

DIVIDED WE FALL

"A film that is bringing vicious intolerance aimed at innocent people out in the open." – CNN

SCREENING & DIALOGUE GUIDE

The award-winning film *Divided We Fall* (2008) chronicles stories of Sikh and Muslim Americans who have responded to hate and violence with love and optimism since 9/11. It provides context to the current escalation of hate and serves a source of hope.

What is Revolutionary Love?

Revolutionary Love is the kind of love that drives courageous action in our lives and in our politics. In the wake of escalating hate, polarization, and deep division, we are building a movement for **#RevolutionaryLove** – in the voting booth and beyond.

The Revolutionary Love Project has put **DIVIDED WE FALL** and its dialogue tools in your hands for free. Learn more about The Revolutionary Love Project at the University of Southern California ORL at: revolutionarylove.net



revolutionarylove.net

WELCOME

Congratulations on hosting a screening of DIVIDED WE FALL!

You are joining hundreds of campuses and communities who are screening this award-winning film and hosting a dialogue on #RevolutionaryLove.

This package contains everything you need to host a screening and meaningful dialogue. You can use it to screen the film and host a conversation in your classroom, house of worship, local public library, community center, or even living room.

Watch it together. Talk about it together. Inspire one another to act together.

If you are an educator who wants to teach the film in your high school or college classroom, you can find lesson plans by subject area at: dividedwefallfilm.com.

If you need anything, please contact Priya Chugh, Revolutionary Love Project Fellow, at priya.chugh@revolutionarylove.net

The Revolutionary Love Project



SCREENING CHECKLIST

Before your screening begins, please ensure you have tested the necessary equipment for sound and picture quality. Specifically test the following:

- projector or video monitor
- computer or laptop (close unnecessary programs; disable screen savers and notifications)
- Internet connection if streaming the film (stream in HD)
- microphones (if necessary)

Three or Four Volunteers

Ask a few volunteers to take on the following roles before the event:

Social Media Star

Live tweet the event on Twitter. Post a summary of the event on Facebook. Ask your audiences to do the same to join the conversation. We can amplify your voices! Use the hashtag [#RevolutionaryLove](#). Use the handles [@RevLoveProject](#) and [@sikh_coalition](#).

Photographer

Post pictures of the event on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Use the hashtag [#RevolutionaryLove](#). Use the handles [@RevLoveProject](#) and [@sikh_coalition](#).

Usher

Distribute blank cards and invite people to write down their own stories and reflections after the film. Collect the cards and type up the responses and email to priya.chugh@revolutionarylove.net. We will feature the stories online. Stories can be anonymous.

Runner

If microphones are necessary, the runner will pass the wireless mic to audience members during the discussion.

INTRODUCING THE FILM

When you welcome the audience, read this letter from the filmmakers Valarie Kaur and Sharat Raju:

Welcome!

Today you are joining thousands of people in a nationwide movement to combat hate with Revolutionary Love. Your solidarity is necessary more than ever.

On February 22, 2017, **Srinivas Kuchibhotla** was killed by a gunman in Kansas who said, "Get out of my country," before opening fire. His murder appears to be the first fatal hate crime since the Inauguration, but it's not an isolated incident. It's the latest in the epidemic of hate violence that began in the aftermath of 9/11 with the murder of **Balbir Singh Sodhi**.

This film offers vital historical context to understand our current crisis – and how we can change it.

Our journey to make this film began 15 years ago, just a few days after Sodhi's murder. We finished it ten years ago as a labor of love.

Back then, we thought the film would document a chapter in US history – a brief explosion of hate toward Muslim and Sikh Americans.

Flash forward to today: Hate and mass violence are now part of our daily lives, politicians incite hate as a political tool, and Sikh, Muslim, South Asian and Arab Americans are five times more likely to be targets than before 9/11. The Southern Poverty Law Center calls it an era of Enormous Rage.

Sometimes we wonder if anything has changed.

But one thing has changed: You.

Thousands of you are watching this film on campuses and communities across the country. You are using DIVIDED WE FALL to generate dialogue and Revolutionary Love – the kind of love that inspires courageous action in our lives and our politics. It begins with our stories.

What's your Revolutionary Love story? After the screening, please tell us how love has changed your life or community. Share it on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #RevolutionaryLove and we will see you there.

Yours in relentless optimism,
Valarie and Sharat

To the Host: You can repeat the last lines of this letter after the film screening.

