

GEORGIA.

DISCUSSION GUIDE



INTRODUCTION TO THE *FUNDAMENTAL* SERIES

Feminist movements have the power to disrupt the status quo and radically alter the course of history for women and girls—and ALL historically marginalized people and communities globally. **But what does it really look like to be a feminist leader today?**

Fundamental: Gender Justice. No Exceptions. is a series of docu-shorts following activists and community organizers from five different countries who are working on the frontlines of the global fight for gender justice. Each episode runs approximately 15 minutes and features remarkable grassroots leaders working on issues as varied as ending child, early, and forced marriage in Pakistan and pursuing LGBTQI+ liberation in Georgia.

The series is a joint production from Academy Award-winning director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and the non-profit [Global Fund for Women](#). At a time of unprecedented political uprisings around the globe, from Haiti to Chile to Iraq to Sudan to Lebanon and beyond, *Fundamental* introduces global audiences to grassroots movements and community leaders who are standing up for our fundamental human rights and working to hold governments accountable for healthier and more just societies for all.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to the <i>Fundamental Series</i>	01
About Global Fund for Women	02
Director’s Statement	02
How to Use this Guide	03
Hosting an Impactful Screening	03
Synopsis	04
The Stakes	05
Discussion & Activities	06
Take Action	07
Pairing Multiple Episodes	08

ABOUT GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN

Global Fund for Women envisions a world in which movements for gender justice have transformed power and privilege for a few into equity and equality for all. As a feminist fund, we offer flexible support to a diverse group of partners—more than 5,000 groups across 175 countries so far—to create meaningful change that will last beyond our lifetimes. To learn more about our work, visit www.globalfundforwomen.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#).

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT SHARMEEN OBAID-CHINYOY, DIRECTOR

Fundamental takes us into the lives of gender justice activists around the world who are working to create change at the grassroots level. The activists you will meet in the series are on the frontlines of human rights issues, risking everything, yet they are rarely made visible. So often the movements they lead are not widely visible either—and yet they are so critical to protecting human rights. For this reason, they know they have to do this work, for their communities and their countries. They are the only ones who will do it.

Our films provide a better understanding of their struggles and show us an intimate portrait of what it means to be a frontline advocate in today's volatile world. We see that social change is not always linear, that there are violent threats and bitter disappointments. For every one step forward there are three steps back. But we also see that they aren't doing this work alone. Within movements there is great community, and there is solidarity in knowing there are others alongside you—your neighbors in your city as well as those across the globe—who are also fighting for justice.

From Brazil and the United States to Kenya, Pakistan, and Georgia, these inspiring activists refuse to accept the status quo, agitating and organizing to create safe spaces and a safer world for other women. It is my hope that the series will inspire viewers to learn more about these issues, and join the fight for gender justice alongside these incredible activists.

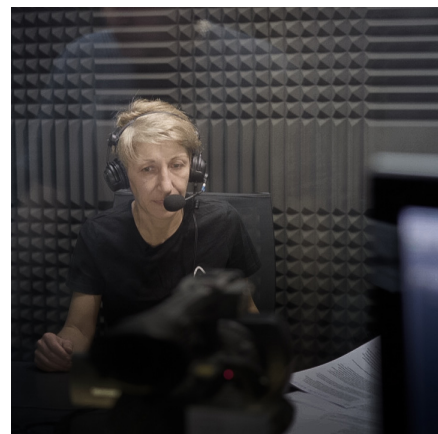


HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Thank you for sharing the *Fundamental* series with your community! We hope the films and this guide will provide an opportunity for conversation, education, and action.

