



ASWANG

Discussion Guide

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Introduction



DAKILA - Philippine Collective for Modern Heroism is an organization of artists, cultural and development activists, students, young professionals, and individuals creatively building a movement of heroism towards social transformation.

DAKILA cultivates one's innate heroism, organizes communities of heroes, and creatively fosters social involvement by building one's capacity to make a change. It influences individuals and groups to be part of the movement for change and taking on advocacies and social concerns to bring about strategic actions that make real change.

Dakila was founded in 2005 by multi-awarded writer Lourde Veyra, musician Noel Cabangon, actor Ronnie Lazaro, Parokya ni Edgar bassist Buhawi Meneses and the late comedian Tado Jimenez.



Active Vista Human Rights Center is an institution established by DAKILA. It facilitates the learning process of empowering citizens to become agents of social change. It organizes the annual Heroes Hub Youth Fellowship Program. Active Vista runs programs on public advocacy, engagement and communications such as Digital Activism, Ibang Klase Alternative Education, and Film Outreach to support DAKILA's work in movement building.

Creating a Soft Space for Hard Conversations

Tips for Facilitating the Discussion

The topics of war against drugs, extrajudicial killings, and drug abuse in the Philippines will definitely come with many assumptions and predetermined arguments. Therefore facilitating is crucial in guiding these conversations. We have to be intentional that we help put out the fire and clear the smoke, rather than adding fuel to the fire.

As facilitators to the discussion, let's ensure we empower the group as a whole. We treat the facilitator and participants as both the teacher and learner. The power in this discussion is not held over, but rather with the group. Acknowledge that alone we know little, but together we know a lot.

Basic Roles of a Facilitator

1. **After viewing the film, whether watching it alone or with a group, take some time to reflect.** Write down your own initial thoughts, feelings, and questions. Encourage all those you plan to hold the discussion with to do the same.
2. **Open up a safe and accessible space that offers many insights, opinions, and values to a given topic.** Be intentional and clear with the participants about how interactive and inclusive you'd like your discussion. Set ground rules if you'd like, and make sure to allow space for your participants to add to the rules and collectively agree on these rules.
3. **Set the tone and expectations.** List down a clear agenda of what will be discussed. If done online, determine if videos should be turned on or allowed to be kept off. Clarify if the chatbox can be utilized as an alternative channel for sharing insights. Be realistic with yourself, too, when setting the length of discussion, breaks, and bring in a co-facilitator when you need one as additional support to help take notes or set the discussion and participants up.
4. **Encourage personal stories and reflections.** When the insights shared sound broad or abstract, ground the conversation by asking them to relate these instances to personal experiences or anecdotes. Take time to listen and show support, especially for intimate stories. Assure one another that no stories or personal information shared in the group can be shared outside without consent.

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5. **Watch out for red flags.** Carefully redirect individuals that monopolize the conversation, keep track of who's talking and whose voices are being heard, and work towards equalizing the space for all voices to be heard. Read the room as much as you can. If there are some disagreements or misunderstandings, check-in with the group as a whole or quietly check in with the concerned individuals.
 6. **Make the connections.** With so many national issues competing for our attention, our tendency is to isolate the issues as if they have nothing to do with one another. The worst-case scenario is we forget about them. As the discussion deepens, look out for recurring problems and relate them to key issues from the film and the current events in the world and your community. This is one way to help ensure the conversation stays relevant and focused.
 7. **Occasionally summarize and note key areas of agreement.** If a topic seems to have maxed out all possible directions and participants have found nothing more they'd like to share, make a recap of the insights before moving onto the next questions.
 8. **Expect and respect a lack of closure.** This may be the first time the audience has dug deeper into this topic. Not all questions raised may be answered right away; there might also not be enough time to address every issue raised. Be okay with allowing these unanswered questions to sit with you for a while and return to them for another discussion.
 9. **Enjoy the discussion.** Imagine how many conversations like this, you will ever spark or be a part of and where else this can lead! Treat this opportunity to learn and connect with one another. We discuss, debate, laugh, grieve, and fight together.
 10. **End with a good and hopeful note.** The topics we discuss might fuel anger and uncertainty in our current situation. These feelings are equally important and powerful, especially when channeled into hope and vision. Keep this in mind from Patrisse Cullors, one of the founders of Black Lives Matter:

"Provide hope and inspiration for collective action to build collective power to achieve collective transformation, rooted in grief and rage but pointed towards vision and dreams."

