

Suggested films for Social Justice Film and Discussion

Anti-Racism

List at

<http://www.racismreview.com/blog/documentaries/>

Disability

Sound and Fury 2000

This in-depth examination of Deaf culture profiles two families who take very different approaches to the issue of cochlear implants. It's utterly absorbing, as it explores the political, cultural, and personal impact of this issue. The movie offers no easy answers, just a lot of fascinating questions

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/soundandfury/>

Positive Images 1989

Three women with various disabilities and lifestyles discuss their experiences and perspectives on life.

<http://www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c130.shtml>

Vital Signs: Crip Culture Talks Back 1995 48 minutes

This documentary looks at disability rights through the lens of performance artists and activists in an effort to examine disability culture

http://www.fanlight.com/catalog/films/230_vs.php

If I Can't Do It 1998 57 minutes

Description: A portrait of Arthur Campbell, a man with cerebral palsy who was kept at home for 38 years, but then breaks free to live independently and become a disability activist.

<http://www.bcm.edu/ilru/html/publications/filmlibrary/index.html>

Hows Your News? 1999 82 minutes

People with disabilities are often encouraged to stay hidden, unless they/we can appear as much like the nondisabled majority as possible. This hilarious documentary turns that idea on its head, as five people with significant mental and physical disabilities travel around the country in an RV, conducting on-camera interviews with members of the public. These "reporters" can't lay claim to traditional journalistic methods, but they nevertheless reveal a great deal about human nature and American culture as they unapologetically ask questions, express opinions, and expect their interview subjects to deal with them on their own terms.

<http://www.amazon.com/Hows-Your-News-Robert-Bird/dp/B00020X848>

Bong and Donnell 56 minutes

The video follows two best friends, one with a disability and one without, from elementary school through high school graduation

http://www.videopress.org/disability_awareness/bongdonnell_PERCH1004.html

More at <http://www.bcm.edu/ilru/html/publications/filmlibrary/index.html>

Economic Justice

Waging a Living 2005 85 minutes

Profiles four of America's working poor as they struggle to get out from beneath the poverty line. Underscores injustices inherent in the American economic system.

<http://www.amazon.com/Waging-Living-Pamela-Harris-IV/dp/B000GG4Y0K/?tag=documentfilmsnet>

Made in LA 70 minutes

An Emmy award-winning feature documentary that follows the remarkable story of three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles garment sweatshops as they embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from a trendy clothing retailer. In intimate verite style, Made in L.A. reveals the impact of the struggle on each woman's life as they are gradually transformed by the experience. Compelling, humorous, deeply human, Made in L.A. is a story about immigration, the power of unity, and the courage it takes to find your voice.

<http://www.madeinla.com/>

Education

List at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Documentaries_about_education

Beating the Odds: Inside Three Urban Charter Schools 58 minutes

BEATING THE ODDS takes us inside three high-performing urban charter schools in the Boston area that serve mostly low-income, Black and Latino students, many of whom are several grade levels behind academically when they enroll. These schools set records for achievement and send the vast majority of their students on to college. <http://www.turningtide.com/BeatingTheOdds.htm>

Environment

List at

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/environment/greensanctuary/153968.shtml>

Family Violence

Power and Control 2010 64 or 50 minutes

A documentary film that addresses a life and death issue during a time of urgent crisis. The film is a timely and comprehensive exploration of physical and emotional abuse in our society, as refracted through the story of Kim Mosher, a Duluth, MN mother of three. In the summer of 2008, Kim, 30, packed her daughters into her PT Cruiser and left her abusive husband. She had sworn she would never do it; she would hang on to the marriage at any cost. But now that her husband was yelling at the kids and hitting them, there was no choice. So she drove away from 10 years of emotional and physical abuse in her home in Wabasha, MN and headed for Duluth.

<http://www.powerandcontrolfilm.com/>

Defending Our Lives 30 minutes

The women in the documentary are members of 'Battered Women Fighting Back!' a grass-roots organization dedicated to exposing domestic violence as a critical human rights violation threatening the majority of the population: women and children. 'Battered Women Fighting Back!' began as a prison support group for battered women who had killed their abusers, and with the support of human rights activist, Stacey Kabat, developed into a community-based task force of over 100 volunteers.

