

I'M WITH THE BANNED

Documentary Discussion Guide

INTRODUCTION

In February of 2017, President Trump issued an executive order that proposed to temporarily ban all travel from six countries in the Middle East and Africa. Following various legal challenges and changes to the original proposal, the President issued an additional order in September 2017, revising the list of countries and increasing the number of restricted countries to eight.

This summer, Spotify brought musicians from each of the original six impacted countries to Canada to collaborate on new music with American artists.

By watching the film and listening to the music, we hope to spark conversations about immigration, refugees, tolerance, and what we can do to become a more open and inclusive society. Interested in joining the conversation? Bring together your friends, family, or students to watch the documentary, and use the topics and questions below to guide a conversation about the film!

TOLERANCE

Many of the artists featured in the documentary faced hatred and violence in their home countries for performing their music. Several of the artists struggled to get visas to travel. The travel ban itself disproportionately impacts Muslim-majority countries.

Do you think these things are related?

What does tolerance mean to you?

When was a time that you experienced intolerance?

What did the film teach you about tolerance?

What can we do to be more welcoming in our communities?

REBUILDING YOUR LIFE

Several of the artists featured in the film were forced to leave their countries due to increasing fears over their safety. They've begun to rebuild their lives in new countries, but their ability to ever return home remains uncertain.

What would you do if you were forced to flee your home?

What memories or traditions would you take with you?

If you were faced with the decision that Methal faced, to give up what you love or leave your home, what would you do?

What does this teach us about what it means to be an immigrant or refugee?

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE

Each of the performers featured in the film -- those from the United States and those from other countries -- are from diverse backgrounds. The United States has always been a nation of immigrants, and most citizens today have many different heritages.

What is your heritage?

What does your immigrant heritage mean to you?

Do you have any traditions from your ancestors? What are they?

What does it mean to you for America to be a nation of immigrants?

HOW MUSIC CHANGES EVERYTHING

Each of the artists featured in the documentary comes from a different background, but they are all connected through music. Music is one of the most powerful ways that we connect with each other, no matter where we are in the world.

What is an example of music that has crossed borders?

How does music impact your life?

How can we use music to promote tolerance?