

Film Screening and Discussion Questions

Birthright: A War Story

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 section members and supporters to learn more about an issue and ultimately take action for social change.

Birthright: A War Story

Director, Executive Producer, Writer – Civia Tamarkin, Arizona Section President

Co- Executive Producer, Writer – Luchina Fisher

While *Roe v. Wade* is the law of the land, it is not the reality for many. *Birthright: A War Story* features the stories of women across the United States under siege. Every day, their ability to make their own decisions about their bodies, health, and when and if to have a family is under attack in cities and states. Political, religious, corporate, and governmental factions are waging a war on women's health — and it has real consequences. This 1 hour 40 minute documentary examines how pregnant people are jailed, violated, and at risk of death as radical anti-abortion proponents tighten their grip on state legislatures and corporations, including hospitals, across America.

Preparing for the Film Screening:

- Purchase the film to show to a small group [here](#). To host a screening for 25 or more people, there is a \$295 fee which include purchase of the film. Click [here](#) to order.
 - Add a speaker affiliated with *Birthright* to your screening and discussion, via Zoom or Skype, by contacting Civia Tamarkin: civia@tamarkinproductions.com.
- Confirm location and decide who is bringing snacks and beverages.
- Invite NCJW members and coalition partners.
- Ensure a facilitator is prepared to ask questions and handle the discussion.
- Remind participants to be prepared to discuss how the film relates to NCJW's mission.
- Provide handouts utilizing NCJW's [reproductive health, rights, and justice](#) resources including our "[Judaism and Abortion Guide](#)," "[The Basics: NCJW and Reproductive Justice](#)," "[Jewish Values and Reproductive Justice](#)," and "[Reproductive Rights and the Supreme Court](#)."

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!
- Provide a quick “take action” component that participants can do on the spot, such as signing a postcard or petition to lawmakers on a related policy issue.
- Make sure participants are signed up 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.

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:

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

Discussion Questions to Consider:

- What are your initial thoughts about the documentary?
- What role does state legislation play in reproductive regulation?
- What role does the courts play in access to reproductive care?
- What are the long-term implications of creating a system where pregnancy has legal repercussions?
- What role does race play in this documentary and access to reproductive care nationwide?
- How is the regulation of reproductive health care reflective of cultural and social views of pregnant people in American society?
- What are politician’s intentions when pregnancy is regulated as a political narrative?
- What trends can be identified in legislating pregnancy based on the stories shared in this documentary?
- What can be learned from the anti-abortion rhetoric presented in this documentary?

For questions or more information, please contact Ari Solomon at asolomon@ncjw.org or Shannon Russell at rsnell@ncjw.org.