Getting into the Good Bits: Discussion Guide

Background Context and Discussion Points

CONTEXT



In February 2016, Rodrigo Duterte promised to end corruption, drugs, and criminality within three to six months of his office assumption. He also promised that he would not hesitate to kill in doing so because there “could be no cleansing that is bloodless.”

While he may have failed to deliver on his first promise, he has certainly lived up to the latter promise to kill under the guise of cleansing the country of its drug problem. The death toll is disputed, but the Philippine Supreme Court has established that by 2017, 20,232 had already been killed; now, the number could easily be between 25,000 and 30,000.

Victims of extrajudicial killings, such as small-time drug dealers or users, often come from poor communities. Studies claim that the poor are, in fact, most vulnerable in the Duterte administration’s war on drugs. While most of these are men, women bear the brunt of the other side of the killings: their rights and dignity are violated in the anti-drug operations, and they are left facing a new reality of vulnerability and scarcity, turning into a new underclass of the urban poor—ostracized and isolated, terrorized by local officials and the killers, and vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

And so now the poor are being killed, but we remain silent. It may be because we are too busy living our own lives or because we are not affected or have more pressing problems to face. But whatever the reason may be, we have to acknowledge that this can no longer continue—and it is past time that we take steps to ensure that it will not.

UNDERSTANDING THE WAR ON DRUGS NARRATIVE

The war on drugs' end goal is to eliminate the use of illegal drugs. This war on drugs is not unique to the Philippine context. The global war on drugs has been going on for over 50 years and hasn't solved the problem. In the Philippines, the drug problem is being addressed by lawfully punishing illegal drug users by treating them as criminals and using inhumane and undignified measures to keep people or scare them away from using drugs.

Years of studies and data have shown that the current punitive approach in addressing the illegal drug issue has failed to eliminate the illegal use and put more people - from children, young people to adults in danger. Aside from substance abuse, it is also assumed that the drug problem involves drug-market violence, criminal convictions, and has limited life chances. The stigma it creates leads to false narratives that drug users are killers, and they don't deserve a second chance in life. These dangerous assumptions affect not only the users but even their loved ones.¹ This has also led to internalized stigma. Even the loved ones of the person who uses drugs claim it is better if they are imprisoned or sometimes even killed, rather than put them into a rehabilitation facility and roam free in their community.

There's a big disjoint that leaves people at the losing end. Rather than addressing the system's lack of jobs, proper healthcare, the social divide, among others, the war on drugs has dehumanized drug users instead, equating the people to the problem, creating stigma and discrimination, therefore redefining the war on drugs into a war against the poor.

¹ "Defining and Implementing a Public Health Response to Drug Use and Misuse." AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, 2013, www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/08/08/04/defining-and-implementing-a-public-health-response-to-drug-use-and-misuse.

The Duterte government's war on drugs worsens the health and human rights situation of people who use drugs. People who use drugs are routinely subjected to shaming, police brutality, incarceration, or worse, are killed. The punitive climate is depriving people who use drugs access to evidence-based interventions that effectively mitigate the harms caused by drugs. In essence, the goal of addressing drug abuse is to keep our people safe - it has never been about the drugs but should always be about the people. This is why the war on drugs is failing.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE ISSUE OF DRUGS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

When we refer to public health, it is the science of preventing disease and injury and promoting and protecting the health of populations and communities. Substance abuse deals with a person's health. When instances of addiction or overdose occur, the solution should ideally address the user's physical and mental health and well-being.



HARM REDUCTION

Harm Reduction reduces the harm associated with the use of psychoactive drugs by people unable and unwilling to stop through policies, programs, and practices. It's rooted heavily in the sense of social justice and anti-discrimination.

While there's a growing demand for an alternative to the war on drugs, the deeply embedded stigma on drugs and people who use drugs makes it challenging to introduce harm reduction interventions on the ground, despite existing evidence on their effectiveness.

Currently, there's a slow but steady push from some civil society organizations, community groups, and academics to change the dominant punitive paradigm and introduce a public health and human rights-oriented approach to drugs and drug use.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- How do you understand drug use and drug abuse?
- What do you think about people who use drugs?
- What do you think about the government's response in addressing this issue?
- The number of drug users in the country had risen to 8 million from the initial 4 million - counts before the war on drugs began. What does this mean for you?
- Who do you think is responsible for solving this issue? What should they do? Is there anything you can do?
- Is the war on drugs a war worth winning - how?