<http://www.cambridgedocumentaryfilms.org/defending.html>

Sin by Silence 2008

Inside the California Institution for Women, the first inmate initiated and led group in U.S. prison history, shatters the

misconceptions of domestic violence. Convicted Women Against Abuse (CWAA) was created in 1989 to help women inside prison break the silence about abuse and learn more about what they needed to do to help others stop the cycle of violence. Instead of fighting a system that does not fully comprehend the complexities of abuse, the women of CWAA led an initiative to help educate the system. Through careful orchestration of letter writing campaigns, media coverage, and senate hearings a movement was born and laws for battered women were changed. And for the founder of CWAA, the flicker of hope begins to grow as her possible freedom, after 26 years in prison, lies moments away.

<http://www.sinbysilence.com/film/>

Telling Amy's Story 40 minutes 2010

Hosted by actress and advocate Mariska Hargitay, and told by Detective Deirdri Fishel, Telling Amy's Story follows the timeline of a domestic violence homicide that occurred on November 8, 2001. The victim's parents and co-workers, law enforcement officers, and court personnel share their perspectives on what happened to Amy in the weeks, months, and years leading up to her death.

<http://telling.psu.edu/>

Breaking the Cycle of Teen Dating Violence (2009) 37 minutes

This riveting educational documentary helps viewers see how they can unwittingly be transformed from victim of abuse into abuser. Teen dating violence is an essential link that is both cause and effect for deeper cycles of domestic violence. Tragically, when children see the violence between Mom & Dad, this often sets the stage for a next generation of abuser and abused. The story is hosted by a veteran team leader of a district attorney's family crimes division and authenticated by current and former inmates. All provide introspection and a candid and sometimes disturbing look at harm that runs much deeper than visible physical scars. The video offers several ways to successfully break the cycle of domestic violence by recognizing the behavior for where it leads, ending the relationships, having an escape plan and changing the predictable outcomes.

http://www.amazon.com/Breaking-Cycle-Teen-Dating-Violence/dp/B002CNRS80/ref=sr_1_34?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1282750465&sr=8-34

Broken Vows - Religious Perspectives on Domestic Violence 59 minutes 1994

Broken Vows presents the stories of six battered women and expert information from Jewish, Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders.

<http://www.faihttrustinstitute.org/store/01tA0000000M7rSIAS>

Healthcare

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Documentaries_about_health_care

Housing/Homelessness

Dark Days 2000 84 minutes

Documentary about a community of homeless people living in a train tunnel beneath Manhattan. Depicts a way of life that is unimaginable to most of those who walk the streets above: in the pitch black of the tunnel, rats swarm through piles of garbage as high-speed trains leaving Penn station tear through the darkness. For some of those who have gone underground, it has been home for as long as 25 years. <http://www.amazon.com/Dark-Days-Marc-Singer/dp/B00005NSY6>

Skid Row 2008 80 minutes

Pras Michel of the Fugees goes undercover among the homeless of downtown Los Angeles, presenting an intimate view of life on the streets.

<http://www.amazon.com/Skid-Row-Full-Screen-Pras/dp/B001152TLG>

Easy Street

A feature-length film that documents one year in the lives of homeless people in St. Petersburg, Florida. The viewer sees and hears first hand, how people scratch out an existence on the streets of America's urban centers. We learn how they got there and what keeps them there

<http://www.wideyedfilms.com/index.html>

Immigration

Last Best Chance 101 minutes

Spring, 2007: This year, immigration advocates and grassroots expect great things. But Senator Kennedy has lost his partner McCain to presidential primaries, and the Republicans now put a very different offer on the table. Deep at the heart of this fast-moving story, we find a moral tale of modern American politics. Ted Kennedy, one of the handful of people who through his personal efforts truly changed the face of America, will be forced to decide ... how much does he want this deal, and what is he willing to trade for his greatest legacy??