HOSTING AN IMPACTFUL SCREENING

- **Preview the film yourself** so that you can speak to the content well before your screening begins.
- **Ensure you test the equipment** you are using prior to the screening. Be sure to check for sound quality.
- **Prior to beginning the screening**, consider offering content warnings or trigger warnings (such as descriptions of abuse or assault) based on your audience and context.
- **Provide time for reflection and discussion** following the screening and ensure that you direct audience members to resources that can help them to continue to process and learn after the screening ends.
- **Remember that as a facilitator**, your role is to guide the discussion and set expectations that allow for diverse voices to be heard.
- **You are not expected to be an expert** in the issues presented, so you might want to involve a subject matter expert from your local community in your screening. We also encourage you to read and reference this full guide.
- Visit www.fundamental-film.com for more resources that may be useful in your post-screening conversations, including learning about other groups globally working on the issues, infographics, and articles that can inform and guide your conversations.





SYNOPSIS

In this episode, audiences meet feminist activist Ekaterine Aghdgomelashvili, a trailblazer for LGBTQI+ rights in Georgia and co-founder of Women’s Initiative Supporting Group (WISG). Eka and the other leaders at WISG focus their work on empowering women and LGBTQI+ people in Georgia and working to advance their rights through political participation, economic empowerment, and cultural exchange.

Audience members will also meet Eka T., an aspiring young artist and fellow community activist, in the tense days leading up to a rally for International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT). Through the eyes of Eka A., Eka T., and others, we see how anti-rights and anti-gender movements are endangering the lives of LGBTQI+ people and seeking to rollback rights gained by the gender justice movement in Georgia.

THE STAKES

A 2018 study on hate crimes and discrimination in Georgia found that the majority of Georgians generally think it's important to protect the rights of minorities—with the exception of LGBTQI+ people.¹

While officially a secular country, church and state are far from separate in Georgia. LGBTQI+ people in Georgia are the targets of violence and state-sanctioned oppression because of the undue influence of the Georgian Orthodox Church on social and political life in the country. Anti-LGBTQI+ rhetoric, led by religious and political leaders, has resulted in homophobic and transphobic violence, discrimination, hate crimes, and murders throughout the country, as well as state-ordered threats against LGBTQI+ individuals and activists. At the same time, LGBTQI+ and feminist movements in Georgia have made gains and have grown stronger over the years.

LGBTQI+ discrimination is rampant around the globe. As of March 2019, there are 70 United Nations Member States (35%) that criminalize consensual same-sex sexual acts, with imprisonment as the most common penalty. (Indeed, in 37% of these countries, consensual same-sex acts can be punished by life imprisonment.) In six countries, a person can receive the death penalty for being found “guilty” of consensual same-sex sexual acts, with three in Asia (Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen) and three in Africa (Nigeria, Sudan, and Somalia).²

In 30 states in the United States, LGBTQI+ people are at risk of being fired, refused housing, or denied social services simply because of identifying as LGBTQI+.³

QUESTIONS

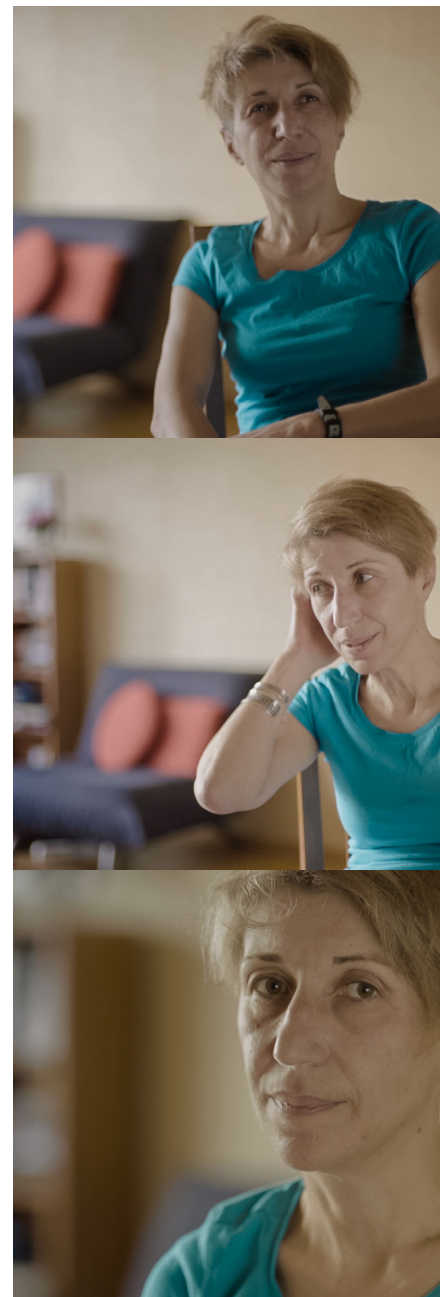
- 01.** Describe a moment in the film that you found particularly surprising or emotional. What about that moment most spoke to you?
- 02.** At one moment in the film, Ekaterine says “This is our life, this is not just our work.” Discuss what you think Ekaterine means.
- 03.** Lack of information is a main problem facing the LGBTQI+ community. What systems (schools, governments) actively keep this information from the public?