Aswang Film Discussion Points

When Rodrigo Duterte is voted for president of the Philippines, he sets in motion a machinery of death to execute suspected drug dealers, users, and small-time street criminals. ASWANG follows people whose lives intertwine with the growing violence.



FACTS

- A total of 6,225 drug suspects had been killed in the government's war against illegal drugs as of the end of 2021, according to a report released by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).² #RealNumbers reported 3,967 drug personalities who died in anti-drug operations and 16,355 Homicide Cases under Investigation as of July 1, 2016 to November 27, 2017.³ Human rights organizations cited a death toll of 27,000+ as of December 2018.⁴

² Sarao, Zacarian. "6,225 Drug Suspects Killed as of End of 2021 – PDEA." INQUIRER.net, 1 Feb. 2022, newsinfo.inquirer.net/1548337/fwd-6225-drug-suspects-killed-by-end-of-2021-pdea.

³ "VERA File's statement on PCOO's #RealNumbers in Fighting Illegal Drugs." VERAFiles.org, 15 Jul. 2019, <https://verafiles.org/articles/vera-files-statement-pcoos-realnum>

⁴ "IN NUMBERS: The Philippines' 'War on Drugs.'" Rappler, www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/numbers-statistics-philippines-war-drugs.

- Between July 2016 and December 2019, at least 122 children, including a one-year-old, have been killed during President Rodrigo Duterte's "war on drugs" in the Philippines, according to the report by World Organization Against Torture.⁵
- Caloocan City Police Station was awarded Best City Police Station in the National Capital Region two days after the killing of Kian Loyd delos Santos and on the day Carl Angelo Arnaiz was killed by policemen.⁶
- In the past five years, only the three policemen involved in Delos Santos' death have been sent to jail in what was the first and so far only conviction in Mr. Duterte's drug war.⁷
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) has formally authorised an official probe into alleged crimes against humanity in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's "war on drugs", dealing a moral victory to human rights defenders and families of victims killed, including innocent children.⁸

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does the "Aswang" represent in the film? What other symbolisms have you noticed?
- Was using the term "Aswang" in relation to the extrajudicial killings of alleged drug personalities appropriate? Expound.
- Do you think that the killing of Kian delos Santos changed the way the people perceive the Drug War?
- Do you think that the Filipino superstition of placing a chick on top of a casket in order to gain justice reflects the fact that Filipinos have limited access to justice?
- How do you feel about the story of the men who admitted they use drugs, not to do crime, but so they can continue working for long hours? What does it say about the level of involvement of people with drugs?

⁵ "War on Drugs' Blamed for Deaths of at Least 122 Children in Philippines." The Guardian, 30 June 2020, www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/jun/30/war-on-drugs-blamed-for-deaths-of-at-least-122-children-in-philippines.

⁶ News, AMITA LEGASPI, GMA. "Caloocan Police Awarded Best City Police Station Two Days after Kian Slay." GMA News Online, www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/624760/calooacan-police-awarded-best-city-police-station-two-days-after-kian-slay/story/. Accessed 6 Oct. 2021.

⁷ Krixia Subingsubing. "Give Drug War Victims Justice, ICC Pressed." INQUIRER.net, Aug. 2021, newsinfo.inquirer.net/1474532/give-drug-war-victims-justice-icc-pressed.

⁸ Regencia, Ted. "ICC Agrees to Open Investigation into Duterte's 'War on Drugs.'" www.aljazeera.com, www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/15/philippines-icc-agrees-to-probe-dutertes-war-on-drugs.

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- The people illegally detained inside the hidden “room” in the precinct were threatened to be charged with “eleven-five.” Why are they afraid of this?
 - How do you feel about the fact that on top of the victims not being released, charges were filed against them and their detention made legal?
 - What other recourse do you think the Commission on Human Rights and the media people present had to help the illegally detained people?
 - What does the story of Jomari represent in the film? How does his story make you feel?
 - With the current environment he’s in, how do you think this affects his development as a human being?
 - Hearing the narratives of families and the stories of those who were killed because of the drug war, is there a change in how you view the victims, the law enforcers, and the justice system?
 - What kind of narrative is this film trying to counter and push for?

THE LORE OF ‘ASWANG’ IN THE PHILIPPINES



- The creature ‘Aswang’ comes in different kinds depending on which region you came from in the Philippines. Generally, the Aswang are elusive creatures that can blend with people through its human form and when night time comes, it could shapeshift at will, or use its powers to hunt for human beings.
- The Aswang’s diet mainly consists of liver and blood. Their prey varies from an adult human, a newborn baby, or a baby who is yet to be born.