<http://www.howdemocracyworksnow.com/shop/dvd-last-best-chance>

The Other Side of Immigration 2010 55 minutes

Based on over 700 interviews in Mexican towns where about half the population has left to work in the United States, The Other Side of Immigration asks why so many Mexicans come to the U.S. and what happens to the families and communities they leave behind

<http://www.theothersideofimmigration.com/HOME.html>

Border War: the Battle Over Illegal Immigration 2006 95 minutes

The combination of human and drug trafficking across the United States-Mexico border has been called "the illegal immigration invasion." Dangers are escalating on both sides of the issue, and *Border War* documents the lives of five individuals affected by the massive rise in illegal immigration – primarily via the porous U.S. southern border. The story is told through the eyes of those involved firsthand, prompting viewers to think about this issue on a personal level. Although there are no easy answers, the compelling stories and incredible visuals will leave viewers demanding one; the safety, economy and way of life for U.S. citizens depends on it.

<http://www.amazon.com/Border-War-Battle-Illegal-Immigration/dp/B000HRMDI8>

American Harvest 2008 100 minutes

The documentary "American Harvest" powerfully portrays the truth about agriculture and migrant labor in the United States at the present time. In a series of candid interviews with farmers and farmworkers from Florida to Maine the viewer objectively learns the facts and dispels the myths connected with migrant farmworkers. The film portrays the migrant reality that can't be ignored and which is rarely seen by most people. It's a must see if we are serious about the truth of migrant workers

<http://www.americanharvestmovie.com/>

9500 Liberty

Prince William County, Virginia becomes ground zero in America's explosive battle over immigration policy when elected officials adopt a law requiring police officers to question anyone they have

"probable cause" to suspect is an undocumented immigrant.

For information on how you can host a screening or house party for *9500 Liberty* in your area, please email us at 9500liberty@gmail.com

LGBTQ

Ballot Measure 9. (72 min.) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95402; 800.438.9653.

This video looks at the battle in Oregon over an anti-gay initiative on the 1992 ballot.

- *Both of My Moms' Names Are Judy.* Lesbian and Gay Parents Association, 6705 California Street, #1, San Francisco, CA 94121.
A powerful and moving series of interviews with children ages 6 to 11 who have gay or lesbian parents. Training materials—*Overcoming Homophobia in the Elementary Classroom*—are also available from the Lesbian and Gay Parents Association.
- *The Brandon Teena Story*, directed by Susan Musska. [Zeitgeist Films at 212.274.1989](http://ZeitgeistFilms.com). **Click Here to Purchase This Video**
Documentary on the life and murder of Brandon Teena, a female-to-male transgendered youth from Lincoln, Nebraska.
- *The Celluloid Closet.* (102 min.) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95402; 800.438.9653.
This documentary chronicles gay and lesbian images in Hollywood over the last 40 years. Narrated by Lily Tomlin, it features interviews with a number of Hollywood's elite and includes numerous film clips.
- *Coming Out Under Fire.* (71 min.) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95402; 800.438.9653.
This documentary profiles the experiences of nine gay and lesbian veterans.
- *Gay & Lesbian Youth: Making History in Massachusetts.* (29 min.) Governor's Commission on Gay & Lesbian Youth, Massachusetts Dept. of Education, State House, Room 111, Boston, MA 02133.
This documentary profiles the work of the Governor's Commission as Massachusetts became the first state to pass laws to protect gay, lesbian, and bisexual students in schools.
- *Gay Youth.* (40 min.) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95401; 800.438.9653.
One of the best videos about lesbian and gay teens, it profiles two adolescents—one who committed suicide, the other openly gay in high school—and includes a curriculum guide for teachers.
- *It's Elementary.* (78 min.) Women's Educational Media, 2180 Bryant Street, Suite 203, San Francisco, CA 94110; 415.641.4646.
Teachers discuss lesbian & gay issues with their classes and make a compelling case for schools addressing these issues.
- *Live to Tell: The First Gay & Lesbian Prom in America.* (24 min.) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, Almaden, CA 95401; 800.438.9653.
A documentary covering the first lesbian and gay prom, held in Los Angeles in 1994.
- *Out for a Change: Addressing Homophobia in Women's Sports.* (27 mins.) Woman Vision Productions, 3145 Geary Blvd., Box 421, San Francisco, CA 94118; 415.346.2336.
This documentary portrays women's sports at the college level. Includes a curriculum written by Pat Griffin. Both the video and curriculum are appropriate for high school students.
- *A Question of Equality.* (220 min./4 parts) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95402; 800.438.9653.
A series, first shown on PBS that, looks at various aspects of the gay civil rights movement.

