

I PROMISE YOU

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GUIDE



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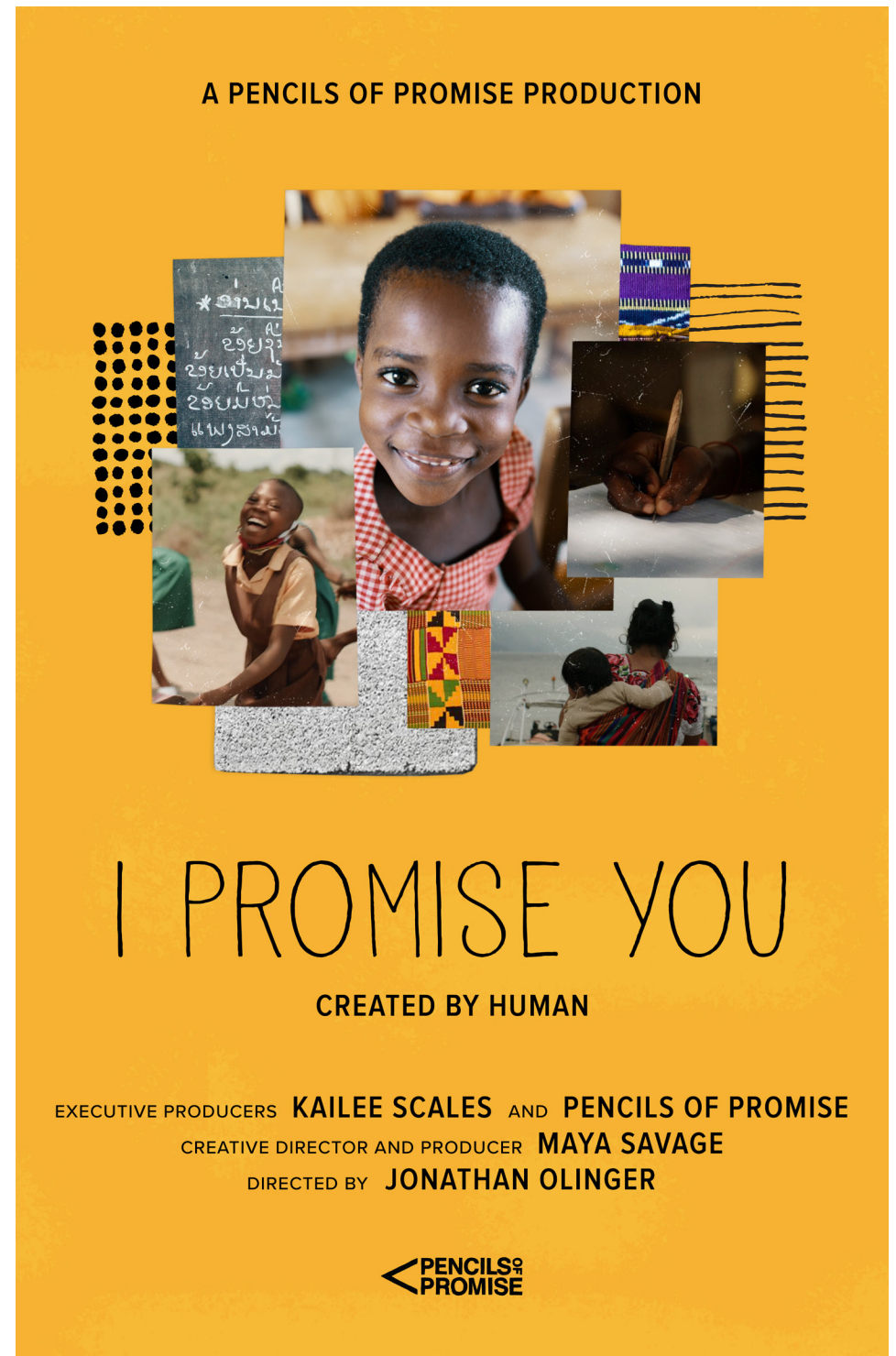
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ABOUT THE FILM

SYNOPSIS

'I Promise You' is a short film on the real-life stories of parents, children, and communities and the obstacles along the pathway to opportunity and a better life. Narrated by Pencils of Promise CEO Kailee Scales and featuring Adam Braun, Lil Jon, and Meadow Walker, this film chronicles the journey of the restoration of dreams.



You know that dream of flying?

*When we feel light and carried by
the wind?*

*When we feel like we are powerful
and can do anything?*

When we are free?

*All children, all people, everywhere
deserve to be free to fly.*

A group of children are running outdoors on a dirt path. In the foreground, a girl in a yellow dress with a blue collar is running towards the right, smiling. Behind her, another girl in a yellow dress is also running. To the left, a boy in a yellow shirt is running. In the background, there are trees and a cloudy sky. The text "DISCUSSING THE FILM" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

DISCUSSING THE FILM

FRAMING THE CONVERSATION

Education and access to knowledge is a basic human right. It enables young people around the world, especially girls and women, to develop the skills they need to adapt to a rapidly changing world. However, young people in the most overlooked and under-resourced communities face many barriers to quality, basic education. Watching 'I Promise You' can help you understand these barriers. Afterwards, we invite you to engage in meaningful conversation and demonstrate your commitment to human dignity and human rights in support of children, families, and communities everywhere.

Before you start:

- Gather a group of education advocates or those interested in learning more about the world.
- Create an inclusive, engaging space where everyone is able to share their thoughts and experiences.
- Choose a host to facilitate discussion around topics found in this toolkit.
- Provide additional resources and materials for those who want to learn more.



DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

Below are some optional questions you can use to have a discussion after your screening to further engage your audience in education equity.