- Some examples of Aswang are:

- “Tiktik”, a winged creature with needle-like tongue that searches for pregnant women and drinks the blood of the baby inside the mother’s womb while hovering or perched above the roof.⁹

- “Mambabarang” is a kind of Aswang that possesses “barang”, a kind of power that comes from everything evil. They are known to summon different kinds of insects to infest a person’s innards.¹⁰

- “Kiwig” in Aklan or “Malakat” in Cebuano, is a shapeshifting Aswang, it lives among humans, and turns into either a huge boar, a dog, or a cat when it hunts for people and babies. It drinks blood by biting the neck.¹¹

- An Aswang cannot die unless it transfers the “itim na sisiw” (black chick) to another human being. That person who inherits the sisiw then turns into an Aswang.

- The Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of America before used the lore of Aswang to instill fear among the Philippine Huks (Hukbong Bayan Laban sa mga Hapon). This started when the Huks gained respect among the Filipinos that reside in the rural areas and when they stood up against the America’s Bell Trade Act. The CIA would kidnap a Huk member, puncture two holes on the neck and leave the body where the Huks can see.¹²

- The Spanish colonizers also used the Aswang mythology to quell dissent from the Filipinos. They used it according to their encomienda system - those who lived too far from the sound of the church bells are labeled outlaws, therefore, Aswangs.

⁹ Calabia Samar, Edgar. Mga Nilalang Na Kagila-Gilalas. 2019. Adarna House, Inc., 2019.

¹⁰ Calabia Samar, Edgar. Mga Nilalang Na Kagila-Gilalas. 2019. Adarna House, Inc., 2019.

¹¹ Calabia Samar, Edgar. Mga Nilalang Na Kagila-Gilalas. 2019. Adarna House, Inc., 2019.

¹² Severino, Allen. “How the CIA Used the Aswang to Win a War in the Philippines.” Esquiremag.ph, 2019, www.esquiremag.ph/long-reads/features/cia-aswang-war-a00304-a2416-20191019-lfrm.

DISSECTING ASWANG



1. There was a scene where Jomari was asked why he calls the police “the enemy.” He explained that that’s what his mom told him to call them and that it’s a knee-jerk reaction to hide and run away when they come. What does this say about the Filipino citizen’s fear and distrust with the institutions that are mandated “to serve and protect” them?
2. Jomari and his friends are role playing, they were pretending to be the police while pretend-killing another kid, and then they ran away switching from being the police to being chased by the police.

“This is the police!”
“Get down on the ground!”
“You’re dead!”
(Imitates gun shooting)
“Stay there! Quick! Shoot him!”

“Run! The police are here!”
“Police!”
“There’s a bald policeman!”

Share your thoughts on the prevailing culture of violence and its lasting effect on children.

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3. The issue of overcrowded prisons in the Philippines was already in its worst state even before the crackdown on suspected drug criminals began. The situation has gone far worse. "The measure of a country is how it treats its prisoners," what does this say about the human rights situation in the country and our current justice system?



4. The issue of overcrowded prisons in the Philippines was already in its worst state even before the crackdown on suspected drug criminals began. The situation has gone far worse. "The measure of a country is how it treats its prisoners," what does this say about the human rights situation in the country and our current justice system?
5. On the issue of solving the current Philippine drug problem: there was a scene where a group of men allowed the team to film them using drugs anonymously. By listening to their plight and looking at the environment and the conditions that pushed and enabled them to use drugs in the first place, is the drug war really working? Has it humanized rather than stigmatized more how the general public looks at persons involved with drugs? Would it be better if we look at them as people who need help in terms of health and social services?



6. There was a scene towards the ending where Jomari's mother was teaching him about compassion.

Mom: Ikaw- tao nga nasasaktan e, 'di ba. Umiiyak nga siya kasi may naramdaman siya. Ganon din siya. [If you can feel pain, then so can the dog.]

O ayan, kain na. Kain na anak, dali na. [Hurry and eat already.]

Jomari: Sasalohin pa ng aso yan. [The dog will take the food.]

Kaya nga sabi ko sa'yo hampasin mo sa ulo e. [That's why I told you to smack it on the head.]

Mom: Ha? Tama ba 'yon? [That's not right.]

