

# WHICH WAY HOME

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## Bullfrog Community Screening & Discussion Guide

**Roll out the red carpet!** Use your WHICH WAY HOME film screening as an opportunity to build community and spark debate and action on US immigration policy and the plight of migrant workers and their families. This handout offers background information plus tips and discussion questions for a stirring and rewarding screening.

### **Good Luck!**

For additional resources, visit [whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh\\_resources](http://whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh_resources)

## About WHICH WAY HOME

As the United States continues to build a wall between itself and Mexico, WHICH WAY HOME shows the personal side of immigration through the eyes of children who face harrowing dangers with enormous courage and resourcefulness as they endeavor to make it to the United States. Director Rebecca Cammisa follows several unaccompanied child migrants as they journey through Mexico en route to the U.S. on a freight train they call "The Beast." These are stories of hope and courage, disappointment and sorrow. They are the ones you never hear about - the invisible ones.



## About the Director

In 2003, Rebecca Cammisa founded Documentress Films, teamed up with Mr. Mudd Productions, and began developing the 2010 OSCAR®-nominated documentary, *Which Way Home*, for which she received a 2006 Fulbright Fellowship for Filmmaking. Ms. Cammisa co-directed, co-produced, and shot the feature documentary film, "Sister Helen," which aired on HBO, and won the Sundance Film Festival's 2002 Documentary Directing Award.

# ready to watch!

## Here are some ideas and best practices to help make your community screening of WHICH WAY HOME a success!

- 1. Publicize Your Event!** This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit [whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh\\_screenings](http://whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh_screenings) to register your WHICH WAY HOME screening. When you register, additional online publicity tools become available.
- 2. Visualize Your Goal!** What do you hope to achieve with your screening of WHICH WAY HOME? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion to make the audience aware of the realities of child migration, or to provide a greater understanding of not only how but also why children are so driven to make this journey alone. Or, perhaps you want to motivate members of your community to participate in a letter writing campaign to support humane immigration policies. Or, simply provide an opportunity for families to watch and learn together.
- 3. Where To Host?** Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating a community film screening of the size you anticipate: churches, town halls, private homes and even high schools have been venues for many successful community screenings.
- 4. Find A Partner!** Give some thought to who is already working on immigration and migrant worker issues in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Speak on a panel discussion after the screening? Some potential partners include immigrant advocacy groups, teachers and professors, national religious organizations, human rights groups and immigration law centers.
- 5. Invite A Guest Speaker!** Guest speakers and panels are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. Contact local non-profit representatives, teachers, professionals, or government officials who have expertise or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend and participate in a discussion or Q&A session. The filmmaker is available to appear in person or via Skype for a Q&A. [Contact Bullfrog Communities](#) if you are interested.
- 6. Engage Your Audience!** Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Act!, which links to relevant resources online and can be used as a hand-out at your screening. It will help inform your audience on what they can do to educate themselves on the immigration issues and help support progressive government policies.
- 7. Spread The Word!** Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing the film screening to people in you community. Sending emails, creating event notifications on Facebook or Meetup, using Twitter, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. Find the WHICH WAY HOME screening poster, discussion guide (includes handout), and press photos at [whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh\\_resources](http://whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh_resources) to help publicize your event around town.
- 8. Tell Us How It Went!** We would love to know how your WHICH WAY HOME screening went! Visit [whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh\\_discussion](http://whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh_discussion) to tell us about your event. Where it was held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? Did the film have a positive impact and inform people about the issues surrounding immigration and related policy? Your feedback will help others in organizing their own successful events and will energize the Bullfrog Immigration Community as a whole.

# ready to talk!

**After watching the movie, your audience will be excited to discuss the issues raised by WHICH WAY HOME. Here are some questions that will help get people talking!**

- 1. What are some of the factors influencing the decision of the children in WHICHWAY HOME to attempt their journey? How might US policies influence these factors?**
- 2. Did the ages of some of the children profiled in the film surprise you? If so, why? Did their age affect how you viewed their attempts to migrate into the US illegally?**
- 3. What do you think of the Mexican government’s decision to form the “Beta” unit whose purpose is to provide food and medical attention to those attempting to ride the trains?**
- 4. Before watching WHICH WAY HOME, what impressions came to mind when you heard the term “illegal immigrant”? What were the sources of your preconception? In what ways did the film confirm or challenge your ideas?**
- 5. If you were in the same economic, personal, or social situations as Fito, Kevin or Yurico, would you consider traveling alone and risking your life on the trains in order to enter the US?**
- 6. What are the most migrant-dependent industries in your area? Have you, or someone you know, ever hired migrant workers? What were they hired to do? How much were they paid? All workers are legally entitled to the same workplace protections. Do you think there are barriers for undocumented workers in asserting those rights?**
- 7. Why have so many parents of these children been so desperate for work that they come to the US and work for low wages? Do you think any law will discourage or prevent situations such as this without economic changes also being made?**
- 8. How can you, as an individual, raise further awareness of the plight of child migrants and the need for humane immigration policy reform in the US?**
- 9. What can we do about the issues illuminated in WHICHWAY HOME? Share the READY TO ACT handout and visit [whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh\\_resources](http://whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh_resources) for additional ideas and resources.**

# ready to act!

handout

## Share this handout with your WHICH WAY HOME screening audience!

1. Take action online in defense of migrant rights. Check out these sites for more information:

**Amnesty International** (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/refugees-and-migrants>) campaigns for the rights of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants around the world and exposes human rights abuses and failures in their protection.