- *Setting the Record Straight*. (12 min.) GLSEN, 122 W. 26th Street, Suite 1100, New York, NY 10001; 212.727.0135.
The first video of the Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) features interviews with members, teachers, and students who talk about GLSEN's and about the need to combat homophobia in schools.
- *Silverlake Life*. (99 min.) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95402; 800.438.9653.
This moving diary covers the last days of two men with AIDS and documents the love and dedication of their longtime companions.
- *Stonewall 25*. (90 min.) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95402; 800.438.9653.
This segment of the PBS series, *In the Life*, covers a 25th anniversary celebration in New York City.
- *Straight From the Heart*. (24 min.) Woman Vision Productions, 3145 Geary Blvd, Box 421, San Francisco, CA 94118.
A moving account of parents' struggle with homophobia when they learn that a child is lesbian or gay. Nominated for an Academy Award and excellent for parent workshops.
- *Teaching Respect for All*. (52 min.) GLSEN, 122 W. 26th Street, Suite 1100, New York, NY 10001; 212.727.0135.
A project of GLSEN, this "homophobia 101" workshop can help teachers, administrators, and parents understand why they need to care about issues of sexual orientation.
- *The Times of Harvey Milk*. (87 min.) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95402; 800.438.9653.
This powerful and moving documentary recounts the political success and assassination of the first openly gay supervisor of San Francisco.
- *Tongues Untied*. (55 min.) Wolfe Video, P.O. Box 64, New Almaden, CA 95402; 800.438.9653.
This unprecedented exploration of black gay life, by Emmy-award winning director Marlon Rigg, became the center of a national controversy after Patrick Buchanan attacked its broadcast on PBS.
- *Trevor*. Intermedia; 1.800.553.8336. Free previews available.
A humorous, touching short film that won an Academy Award in 1994, Trevor is about a 13-year old boy who is beginning to come to terms with his emerging gay sexual orientation. The video powerfully addresses topics such as teasing, crushes, feeling outcast, and suicide and is especially appropriate for middle-school children.

No Dumb Questions 24 minutes

Uncle Bill is becoming a woman. This lighthearted and poignant documentary profiles three sisters, ages 6, 9 and 11, struggling to understand why and how their Uncle Bill is becoming a woman. These girls love their Uncle Bill, but will they feel the same way when he becomes their new Aunt Barbara? With just weeks until Bill's first visit as Barbara, the sisters navigate the complex territories of anatomy, sexuality, personality, gender and fashion.

<http://www.newday.com/films/NoDumbQuestions.html>

Tying the Knot

This film shows 2 real-life examples of couples that would have benefited from having their relationship realized. One woman's wife died serving as a policewoman. Because there was no gay marriage, the widow got nothing when the deceased's greedy relatives stepped in. In the second

example, a man was going to lose his farm because the property was only in the deceased husband's name. Even though the deceased's sons think of the man as their second father, creditors took away horses and all other items.

<http://www.amazon.com/Tying-Knot-Bob-Barr/dp/B0007WFURO>

A Jihad for Love 2007 81 minutes

the world's first feature documentary to explore the complex global intersections between Islam and homosexuality. Parvez enters the many worlds of Islam by illuminating multiple stories as diverse as Islam itself. The film travels a wide geographic arc presenting us lives from India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa and France. Always filming in secret and as a Muslim, Parvez makes the film from within the faith, depicting Islam with the same respect that the film's characters show for it.

<http://www.amazon.com/Jihad-Love/dp/B001P9G3B0>

For the Bible Tells Me So 2007 95 minutes

a compassionate and insightful documentary about the contemporary face of an old conflict between Christian fundamentalists and gay and lesbian people. The film looks deep into the hearts of several families--a few of them quite famous--that have struggled with making sense of having a homosexual son or daughter in the fold.

