

How to Host an *In Their Hands* Viewing Party



From JustLeadershipUSA in partnership with In Their Hands, LLC

□ Step 1: Find the air date and time

- Watch **anytime** on the PBS app or at pbs.org/show/in-their-hands OR
- Go to PBS.org
- Search for “In Their Hands”
- Enter your ZIP code to see local station
- Confirm the exact air date and time

Decide whether to organize your viewing party at the day and time it is airing locally OR, if it is not airing where you are (or the air date/time is not ideal for a viewing party) if you will be organizing a viewing party at a different day/time and streaming the film from the PBS.org website or PBS app.

□ Step 2: Decide where you'll host

Choose a space that is:

- Comfortable for your expected group size with ample seating
- Accessible for all attendees
- Equipped with a large TV or projector and screen or can accommodate these things being brought in from outside
- Able to access your local PBS station (antenna, cable, or streaming app)
- Quiet enough for focused viewing

If it's not your home (community center, library room, church hall, café after hours), confirm availability and any tech requirements early. If you are providing the TV or projector/screen, decide where you will be sourcing those things from.

□ Step 3: Test the tech (do this in advance)

- Set up and turn on the TV or projector
- Confirm you receive your local PBS station

- If streaming, download and log into the PBS.org website or app
- Check sound levels from the back of the room
- Have extension cords and HDMI cables ready

Do not skip this step. Tech gremlins love live events.

□ Step 4: Set the tone

Decide what kind of gathering you want:

- Casual watch party with light conversation
- Structured discussion afterward
- Community issue-focused dialogue
- Awareness event

Clarity here helps shape your invites and discussion plan.

□ Step 5: Invite people

Keep it simple and clear:

- Documentary title *In Their Hands*
- Date and time (include arrival time vs. start time)
- Location and parking details
- Whether snacks are provided or potluck
- Whether there will be discussion afterward

Use text, email, social media, or a simple RSVP form if you need a specific headcount.

For support or assistance coordinating with other members of your community, please contact policycomms@jusa.org.

□ Step 6: Prepare light discussion prompts

You don't need to feel prepared to give a presentation. [Download the Discussion Guide](#) we have put together OR just have 3–5 questions ready, such as:

- What moment stood out to you most?
- What surprised you?
- What questions are you still sitting with?
- What feels actionable locally?

Print them or keep them on your phone.

□ Step 7: Set up the space

- Arrange seating so everyone can see the screen
- Put out snacks and drinks in an easy-access area
- Adjust lighting so the screen is visible but people aren't in total darkness
- Place discussion prompts somewhere visible

Create a space that feels welcoming, not formal.

□ Step 8: Welcome people and frame the evening

Before pressing play:

- Thank people for coming
- Briefly share why you chose this documentary
- Let them know what to expect (length, discussion after, etc.)
- Invite openness and respect
- Consider including a policymaker in your welcome to demonstrate allyship and to facilitate easier follow up advocacy

Keep it short — two minutes max.

□ Step 9: Watch *In Their Hands* together

Let the film do its work.

□ Step 10: Facilitate discussion (optional but powerful)

After the film:

- Give people a minute to sit with it
- Ask your first open-ended question
- Encourage participation but don't force it
- Keep the tone respectful and curious
- Again, consider the role of a policymaker or unlikely ally in the facilitation of this discussion.

Aim for 20–40 minutes depending on the group's energy.

NOTE: Ronnie Carrasquillo, the man whose story is at the center of *In Their Hands*, is interested in and available to possibly join your conversation! If you would like to invite Ronnie to join your watch party via Zoom and speak with your group at the end, please contact communications@jusa.org.

□ Step 11: Close intentionally

End with something simple:

- A takeaway
- A local resource
- A next step
- A thank-you

People remember how gatherings end.

□ Step 12: Follow up

Within 24–48 hours:

- Send a thank-you message
- Share any resources mentioned
- Include a link to watch again on the PBS.org website
- Suggest a next gathering to continue discussion and organizing

Momentum fades quickly — gentle follow-up matters.