Questions continue on next page

1 Caucasus Research Resource Center Georgia. Hate Crime, Hate Speech, and Discrimination in Georgia: Attitudes and Awareness. November 2018. <https://rm.coe.int/hate-crime-hate-speech-and-discrimination-in-attitudes-and-awareness-e/16808ef62a>

2 International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association: Lucas Ramon Mendos. State-Sponsored Homophobia 2019. March 2019. https://ilga.org/downloads/ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2019_light.pdf

3 Human Rights Campaign. US Equality Act. Accessed February 2020. <https://www.hrc.org/equalityact/>

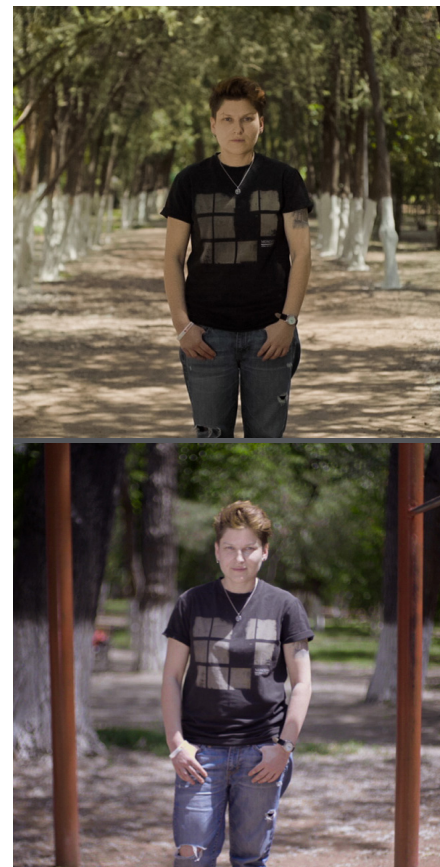


- 04.** The myths and lies surround LGBTQI+ people are similar and linked to anti-Semitism, racism, and other kinds of hate. Talk about these intersections.
- 05.** WISG became a “second home” for Eka T. Is there a space or place in your life that has given you comfort and support?
- 06.** This film shows how WISG becomes a safe space for so many women. Why are safe spaces essential and what does the environment allow for that couldn’t happen otherwise?
- 07.** Have you ever been made to feel out of place or unwelcome somewhere? Describe the setting and your feelings.
- 08.** How does the film show the ebbs and flows of community organizing and movement building? What are some of the setbacks?
- 09.** “Human rights are nothing but the right to be happy.” Expand upon this definition of happiness. What else is implied here?

ACTIVITY: DESIGNING A SAFE SPACE

Consider what it would be like to create a safe space. Below are questions to get you started. Share your responses among the group.