<http://www.amazon.com/Bible-Tells-Me-So/dp/B000YHQNCI>

Freedom to Marry 2005

<http://freedomtomarry.tv/>

Coming Out Under Fire 1994 71 minutes

A historical account of military policy regarding homosexuals during World War II. The documentary includes interviews with several gay WWII veterans.

http://www.amazon.com/Coming-Under-Fire-Salome-Jens/dp/B0009PW3QK/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1282584533&sr=8-1

Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She 2006 74 minutes

Examines the diversity of human sexual and gender variance around the globe, with commentary by scientific experts and first-hand accounts of people who do not conform to a simple male/female binary.

<http://www.amazon.com/Middle-Sexes-Redefining-He-She/dp/B000HEVZ9Y>

Anyone and Everyone 57 minutes

produced by Iron Zeal films (www.ironzeal.com).

The families portrayed in this film represent many different cultures (e.g., African American, Cherokee, Puerto Rican, Japanese, Asian Indian, Bolivian) and religions (e.g., Jewish, Mormon, Catholic, Hindu, Presbyterian, Southern Baptist). The common denominator is that all of the families include a son or daughter who is gay

Southern Comfort 90 minutes

documentary about the life of Robert Eads, a 52-year-old female to male transsexual who lives in the back hills of Georgia. He was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, then turned away by more than two dozen doctors who feared that taking on a transgendered patient might harm their practice.

<http://www.nextwavefilms.com/southern/>

You Don't Know Dick: Courageous Hearts of Transsexual Men 1996 75 minutes

Michael, Ted, Stephan, Max, Loren, and James share the joy and the pain of their journey from female to male. Through their commentary and the experiences of their partners, friends, and family members emerges an unforgettable story of self-discovery. There also emerges a remarkable series of reflections on the differences between male and female sexuality, on social perceptions of gender, and on the relationship of one's personal history to one's present life

<http://www.nlprod.com/store.html>

Peace

Nuclear Tipping Point 2010

This film was produced by the Nuclear Security Project, an effort to raise awareness about nuclear threats and to help build support for the urgent actions needed to reduce nuclear dangers

<http://www.nucleartippingpoint.org/home.html>

Voices in Wartime 2004

Feature-length documentary that delves into the experience of war through powerful images and the words of poets - unknown and world-famous. Soldiers, journalists, historians and experts on combat interviewed in Voices in Wartime add diverse perspectives on war's effects on soldiers, civilians and society. <http://voicesinwartime.org/>

Pray the Devil Back to Hell 2008

Pray the Devil Back to Hell chronicles the remarkable story of the courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country

<http://www.praythedevilbacktohell.com/nonflash/index.htm>

Peace One Day 2006 80 minutes

The story of one man's attempts to persuade the global community via the United Nations to officially sanction a global ceasefire day; a day of non-violence; a day of Peace. This documentary charts the remarkable 5-year journey of the filmmaker as he meets heads of state, Nobel Peace Laureates, aid agencies, freedom fighters, media moguls, the innocent victims of war and, eventually, everyone who was anyone at the UN. An individual genuinely can make a difference: The UN International Day of Peace is now fixed in the calendar on 21st September annually. The real challenge has now begun - to get the world to unite on a day fast approaching

http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/peace_one_day/

Healing the Wounds of War 40 minutes

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR chronicles the [Karuna Center For Peacebuilding](http://www.karunacenter.org/), a non-profit organization based in Amherst, Massachusetts, which aids war-torn societies around the world to develop effective ways to respond to conflicts without violence. The documentary focuses on their work with Serb and Muslim teachers as they seek to rebuild and reunite their devastated communities in the aftermath of the war in Bosnia. Three years of war in the early 1990s resulted in 250,000 deaths, 2 million refugees, and the destruction of a vibrant, multi-ethnic, highly educated, and prosperous society. It was during this war that the term "ethnic cleansing" entered the world's vocabulary

<http://www.turningtide.com/healing.htm>