

For Immediate Release

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WORLD Turns a Lens on Democracy with Documentary Features in July

Multiplatform media organization taps award-winning filmmakers with powerful perspectives on democracy, peace, redemption and reconciliation

Boston, MA (June 21, 2023) – WORLD, public media’s premiere destination for diverse nonfiction content, will feature four special programs leading into July and throughout the month, curated to examine past and present challenges to democracy, and shine a light on communities rising to make positive change in the face of institutional barriers.

These documentary films will look at the forced assimilation of Native American children and the resulting generational trauma; a path to redemption for incarcerated individuals; the transformation of despair into hope amid gun violence in Chicago; and, on the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement, the story of a group of international women who walk the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) for peace.

“Governments are intended to protect its citizens and foster progress, but established systems have failed so many marginalized groups. In a month where here in the U.S., we celebrate democracy, WORLD is proud to work with filmmakers with deep knowledge of communities that have galvanized to make change within, and outside of these systems,” said Chris Hastings, executive producer of WORLD at GBH in Boston.

Three of these films will premiere as part of WORLD’s [Local, USA](#) series and are produced and presented in partnership with public media partners from across the United States: *Generations Stolen*, produced by Retro Report, *The Power of a Pardon*, produced in partnership with WNET’s Chasing the Dream initiative and *Firsthand: Gun Violence*, produced in partnership with WTTW. The fourth film, *Crossings*, will make its national premiere as part of WORLD’s international documentary series, [Doc World](#). *Crossings*, produced by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem, will premiere on the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement. *Crossings* is presented in partnership with Center for Asian America Media.

[Generations Stolen on Local, USA](#)

June 26 at 9pm ET

Following the 2023 Supreme Court ruling which upholds the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, explore how Native American communities are grappling with the lingering fallout resulting from a history of government policies aimed at stripping them of traditions and assimilating them into white culture. For decades, Native children were forcibly separated from their families - today, communities are working to overcome generations of trauma. Presented in partnership with Retro Report.

[The Power of a Pardon on Local, USA](#)

July 3 at 9pm ET

For five formerly incarcerated individuals who served their time, the only path to redemption and chance to pursue their purpose is through the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons. Through intimate and, at times, nerve-racking stories, THE POWER OF A PARDON follows these individuals as they show how life-altering a pardon and criminal justice reform can be when trying to build a life after prison.

[Firsthand: Gun Violence on Local, USA](#)

July 10 at 9pm ET

The number of gun violence victims in Chicago may fluctuate, but the psychological trauma in many neighborhoods is constant. How do wounded communities heal? FIRSTHAND: GUN VIOLENCE explores the personal perspectives of people who have been affected and the ways each person is transforming their tragedy and despair into hope and action.

[Crossings on Doc World](#)

July 23 at 10pm ET

A group of international women peacemakers sets out on a risky journey across the DMZ between North and South Korea, calling for an end to the 70-year war that has divided the peninsula and its people. Comprised of Nobel Peace Laureates and renowned activists, the team faces daunting logistical and political challenges as they forge a path with their Korean sisters toward peace and reconciliation.

All programs will broadcast on WORLD's 194 member stations and will be available to stream on worldchannel.org and on the PBS app.

For more information on WORLD visit www.WORLDchannel.org or follow @worldchannel on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [YouTube](#).

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About WORLD

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 multiplatform 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, an International Documentary Association Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award, two Webby Awards and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 194 member stations in

markets representing 77% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD 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. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at WORLDChannel.org.