**National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children** ([www.refugees.org/our-work/child-migrants](http://www.refugees.org/our-work/child-migrants)) See what happened to Kevin, and what can be done to help other children.

**Detention Watch Network** ([www.detentionwatchnetwork.org](http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org)) A coalition that addresses the immigration detention crisis, working to reform the U.S. detention and deportation system so that all receive fair and humane treatment.

**National Immigration Forum** ([www.immigrationforum.org](http://www.immigrationforum.org)) Provides leading information on ever-changing US immigration policy.

**Rights Working Group** ([www.rightsworkinggroup.org](http://www.rightsworkinggroup.org)) Information and Actions on human rights, racial profiling, immigration and detention.

**American Civil Liberties Union - Immigrant Rights** ([www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights](http://www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights)) See their Immigration Myths and Facts sheet and Know Your Rights materials.

**Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (Center for Migrant Rights)** ([www.cdmigrante.org](http://www.cdmigrante.org)) The first transnational workers' rights law center based in Mexico to focus on U.S. workplace rights.

2. Contact your local elected officials! Individually or as a family, write letters and/or emails to elected officials to express your belief in the need for humane, just immigration reform that is reasonable, compassionate, and understanding of the needs and motivations of illegal immigrants and migrant workers. ([www.justiceforimmigrants.org/action.html](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/action.html))

3. Find an organization in your area advocating for migrant rights and ask how you can help or volunteer your time. If you have specialized language skills, many advocates are in need of bilingual volunteers to translate documents or interpret during client interviews. Many religious denominations also have offices to help refugees and migrants.

4. Being in violation of immigration laws is not a crime. It is a civil violation for which immigrants go through a process to see whether they have a right to stay in the US. Immigrants “detained” during this process are in non-criminal custody. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the agency responsible, imprisons over 350,000 people in immigration custody each year. Immigrants in detention include children, families, undocumented and documented immigrants (many who have been in the

U.S. for years and are now facing exile), survivors of torture, and asylum seekers.

Torture survivors, victims of human trafficking, and others can be detained for months or even years, further aggravating their isolation, depression, and problems associated with past trauma. Is there a detention center near you run by Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE), a private contract facility, or on contract with your county prison? Are the human and legal needs of people detained there being met?

**5.** Some people who enter this country without documents are eligible for protection and legal status, such as those who are granted asylum from persecution, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) from certain countries, or legal status derived from a relative legally in the US. Is there adequate legal representation for immigrants in your community? Are there “Notarios” misrepresenting themselves as lawyers to this vulnerable population? Contact your local human rights or religion-based legal service provider to see how you can help. Some national organizations with local offices are: [www.hias.org](http://www.hias.org) • [www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org) • [www.cliniclegal.org](http://www.cliniclegal.org) • [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)

**6.** UNHCR, The United Nations High Commission for Refugees helps displaced people worldwide ([www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)) meet basic needs, and safeguards the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced, returnees, and stateless people. How can you help? Human Rights Watch ([www.hrw.org/en/united-states](http://www.hrw.org/en/united-states)) and Amnesty International monitor treatment of immigrants in the U.S. as well as elsewhere in the world. Immigrants and their families carry all their human rights when they move.

**7.** The fundamental constitutional protections of due process and equal protection embodied in our Constitution and Bill of Rights apply to every “person” and are not limited to citizens. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has know-your-rights materials available for migrants in the U.S. with or without documents. [www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights](http://www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights)

**8.** Join the Campaign for a United America to challenge anti-immigrant hate groups in your community at [www.campaignforaunitedamerica.org](http://www.campaignforaunitedamerica.org)

**9.** Arrange screenings of this film with other groups in your community that need to be brought up to speed on this issue. [whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com](http://whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com)

**10.** Sign petitions at [www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc\\_take\\_action](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc_take_action) and share in the discussion about WHICH WAY HOME and US immigration policy and reform. [whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh\\_discussion](http://whichwayhome.bullfrogcommunities.com/wwh_discussion)

**11.** Join the Bullfrog Rights Community at [www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc\\_rights](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/bc_rights). Show other immigration films to expand understanding of the issues surrounding immigration and migrant labor and how government policy can be influenced at the state and national level.

**12. WHICH WAY HOME** demonstrates the many dangers migrants face as they try to make their way through Mexico. Join Amnesty International in calling on the Mexican government to guarantee that the human rights of migrants are protected.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/protect-mexicos-invisible-victims>

**13.** Many of the shelters that tend to migrants in Mexico operate solely on donations. They are always in need of basics like socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shoes, and clothes. Through your church, school, or community group, organize a donation drive and send items to a shelter for migrants in Mexico. One shelter in desperate need of donations is the Albergue Hermanos en el Camino, in Ixtepec, Oaxaca.

<http://www.hermanosenelcamino.org/english.html>

Send items to:

Albergue Hermanos en el Camino  
Av. Ferrocarril Pte. No.60, Barrio “La Soledad”  
Ixtepec, Oaxaca, México.  
C.P. 70110

You can also donate funds via Paypal:

<http://www.hermanosenelcamino.org/contacto.html>