

Planned Parenthood/Choice at Risk film project

Share these stories • View these clips • Create a space for dialogue

Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California has partnered with Oscar-nominated filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman to create a series of videos to help the public engage in conversations about the complex subject of abortion. The selected shorts, which range in length from two to five minutes, were taken from Dorothy Fadiman's award winning Trilogy "The Power of Choice." It is our intent that the clips be used to foster both in-person and online discussions. We have created these videos to allow you and your activists to share them via social media (Facebook and Twitter), show at donor events, and use as a vehicle for meaningful conversations on the need to protect access to reproductive health. Our hope is that, once shared, these materials will help create a dialogue about the complexities of abortion politics and how current efforts to restrict abortion have real effects on the women we serve.

Before you embark on these important conversations please review the discussion guide. Both the guide and the clips are infused with the current messaging from Planned Parenthood Action Fund's research on "How to Talk about Abortion." We hope the project will inspire rich conversations and motivate the public to understand what is at stake should anti-abortion lawmakers continue to be elected to state Legislatures and Congress.

To assist you in sharing these important videos we've put together a package of materials you can use including:

- Short video descriptions
- YouTube links
- Audience recommendations
- Draft questions for viewers to consider as they engages in group discussions
- Suggested ground rules for group discussions.
- Facebook and Twitter text samples for sharing the videos via social media

The videos are also available for viewing from Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California's Web site at PPActionCA.org

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ana Sandoval, project director, at ana.sandoval@ppacca.org or call her at 916.446.5247 x115.

Sincerely,



Kathy Kneer
President and CEO
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

BEFORE YOU BEGIN THE DISCUSSION

Abortion is a complex issue and for many people it can bring out a range of beliefs and opinions. Because of the highly emotional nature of the subject, we encourage moderators of group discussions to establish ground rules before beginning their conversations.

PROPOSED GROUND RULES

- Listen actively -- respect others when they are talking. Do not interrupt.
- Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing (Say "I" instead of "they," "we," and "you").
- Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another, but refrain from personal attacks -- focus on ideas.
- Guarantee a safe space. Agree not to repeat to others the personal things people say during group meetings.
- Participate to the fullest of your ability --community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice.
- Build on one another's comments. The goal is not to agree -- it is to gain a deeper understanding.
- Do not monopolize discussion.
- Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses -- they can be as disrespectful as words.

VIDEO LIST

Latino Perspectives

Audience: Grassroots, donors, social media

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTCpG7zpmN0&feature=youtu.be>

This clip features Delores Huerta, one of the founding members of the United Farm Workers union and her views toward reproductive healthcare from a Latina perspective. The second portion illustrates the division between the Catholic Church and reproductive healthcare providers.

Questions to consider:

- What do you think about Delores Huerta's views on abortion?
- How does abortion fit into a larger conversation – one of reproductive or social justice?
- Do you agree that there is little discussion of reproductive rights, sexual health education and contraception in the Latino community? Why?
- How do we facilitate and encourage discussion on reproductive health care and sexual health education in Latino communities?
- What about Rachael's story? How did that make you feel? What was her dilemma
- Does religion play a part in how Latinos feel about abortion? How?
- What does it mean to be a "pro-choice Catholic"? Is that an oxymoron?
- What about the labels pro-choice and pro-life? Do you believe those terms are relevant anymore?
- Do you think a person can consider themselves "pro-life" yet support a woman's personal decision to terminate her pregnancy?
- What does that mean for abortion politics? Does it complicate things?
- How can women's reproductive health supporters be more visible? Do they want to be?

Samples for social media outreach

Facebook text:

- "As Latinas we have to put reproductive health and the rights to reproductive choice in a broader framework." Share this video.
- Ultimately, decision about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family and her faith with the counsel of her doctor or health provider. Share this video.
- "It's not going to silence me. And I'm going to continue to speak. I want to be that force." Please share this video.
- "I want to be that person that says we are affected by this. Women come to abortion providers with the most incredible circumstances and we treat them with respect and give the quality medical care they deserve."