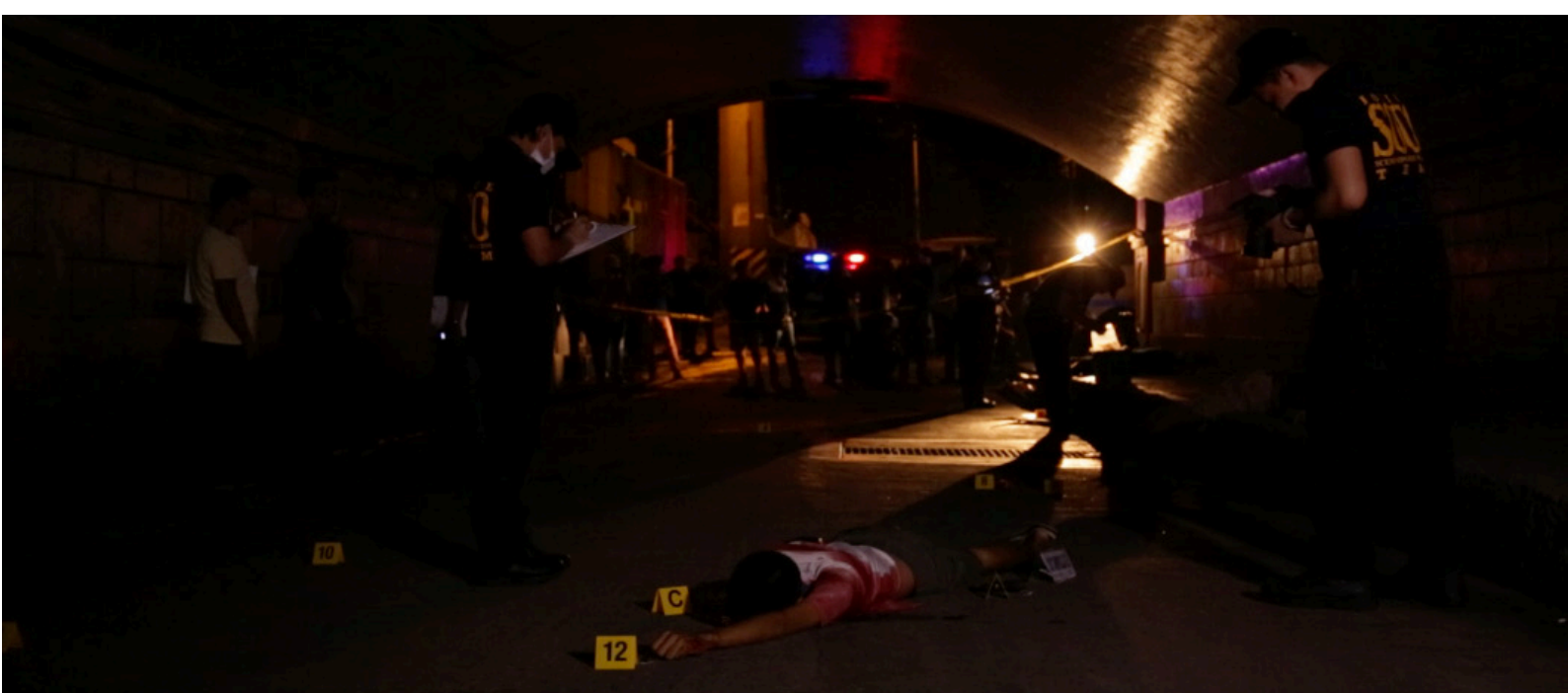
Discuss how stories help counter the narrative of violence and how it humanizes the people that the general public perceive as "criminals," and "addicts."

#StartTheHealing: Plan Your Own Screening

STEP 1. PLANNING YOUR OWN EDUCATIONAL SCREENING

When do you want to hold your screening? How many audiences will attend your screening? Do you have a venue that is capable of holding a film screening? If you want to arrange exclusive screenings for your organization or community, you may fill out the Active Vista Screening Form (<https://bit.ly/AVScreeningRequestForm>) to guide you in planning your screening.

We aim to bring this film to places where it is not readily available and to audiences who may not have the resources to watch it to spread awareness on its important social messages that the drug problem can and should be addressed through a rights-based approach of restoring human dignity rather than violence.



