductive justice in your community?

Questions? Contact NCJW Grassroots Associate Leanne Gale at Leanne@ncjwdc.org.