Twitter text:

- We have to put reproductive health in a broader framework. <http://bit.ly/SpYW7q> #ChoiceatRisk
- I'm going to continue to speak. I want to be that force. <http://bit.ly/SpYW7q> #ChoiceatRisk
- Women come to abortion providers w/the most incredible circumstances. <http://bit.ly/SpYW7q> #ChoiceatRisk
- Women's lives matter. Keep the conversation going. <http://bit.ly/SpYW7q> #ChoiceRisk
- You can be the change. Please RT <http://bit.ly/SpYW7q> #ChoiceatRisk

Legalizing Abortion

Audience: Grassroots, donors, social media

Grassroots: <http://youtu.be/sr0gSxbOrCo>

Online: <http://youtu.be/UdVcCjzLHTU>

This mini-documentary shows historic clips from the New York state legislature, including footage of several legislators talking about the real life experiences of women before abortion was legal and answering questions such as ‘when does life begin?’ There is a the poignant segment showing Assemblymember George Michaels, who cast the deciding vote to legalize abortion in New York State, thus ending his political career. It also includes an interview with Sarah Weddington, who argued Roe v. Wade before the United States Supreme Court.

Questions to consider:

- What did you think of this video? How did it make you feel? What did it make you think?
- What did you think about the legislators who spoke? What about the women legislators?
- Was there something said that particularly struck you?
- What did you think about Sen. George Michaels vote? What do you think his feeling were?
- Does politics or politicians have a place in the abortion debate? How?
- Can you believe life begins at conception and still support a woman's personal decision to terminate her pregnancy?
- How do politics intersect with policy when it comes to abortion? (i.e. extra requirements on abortion providers, forced ultrasounds, waiting periods)
- What role do women play in political discussions about reproductive health care?
- How do you talk about abortion to friends and family?

Samples for social media outreach

Facebook text:

- The decision to legalize abortion was not easy. It required heartfelt debate. This is the story about protecting women's health and safety. And about bravery. Share this video.
- Ultimately, a decision about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family and her faith with the counsel of her doctor or health provider. Share this video.
- It's important that abortion remain a safe and legal medical procedure for a woman to consider if and when she needs it.
- “What is the use of getting elected or reelected if you don't stand for something.”
- “We are here to advocate that the decision as to whether or not a particular woman will continue to carry or will terminate a pregnancy is a decision that should be made by that individual. That, in fact, she has a constitutional right to make that decision for herself.” – Sarah Weddington, Roe v. Wade

Twitter text:

- What is the use of getting elected or reelected if you don't stand for something. <http://bit.ly/PxavDi> #ChoiceatRisk
- It's important that abortion remain a safe and legal medical procedure. <http://bit.ly/PxavDi> #ChoiceatRisk
- Support, not judgement, saves women's lives. <http://bit.ly/PxavDi> #ChoiceatRisk
- You can be the change. <http://bit.ly/PxavDi> Please RT #ChoiceatRisk

Clergy Perspectives

Audience: Grassroots, donors, social media

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TS9NJjLYzU>

This video shows that religion and abortion need not be in conflict. It discusses morality and the concept that a woman should be supported, no matter what her decision is regarding her pregnancy. The ending focuses on the messaging frame that labels are no longer reflect the conversation that Americans are having today around abortion.

Questions to consider:

- What do you think about Rev. Moody's views on abortion?
- Do you think someone can be religious and support a woman's personal decision to terminate a pregnancy?
- Do you believe that abortion could be a moral decision for a woman?
- Is abortion in conflict with religion?
- How do we create space for a dialogue about abortion within the religious community?
- Have you discussed abortion at your church or temple, or with religious people? What did you say?
- What are other ways we can support a woman, no matter what her decision may be?
- What does the term "pro-life" mean to you? Is it relevant today?
- Can you be against abortion and support a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy?

Samples for social media outreach

Facebook text:

- "I felt that I could make a case to be there for her, whatever her decision was." Share this video.
- "As religious people, as people who cared about people's spirits, there could be no way you could do that without caring about their bodies."
- "Freedom is absolutely essential for moral and ethical decisions to be made."
- "God is loving. We have a loving, caring, forgiving God that will understand better than any one of us the specific reasons a woman finally decides to have an abortion."
- Ultimately, decision about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family and her faith with the counsel of her doctor or health provider. Share this video.
- Pro-choice and pro-life labels don't reflect the conversation that's happening in America today. Instead of putting people in one category or another, we should respect the real life decisions women and their families face every day.