REFLECTION

- What are the moments or scenes in the film that stand out to you?
- Did anything surprise you?
- Was there any one person or part of the film that you resonated with?
- What did you learn from watching the film?
- How can you, as a community or a company, seek to make a difference in the landscape of global education?
- Why are you interested in the outcomes and experiences of people around the world?
- What is a life lesson you learned in the classroom?
- In the film, a mother reflects on COVID's impact on her daughters' education. "This is going to impact the children's lives a lot, and impact their studies. There are things they didn't learn. Things they did not achieve." Reflect and share your thoughts on the long-term effects of the pandemic on education.
- What barriers to education exist now because of COVID?

PRIVILEGE

- What did the film make you appreciate?
- In what ways did the film reflect, or not reflect, your own school experience?
- Briefly consider your educational opportunities and experiences growing up. How do you value these? How did they shape you as a person and allow you to achieve your dreams?
- What was your personal experience learning about menstrual hygiene? (This question is for everyone regardless of gender.)
- "It doesn't matter where you start, it doesn't matter where you are from, it doesn't matter what you do, it doesn't dictate where you can end." Take a minute to reflect on this quote. What does it mean for you?
- Who is a teacher who made a large impact on your life? Have you ever told them the ways they influenced you?
- When was the last time you didn't have access to clean drinking water?
- How did the weather affect your access to education day to day?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

EQUITY

- Why is it important to educate girls?
- What role do boys and men play in women empowerment and education? What was your reaction to seeing the male students involved in the Menstrual Hygiene Management workshops?
- What gaps in learning and in access to opportunity became heightened due to COVID?
- How does the lack of high-quality education limit global prosperity? What was everyone's experience on menstrual hygiene and learning about menstrual hygiene?
- What is our responsibility as global citizens to advocate for education equity around the world?
- What are some of the obstacles that exist to education around the world and in your community?
- How does access to education empower people?
- How has COVID changed the landscape of global education?
- Do you think education is a legitimate and sustainable solution to the barriers that children, especially girls, face around the world? Why or why not? How does access to education empower people?
- How has COVID changed the landscape of global education?
- Do you think education is a legitimate and sustainable solution to the barriers that children, especially girls, face around the world? Why or why not?
- What barriers, such as health or lack of education, contribute to the underrepresentation of women in schools and companies globally?
- How does lack of hygiene practices and resources impede learning?

FREEDOM

- A theme of this film is freedom. What are some of the other themes of the film?
- How do you think freedom can be accessed through education?
- What would you do if your daughter, sister, niece or friend wasn't allowed to go to school once a month because of her period?
- What are some barriers to education that were not addressed in the film?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

OBSERVATIONS

- What emotions does this film evoke (hope, sadness, anger, etc.)?
- It wasn't always clear in the film what country was featured.
- How did this impact your viewing experience?
- How did the images of communities or of people engage you in the themes of the film?
- What messaging does the film cue through its framing, imagery and editing?
- How does the film's lighting portray the mood of the scene?
- What purpose does the music serve in the film?
- What reaction does it evoke?
- How might social, political, economic or cultural factors do you think affect filming?
- How were different shots (close-up, medium shot, long shot) used to enhance the narrative in the film?
- What natural sounds did you pick up on in the film?
- How did they enhance your understanding of the various settings?

*For some of us, the pathway to learning
and to freedom is difficult.*

*It is unpaved and there are obstacles
in the way.*

*But we will build it together – a pathway
to transform a child, transform a
community and transform the world.*





LEARN MORE

OVERVIEW OF POP

Pencils of Promise (“PoP”) is a for-purpose organization founded in 2008 with the goal of increasing access to quality education for children around the world. To date, PoP has built nearly 600 schools and provided access to education to nearly 230,000 students throughout Ghana, Guatemala and Laos, establishing itself as a leader amongst the innovative global nonprofits working toward sustainable social change.

LEARN MORE

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More information coming soon!

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COUNTRY OVERVIEWS



GHANA

In Ghana, 6.5% of primary school age children are not enrolled in school and of those who are in school, 35% of those in rural areas will drop out before completing primary school (UNESCO, 2018). Additionally, over 21% of the Ghanaian population is illiterate and out of all the current primary school classrooms, the government estimates that almost a quarter need repairs (World Bank, 2018; USAID, 2009).

PoP partners with 221 communities in Ghana to ensure that students overcome these and other barriers to accessing a quality education. Currently, PoP is impacting over 57,000 students in Ghana.



GUATEMALA

In Guatemala, where 59% of the population lives below the national poverty line, socioeconomic status is one of the biggest barriers to accessing quality education (World Bank 2014).

The average length of schooling for a Guatemalan child is only six years and 19% of the population is illiterate (UNESCO 2019; World Bank 2018).

Pencils of Promise partners with 226 communities in Guatemala to ensure students overcome these, and other, barriers to accessing quality education. Currently, PoP is impacting over 47,000 students in Guatemala.



LAOS

In Laos, a lack of educational infrastructure is one of the greatest barriers to accessing quality education (BBC News Asia). 15% of people in Laos are illiterate, with even higher illiteracy rates amongst ethnic minorities (World Bank 2015).

Pencils of Promise partners with 191 communities in Laos to ensure that students overcome these, and other, barriers to accessing quality education. Currently, PoP is impacting over 20,000 students and teachers in Laos.

HOW CAN I PARTNER WITH POP?

The options are endless when thinking about how you can create a campaign to support education around the world. Here are some ways to get started:



START A CAMPAIGN

[Learn more >](#)



DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY

[Learn more >](#)



SPREAD THE WORD

[Learn more >](#)



BECOME AN ADVOCATE

Share what you learned about topics in the film online and in person and shine a light on how we can all help create global education equity.

Inspire those in your screening to host screenings of their own. Then more and more people can join in this global movement.