



For Immediate Release

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## **WORLD Channel Showcases Stories of Resilience and Resistance for Black History Month**

*Documentaries and events spotlight healing and resilience in the face of gun violence; Fannie Lou Hamer's story through her own words*

Boston, MA (January 27, 2022) – [WORLD Channel](#), public media's premiere platform for diverse voices, will showcase stories of Black communities, history, resilience, resistance and healing to mark Black History Month. In addition to feature documentaries such as *Heaven: Can You Hear Me?*, which reveals the impact of gun violence on families through the eyes of mothers, and *Fannie Lou Hamer's America*, WORLD Channel will engage with viewers in conversation with free, live virtual events.

"At WORLD Channel, we strive to center Black stories year round, and for Black History Month we're especially proud to elevate the voices of talented storytellers and showcase powerful personal journeys," said Chris Hastings, Executive Producer of WORLD Channel at GBH in Boston. "From the power of music to heal in the face of grief, to Fannie Lou Hamer's rise to civil rights icon, viewers will be inspired by America's Black leaders, past and present.

WORLD Channel will be premiering new films and offering encores of several others that illuminate Black history and history in the making. [These films include:](#)

### **[Local, USA: Heaven: Can You Hear Me?](#)**

#### **February 7 on WORLD Channel and the PBS app**

In Philadelphia, gun violence is the leading cause of death for young Black men. *Heaven: Can You Hear Me?* explores the devastating impact on families through the eyes of mothers, like one woman who tries to find stability after the youngest of her four sons was murdered in 2016. Across town, the film takes us on a journey into the inner sanctum of Mothers in Charge, a Philadelphia-based service and advocacy organization working with victims of violence. The film demonstrates the challenges gun violence prevention advocates confront as they work to interrupt cycles of violence while allowing viewers to understand the often-untold trauma and resilience of survivors.

### **[When the Waters Get Deep](#)**

#### **February 13 on WORLD Channel and on KQED Arts YouTube channel**

The Oakland-based hip-hop, soul and jazz ensemble SOL Development tells stories about the Black experience, and the artists use music and community-based healing practices to support



families experiencing trauma and grief from gun violence and loss. When MC Karega Bailey loses his own brother in a shooting, his grief makes him sick with revenge and hopelessness, and he is left questioning his own message of hope and peace. Turning to his faith, family and writing, Bailey finds his voice and purpose again. With the collective BE-IMAGINATIVE, the four members of SOL Development help lead healing circles and musical experiences for mothers whose children have been taken by gun violence. This work prepares Bailey and his wife, Felicia, as they are tested with another profound personal loss. Presented in partnership with KQED Arts and Culture in San Francisco.

### **[Fannie Lou Hamer's America: An America ReFramed Special](#)**

**February 22 on PBS | Feb. 24 on WORLD Channel**

Fannie Lou Hamer's America is a portrait of a civil rights activist and the injustices in America that made her work essential. Through public speeches, personal interviews, and powerful songs of the fearless Mississippi sharecropper-turned-human-rights-activist, Fannie Lou Hamer's America explores and celebrates the lesser-known life of one of the Civil Rights Movement's greatest leaders.

### **[EVENT: Finding Your Voice Through Fannie Lou Hamer \(Virtual\)](#)**

**February 15 at 3pm ET**

Throughout the 1960s, Fannie Lou Hamer established a legacy of civil rights and human rights activism that remains relevant to this day – especially among Black youth. What is Fannie Lou's legacy of activism and what can young activists learn from her? Join award-winning author and historian Keisha Blain, Ph.D., executive producer and Hamer's great-niece Monica Land and moderator Erika Dilday, co-executive producer of *America ReFramed* for a conversation in partnership with Black Public Media.

In addition to these key films, a variety of Black History Month content is available to stream on the WORLD Channel website, YouTube channel, PBS Passport and the PBS App. For more information about all available Black History Month films and content, please visit the [Black History Month Viewer's Guide](#).

For more information and films, please visit [www.WORLDchannel.org/](http://www.WORLDchannel.org/) or follow @worldchannel on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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### **About WORLD Channel**

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multicast 24/7 channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 195 member stations in markets representing over 75% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the



Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts and Artworks. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at [WORLDChannel.org](http://WORLDChannel.org).