Twitter text:

- We have a loving caring forgiving God that will understand. <http://bit.ly/SyxMt8> #ChoiceatRisk
- Freedom is essential for moral and ethical decisions to be made. <http://bit.ly/SyxMt8> #ChoiceatRisk
- Support, not judgement, saves women's lives. <http://bit.ly/SyxMt8> #ChoiceatRisk
- Women's lives matter. Keep the conversation going. <http://bit.ly/SyxMt8> #ChoiceRisk
- Create a space for more dialogue. Women's lives matter. <http://bit.ly/SyxMt8> #ChoiceatRisk
- Pro-choice and pro-life labels don't reflect the conversation. <http://bit.ly/SyxMt8> #ChoiceatRisk

Jane – A collective of women who arranged safe abortions

Audience: Grassroots, donors, social media

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9mx8HEt7Bg&feature=youtu.be>

This is the story of a counseling referral service for women, pre-Roe. Jane was a collective of women who performed safe abortions before the procedure was legal. This video can be used to educate women about how women obtained abortions pre-Roe, engage them in conversations over whether they believe abortion laws can be overturned and a discussion about self-empowerment for women.

Questions to consider:

- How did that clip make you feel? Empowered? Frustrated? Confused?
- While this was a pre-Roe experience, do you think something like Jane could happen today? Does it need to? Should it happen?
- Do you believe that Roe could be overturned?
- Do you think abortion access could be restricted so much that women would go back to collectives like Jane?
- What do you think about the idea of regular people controlling their own lives through a collective like Jane?
- What do you think about the women of Jane?
- Women helping women – do you have current examples you'd like to share?
- How do we keep abortion safe and legal?

Samples for social media outreach

Facebook text:

- Women deserve support, not harassment, when facing a difficult and personal decision regarding a pregnancy. Keep the conversation going. Share this video.
- Ultimately, decision about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family and her faith with the counsel of her doctor or health provider. Share this video.
- It's revolutionary. The idea that women, regular people can seize control of their lives. Share this video.

Twitter text:

- The idea that regular women can seize control of their lives. <http://bit.ly/QYEW6E> #ChoiceatRisk
- Support, not judgment, saves women's lives. <http://bit.ly/QYEW6E> #ChoiceatRisk
- Women's lives matter. Keep the conversation going. <http://bit.ly/QYEW6E> #ChoiceRisk
- You can be the change. Please RT <http://bit.ly/QYEW6E> #ChoiceatRisk
- Create a space for more dialogue. Women's lives matter. <http://bit.ly/QYEW6E> #ChoiceatRisk

Stories about abortion – Kris, Lola, Lana

Audience: Grassroots, donors, social media

www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7yO3VHz3SU

This mini-doc takes the viewer through three stories of women who had abortions. Two of the stories, Lola and Lana, focus on the lives of women who obtained abortions before they were legal. Kris' story is post-Roe tale, and it illustrates that clinic protests and abortion restrictions make women's decisions difficult even today. The video ends with the message frame that a woman, not politicians, should make her own decision regarding her pregnancy.

Questions to consider:

- Did these women's stories touch you?
- Is this ancient history or do you think these stories like these still happen today?
- Do you have an experience you'd be comfortable in sharing?
- Do you feel women are supported today?
- How do we support women and their unique situations?
- Do politics have a place in the abortion debate?
- How do we create a dialogue that supports women and their unique experiences?

These three stories have been edited into individual stories to share via social media.

Kris's story

Audience: social media

www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4L_8eudTbE

Facebook text:

- Every woman has her own story regarding her pregnancy. We can't walk in her shoes. But we can work to make sure that abortion stays safe and legal. Share this video.
- Women deserve support, not harassment, when facing a difficult and personal decision regarding a pregnancy. Keep the conversation going. Share Kris's story.
- Ultimately, decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family and her faith with the counsel of her doctor or health provider. Share Kris's story.
- "She really wanted to go to somebody ... If there had been somebody for her to go to, she'd still be alive." Share's Kris's story.

Twitter text:

- Support, not judgment, saves women's lives. <http://bit.ly/QHrGCW> #ChoiceatRisk
- Every woman has a story. We should support her decision. <http://bit.ly/QHrGCW> #ChoiceatRisk
- Women's lives matter. Keep the conversation going. <http://bit.ly/QHrGCW> #ChoiceRisk
- Politics have no place in personal decisions. Please RT <http://bit.ly/QHrGCW> #ChoiceatRisk
- Create a space for more dialogue. <http://bit.ly/QHrGCW> #ChoiceatRisk
- Remember the women who are no longer here to cast their vote. <http://bit.ly/QHrGCW> #ChoiceatRisk

Lana's story

Audience: social media

http://youtu.be/-a7xOp_fKHs

Facebook text:

- Every woman has her own story regarding her pregnancy. We can't walk in her shoes. But we can work to make sure that abortion stays safe and legal. Share this video.
- Ultimately, decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family and her faith with the counsel of her doctor or health provider. Share this video.
- Efforts to limit reproductive health care are increasing nationwide. A woman, not politicians, should make her own personal decision when it comes to her pregnancy.