It is important to ensure the following in planning your screening:

- If holding a physical screening, make sure that a health and safety protocol is set in place in coordination with local authorities to ensure the safety of the audiences and staff against the spread of COVID-19.
- Some films may contain sensitive topics, please make sure that the audiences won't be implicated of any danger or threats or disclose to your audience possible risks and get their consent.

STEP 2. PREPARING FOR YOUR EDUCATIONAL SCREENING

As soon as our Screening Agreement is finalized, you can now start preparing for your screening.

- Check the technical set up of your venue and let us know what equipment or platform is available.
- Schedule a technical test for us to determine the technical set up for the film screening.
- Organize the forum based on the thematic issues presented in the film.
- Determine the time allocated for the after-screening discussion. We advise you to give at least 45 minutes to have a good meaningful discussion.
- Assign a host and moderator for your screening program.
- Invite a good mix of 2-4 resource speakers for the panel discussion.
- As soon as your resource speakers are confirmed, ask for their brief profile. You will need this to introduce them to your audience.
- Active Vista can provide or link you up to relevant resource persons that can share their insights and expert opinions on the themes explored in the film. Send us an email at screenings@activevista.ph or indicate in the Active Vista Screening Form to request speakers.

STEP 3. PROMOTING YOUR EDUCATIONAL SCREENING

- We shall provide you with materials you can use for your promotions, including posters and film stills.
- You may opt to promote publicly or to your targeted audiences only, depending on the nature of your screening.
- Let us know if you need help with the promotions. We have a large social media following that can help get the word out on your screening.

STEP 4. HOSTING YOUR EDUCATIONAL SCREENING

On the day of the screening, here are some notes to remember.

- Ensure that the venue or online platform is ready at least an hour before the screening. We would need an hour for technical setup.
- Registration should be ready at least an hour before so that you could manage the lines effectively at the venue entrance if you're having a physical screening.
- Coordinate with our team before letting audiences in.
- It would be nice to have a representative from your institution to welcome audiences to the screening.
- Assign a person who shall brief the speakers on the program.
- Inform your audiences of the necessary code of conduct in public screenings, such as turning their mobile phones in silent mode and refraining from talking during the screening or turning off their mics on online platforms.
- Remind your audiences about Republic Act No. 10088. Copying the film through a recording device in a theater or screen recording is strictly prohibited.
- Encourage your audiences to ask questions and share their opinions. Make them feel that the forum is a safe space for discourse and to engage respectfully.
- Document your screening through photos and videos. Please ensure that you inform your audience in doing so and that you would not violate your audience's privacy.

STEP 5. SUSTAINING THE IMPACT OF YOUR EDUCATIONAL SCREENING

- After the screening, we provide an evaluation form to measure the film's impact and forum on our audiences.
- We have also developed a study guide that educators can use as a tool kit to continue the conversation in classrooms or in group discussions.

#StopTheKillings: Join the Campaign



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ISSUE

- You can begin with the following primers
 - [Stop the Killings Primer](#) To break the cycle of violence and impunity, we need to be champions for human rights. We need to seek justice and accountability for the trail of human rights violations.
 - [Start the Healing Primer](#) To achieve real healing as a nation we need systemic change focused on public health, social, and legal impacts of drug use. Harm Reduction — or the humane and human rights-based approach in addressing drug issue — has positive impacts on individuals and the larger community.

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR #STOPTHEKILLINGS

- Our voice is louder as a community, visit the website and learn more about the campaign
 - stopthekillings.ph Stop the Killings PH is both a call to action and an advocacy platform open to the broad spectrum of advocates, activists, development workers, artists, and writers calling to end the bloody madness of the “war on drugs.” This digital platform aims to contribute to the goal of ending the streak of decades-long drug-related and state-institutionalized violence — particularly made more notorious by the Duterte regime.



Additional Resources



FURTHER VIEWING

Films

- Aswang. Alyx Ayn Arumpac, 2019. 85 mins. Philippines.
- On the President's Orders. James Jones and Olivier Sarbil, 2019. 72 mins. United Kingdom & USA
- The Mortician of Manila. Leah Borromeo, 2019. 25 mins. Philippines & UK.

Philippine educational distribution for all films mentioned above is through Active Vista. Contact screenings@activevista.ph to organize a screening in your area, school, or organization.

