

Just Vision & Churches for Middle East Peace present

ENCOUNTER POINT

a community and educational resource for learning about Israeli and Palestinian peace-builders

BACKGROUND ON THE FILM

Just Vision creates and disseminates media and educational resources about nonviolent efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Just Vision's critically acclaimed feature documentary film, ***Encounter Point***, provides a new, non-divisive way for educators and community leaders to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, through the eyes of courageous individuals working at a grassroots level for change.

We encourage community groups, religious institutions and educators to use ***Encounter Point*** and Just Vision's online resources as a catalyst for learning. Suggested discussion topics and action steps follow on page two, and complete community and educational screening guides are available at www.justvision.org/resources.

Jointly produced by a Palestinian, Israeli, North and South American team of young women, ***Encounter Point*** has screened from New York to Dubai to Jerusalem, Jenin, Ramallah, Sderot and Tel Aviv. It has been endorsed by the World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace and the Israeli Ministry of Education. ***Encounter Point*** has screened at the Tribeca Film Festival, the Alliance of Civilizations in Madrid, and on Al Arabiya satellite TV. Across the globe, ***Encounter Point*** is inspiring audiences to look beyond the mainstream media's portrayal of violence and militancy to a movement of ordinary people working to build peace from the ground up.

HOW TO OBTAIN AND SCREEN THE FILM

ORDERING INFORMATION: The consumer copy of ***Encounter Point*** is available from Amazon and typecastfilms.com. Educators wishing to purchase the film for use in a university or high school setting may purchase the educational copy at typecastfilms.com.

FREE SCREENING GUIDES: The **Classroom Screening Guide** (for high school and college level) includes discussion topics and homework assignments on peace-building, civic leadership and media literacy, and additional resources. The complete **Community Screening Guide** includes discussion topics and suggested ways to get involved. Please visit www.justvision.org/resources.

SCREENING TERMS: Churches affiliated with Churches for Middle East Peace may purchase a consumer copy of ***Encounter Point*** for use in educational settings and small screenings. A larger, public screening requires screening fees be paid to Just Vision. This helps our organization continue to operate and distribute the film for free to Israeli and Palestinian audiences. Please see www.justvision.org/encounterpoint/faq for screening terms.

Trailers, reviews and more information about ***Encounter Point*** are online at: www.justvision.org/encounterpoint. More information about Just Vision, and in-depth interviews with dozens of Israeli and Palestinian civilians working to stem hatred and promote reconciliation and nonviolence are online at www.justvision.org.

Please notify Just Vision of your plans to screen ***Encounter Point*** by writing to info@justvision.org.

USING THE FILM TO CREATE DISCUSSION AND DIALOGUE

Reactions

- Almost everyone who has seen *Encounter Point* reports learning something new, identifying with a particular character or statement, and, given the scope of the issue, feeling the film omits something. Share something you gained from watching the film, one thing that rang true for you, and one thing you felt was missing (if there was something).
- Among viewers in almost every screening of *Encounter Point* with a diverse audience, some say the film is pro-Israeli, and some say it is pro-Palestinian. What parts of the film do you think might be seen as pro-Israeli and what as pro-Palestinian? How would you respond to each claim? What do you think is the underlying message of *Encounter Point*?
- Compare and contrast the Palestinian and Israeli experiences of nonviolence. What are the difficulties each side experiences in their quest for dialogue? How do they respond to opposition from within their communities?

Media

- How does *Encounter Point* portray Palestinians, Israelis and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Is this different from other media portrayals you have seen?
- Would you like to see changes in how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is reported and covered in the US media? How? What is your role as a media consumer?

Leadership

- Do your leaders' (political, religious, or otherwise) approaches to this conflict reflect your own?
- What role would you like your leaders to assume regarding the conflict?
- What upcoming windows of opportunity might exist for letting your leadership know your views and encouraging them to adopt a more responsible approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Education

- How can we better prepare young people to engage in peace-building locally and globally?
- What does an educational approach that is neither "pro-Israeli" nor "pro-Palestinian" look like, and what resources are needed?

Action

- What is needed for grassroots nonviolence and peace-building efforts to succeed?
- How can you and your community be part of those efforts?
- With whom would you like to share *Encounter Point*?
- What resources do you need to get involved?
- What does *Encounter Point* inspire you to do?

Suggested Action Steps

Just Vision resources community groups to support nonviolent peace-building work between Israelis and Palestinians. As a non-partisan organization, it does not prescribe policy. If your group wishes to take on a specific agenda in relation to these action steps, you may still use *Encounter Point* as a convening tool.

- Write to the media to request more coverage of nonviolence and peace-building efforts by Palestinians and Israelis (JV provides a template: www.justvision.org/get-involved). Be sure to address your letter to a relevant journalist, bureau chief or editor.
- Write to politicians to request they take a more active, even-handed approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with attention to civic engagement in the peace process. Go to www.cmep.org for timely action alerts.
- Organize *Encounter Point* screenings in religious institutions, community centers, schools, or government venues.
- Bring together community groups or leaders that don't normally work together for a screening of *Encounter Point* and a follow up discussion.
- Form a group committed to meeting regularly for discussion and action.
- Adopt-A-Peacemaker: Research Israeli and Palestinian peace and nonviolence organizations (over 100 are listed online at <http://www.justvision.org/organizations>, and you may read portraits of Palestinian and Israeli peace builders at www.justvision.org/en/profile). Pick one to support, and organize a fundraising campaign. Call a journalist to ask for coverage of their work.
- Support the work of Just Vision, CMEP and other NGOs supporting Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.