LEAD THE DIALOGUE

Set the Tone

After the film, light a candle in honor of the lives lost on 9/11 and its aftermath. Invite people to listen with respect and avoid judging other speakers while the candle is lit. This action marks the start of the dialogue and invites people to be at their best.

Dialogue Questions

Read the first question to the audience. Ask the audience to turn to the person next to them and share their response with them for five minutes.

Then, ask the second question to the audience and allow them to discuss for five minutes. Repeat with the third question.

Finally, bring the room back together and invite people to share their responses with the whole audience.

1. Which part of the film surprised or upset you? Which part of the film gave you hope?
2. What does "revolutionary love" mean to you?
3. How can we combat hate with revolutionary love today?

Closing – Revolutionary Love in 6 Words

Ask the audience to write down 6 words about "revolutionary love" that they want to share with the country. Invite people to stand up and read their 6 words. Collect the cards so that you can tweet and post their 6 word stories using the hashtag [#revolutionarylove](#). Invite people to tweet or post their 6 words themselves using the hashtag [#revolutionarylove](#).

Want to go deeper? Choose one of the the Deep Dialogue Activities at the end of this guide.

GROUND RULES FOR DEEP DIALOGUE

If you want more in-depth discussion, consider setting ground rules for deeper dialogue. Ground rules will depend on the context of our event. The following list of common ground rules from multicultural education classes and workshops should serve as a starting point.

- Our shared commitment is to learn from each other. Acknowledge and value differences in their backgrounds, values, and life experiences.
- Listen actively – respect others when they are talking.
- Share stories, not opinions. Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing (Start with "I" instead of "they," "we," and "you".)
- Speak your discomfort. Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions, but refrain from personal attacks – focus on ideas.
- The goal is not to agree – it's about hearing and exploring divergent perspectives.
- Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses – they can be as disrespectful as words.
- Participate with awareness of your intentions and impact to ensure they match.
- Maintain confidentiality about personal sharing; feel free to discuss the film with others.

If you are facilitating a large group, invite people to share for a few minutes their initial reactions and questions about the film in pairs or threes to ensure active participation.

DEEP DIALOGUE #1

Shared Hope and Healing

Appreciative inquiry is a form of reflection, storytelling, and problem solving that invites people to identify what works and to share peak and positive experiences in their past to help to create imagination, bonds, energy, and connections for change in the future.

Activity

Invite people to pick a partner, preferably someone he or she doesn't know, then read one of the questions below and give them 5-10 minutes to share a story.

1. What surprised or upset you in the film? What made you the most hopeful?
2. Name a moment when you have been seen as an outsider. How did you respond? Now name a moment when you saw someone as an outsider. How did you respond?
3. Whose story in the film resonated with you? What would you tell them if they were standing here? Which of their strengths do you admire?
4. When have you been at your best in taking some small or big step to stop bias and hate, and what helped you to be effective in taking action?
5. What would you like to ask Valarie Kaur or anyone in the film? Why?

After this, invite people to create and express an image, such as hands over the heart for compassion; finger over the temple for reflection; hand wrapped over the face for horror.

DEEP DIALOGUE #2

Embodied Reflection

This is a reflection process that invites people to use all the senses to explore body reactions and sensations to the film. It helps people become aware of their experience at a deeper level and to reflect on the impact of the film. From gaining insight into the impact of the film on the mind, body, and spirit, people can explore what they learned in a more complete way. It is safer and more productive to alternate reflection about positive reactions and negative reactions.

Activity

After the film ends, read the following questions to your audience for individual reflection. Allow a few moments of silence between questions:

1. When did you feeling a visceral identification with something or someone in the film?
2. When did you feel the most hopeful when watching the film? Where in your body did you feel the relief, hope, or some calm? (Invite them to notice what happens in their stomach, chest, and throat.)
3. When did you feel anger or pain when watching the film? What did you feel in your body? (Invite them to notice any changes in sensation in their bodies.)
4. Let yourself remember in your body the tense and relaxed moments and alternate between the two to explore what you learned through this somatic inquiry.
5. What is your body telling you about the way you experienced the film and the issues it presents?

Now invite people to find a partner to share what they learned about through this somatic inquiry and reflection for 10 to 15 minutes. (Some people may not have any visceral reactions and for the purposes of this discussion, this is okay). Bring the group together and invite people to share with a group.

**Ready to Join the Movement for Revolutionary Love?
Become an Ambassador. Learn more:**

RevolutionaryLove.net