- 01. Who is the space for?** Think about your life. What safe space would you or someone close to you need, in a place not designed with that in mind? For example, if you’re a new mom going back to work who might need a place to breastfeed and/or pump; a religious student on campus looking for a place to pray; or a special needs student in elementary school.
- 02. What is its intention?** What will the space be used for?
- 03. Why is the space needed?** What gap will it fill?
- 04. What attributes does the space need?** Room to move around? Chairs? A sink, etc.?
- 05. Where should the space be located?** Should it be close to other specific spaces?



TAKE ACTION

Thank you for watching the episode and hosting a conversation. If you are interested in supporting rights for women and girls around the world, this next section offers tips and tools for getting involved.

➔ **Join Global for Women:** Global Fund for Women works to strengthen gender justice movements to shift power, privilege, and perception and create meaningful change that will last beyond our lifetimes. We envision a world where movements for gender justice have transformed power and privilege for a few into equity and equality for all.

Join us to learn more about our work! You'll receive updates and action opportunities related to the issues in *Fundamental*, as well as other ways to support movements for gender justice around the world.

www.globalfundforwomen.org/join-us/

➔ **Make a donation:** Your support will allow Global Fund for Women to fund groups in *Fundamental* and other organizations that are fighting to protect and advance the rights of women, girls, trans, and gender non-conforming people around the globe. [Make a donation.](#)

➔ **Follow us on Social:** Follow the *Fundamental* film series on social media and help spread the word about the films and the issues they address.

www.fundamental-film.com



[@FundamentalFilmSeries](#)



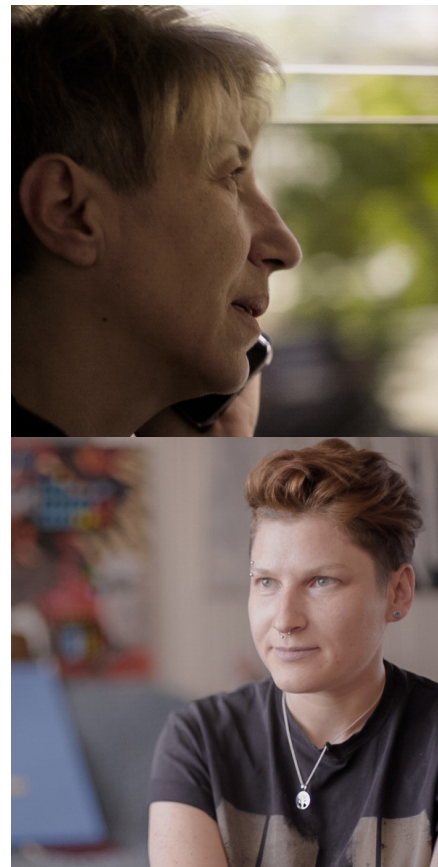
[@FundamentalFilmSeries](#)



[@Fundamental_Doc](#)



www.youtube.com/GlobalFundForWomen



PAIRING MULTIPLE EPISODES

Interested in viewing more than one episode?
Here are some suggestions on how to pair them:



RIGHTS NOT ROSES

Ending child, early, and forced marriage in Pakistan

INCLUDES:

- GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- GIRLS' RIGHTS

GIRLS AT THE HEART OF IT

Comprehensive sex education and girl's leadership in Kenya

INCLUDES:

- REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
- GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- GIRLS' RIGHTS

DEFENDERS OF JUSTICE

The battle for women's rights in Brazil

INCLUDES:

- RACE
- REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
- INTERSECTIONALITY
- LGBTQ+ RIGHTS
- MOVEMENT BUILDING

LIVING OUT LOUD

LBTQI movement building and resistance in Georgia

INCLUDES:

- LGBTQ+ RIGHTS
- GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- MOVEMENT BUILDING

RISING POWER

Building an intersectional justice movement in the United States

INCLUDES:

- RACE
- INTERSECTIONALITY
- LGBTQ+ RIGHTS
- MOVEMENT BUILDING