Twitter text:

- Honey did you think it was so easy to be a woman? <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Who invited the politicians? <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Create a space for more dialogue. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Let's all work to ensure abortion stays safe and legal. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Every woman has a story. We should support her decision. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Women's lives matter. Keep the conversation going. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceRisk
- Politics have no place in personal decisions. Please RT <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk

Lola's story

Audience: Social media

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ohtF9Fiotw>

Facebook text:

- Every woman has her own person story. We can't walk in her shoes. But we can work to make sure that abortion stays safe and legal. Share this video.
- We have to talk about this. It's important. It isn't just some anonymous person that nobody knows who's had an abortion, but people right next to us, right here in our communities, in our lives. Share the video.

Twitter text:

- We have to talk about this. It's important. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Let's all work to ensure abortion stays safe and legal. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Remember the women who are no longer here to cast their vote. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Create a space for more dialogue. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Every woman has a story. We should support her decision. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk
- Women's lives matter. Keep the conversation going. <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceRisk
- Politics have no place in the personal decisions. Please RT <http://bit.ly/QHsdF5> #ChoiceatRisk

When abortion was illegal

Audience: Grassroots activists, Donors

<http://youtu.be/HJFLq1KmhQY>

This is an interview with nurses and doctors who saw women coming into hospitals critically ill and dying from illegal and self-induced abortions. It will help illustrate not only the dangers of past but also today's reality that many states are trying to pass restrictions that would make it more difficult for women to obtain safe and legal abortion services.

Questions to consider*:

- While this was a pre-Roe experience, do you believe something like this still happens today?
- Do you believe that Roe could be overturned?
- Do you think abortion access could be restricted to a point where women will again resort to self-induced abortions?
- Do you have an experience to share?
- How do we work to prevent new laws from being enacted that restrict women's access to abortion?
- Do we take it to the streets? Talk to Legislators? Talk to one another?
- How do we share our experiences to protect women?

Samples for social media outreach

Facebook text:

- In 2011 state legislatures enacted 92 provisions restricting abortion, nearly triple the previous record of 34 which was set in 2005. We can't go back.
- Ultimately, decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family and her faith with the counsel of her doctor or health provider. Share this video.
- It's important that abortion remain a safe and legal medical procedure for a woman to consider if and when she needs it. Share this video.

Twitter text:

- Women are facing increased restrictions on abortion access today. <http://bit.ly/VFyh70> #ChoiceatRisk
- We can't go back. <http://bit.ly/VFyh70> #ChoiceatRisk
- Abortion must remain safe and legal. <http://bit.ly/VFyh70> #ChoiceatRisk
- Women's lives matter. Keep the conversation going. <http://bit.ly/VFyh70> #ChoiceRisk
- You can be the change. Please RT <http://bit.ly/VFyh70> #ChoiceatRisk
- Create a space for more dialogue. Women's lives matter. <http://bit.ly/VFyh70> #ChoiceatRisk
- Remember the women who are no longer here to cast their vote. <http://bit.ly/VFyh70> #ChoiceatRisk

****If your discussion starts to veer into talk about minor's abortions, try to steer the conversation back to how laws that restrict access are dangerous to all women.***

VIDEOS FOR DONORS

Violence strikes providers

Audience: Donors

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=db0azvCT7QY>

These two videos serve as a reminder of the real life threats that abortion providers face every day and the reasons why doctors and health professionals continue to provide services despite the violence. We encourage you engage in a dialogue with donors about how we can support doctors, health center staff and the patients we serve.

Questions to consider:

- How did that clip make you feel?
- Do you think we can create space for words instead of violence? How?
- How can we stand together to end violence and harassment of abortion providers?
- How can we support health center staff?
- How do we support the mission?

Challenges to providing abortion

Audience: Donors

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8C7rJ0weV0&feature=youtu.be>

Questions to consider:

- How do we support providers?
- What do you think of Susan's statement about living by what you believe?
- Has your affiliate had a health center targeted for harassment or even violence?
- How did that make you feel?
- How do we support health center staff?
- How do we support the mission?