Are you interested in a more sustained partnership on the use of art, media, and popular culture for social consciousness formation among our youth? We offer creative and innovative programs such as our Heroes Hub Youth Fellowship, Digital Media and Communications for Social Change Training, Creative Workshops, Film and Media Labs, our Arts Festival every September, and Film Outreach featuring a catalog with a wide array of socially relevant films. Connect with us at engagement@activevista.ph

PUBLIC VIDEO RESOURCES

- **Understanding Drug Addiction by Kurzgesagt - In a Nutshell**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8AHODc6phg>
- **Why The War on Drugs Is a Huge Failure by Kurzgesagt - In a Nutshell**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJUXLqNHCal>
- **Harm Reduction in the Philippines by NoBox Transitions**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyUgzaPH0pE>
- **Support Don't Punish Shifts - Video Series by NoBox Transitions**
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyr5JrvSoiYaM9qXNMAQRd_DOw-S2Lers
- **A State of Terror**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwGFkpKyo-M&ab_channel=ActiveVista
- **Exorcising Terrors, Exercising Freedoms**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUcAcL7kwco&ab_channel=ActiveVista
- **Healing the Traumas**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsLwNjrwv_E&ab_channel=ActiveVista

REACH OUT

Regional and local organizations working on harm reduction, extrajudicial killings victims support, and/or policy reform:

[Action for Health Initiatives \(ACHIEVE\)](#)

An HIV NGO that engages in the intersections of HIV, human rights, gender, and migration. ACHIEVE is currently conducting documentation of the lived experiences of people who use drugs, town hall meetings to consult communities on the effectiveness of existing “community-based” rehabilitation programs, and an organizational development assessment for harm reduction CSOs and community groups.

[BAIGANI](#)

Baigani supports families victimized by EJKs to meet their food, education, and livelihood needs and empower mothers and children. It brings together people who support the advocacy to end the killings related to the war on drugs and help champion the human rights of the widows, mothers, and children of those killed.

[Children's Legal Rights and Development Center \(CLRDC\)](#)

Children's Legal Rights and Development Center, Inc. is a legal resource human rights organization for children committed to advancing children's rights and welfare by providing its services based on human rights developmental framework approach and methodologies.

[IDEFEND](#)

I Defend Human Rights, and Dignity (iDEFEND) is a grassroots movement that defends the rights and upholds the dignity of all Filipinos. It will engage with the government, educate and organize the public, and transform collective voices into public action. iDEFEND shall work towards realizing rights-based governance that is anchored on respect for due process and the rule of law.

[IDUCARE](#)

A community organization of people who use drugs in Cebu is a peer-based community of people affected by drugs aiming towards behavior change, integral health, and upholding and defending human rights. IDUCARE was established through a Global Fund engagement mechanism for people who inject drugs. They deliver harm reduction services in several areas in Cebu and support their community's mobilization to develop local health interventions.

[Institute of Politics and Governance \(IPG\)](#)

A local governance NGO that provides technical support to progressive local government officials. IPG has been sensitizing progressive local government officials at the village/barangay and city levels and providing them with technical support to align their local programs on drugs with harm reduction principles.

[Medical Action Group \(MAG\)](#)

An organization of physicians, nurses, dentists, psychologists, health students, and health workers that promotes and defends the human rights of all peoples. Since its inception, it has rendered total health services to the urban poor, political prisoners, internally displaced peoples, and workers. MAG is committed to consolidating the ranks of health care providers from the community to the national level to define a health care agenda that recognizes the capacities of all peoples of the Philippines to shape a health program that is relevant and responsive to their needs.

[NoBox Transitions Philippines](#)

An organization that has pioneered harm reduction advocacy in the Philippines and serves as a vital go-to organization with technical expertise on harm reduction. They conduct training for other CSOs and national and local government stakeholders to improve awareness on drugs and harm reduction, provide technical support, and directly engage with national government agencies such as PDEA on harm reduction.

[StreetLawPH](#)

A new organization of lawyers aims to increase the access to justice and legal aid of people who use drugs. They hold paralegal training for people who use drugs. They sensitize legal aid groups on drugs and drug use to facilitate strategic litigation that impacts harm reduction advocacy.

[RESpond and Break the Silence Against the Killings \(RESBAK\)](#)

RESBAK is an alliance of artists, media practitioners, and cultural workers. Its primary goal is to advance social awareness of the killings brought forth by the Duterte administration's 'war on drugs.'

[Harm Reduction International](#) is a leading NGO dedicated to reducing the negative health, social, and legal impacts of drug use and drug policy. We promote the rights of people who use drugs and their communities through research and advocacy to help achieve a world where drug policies and laws contribute to healthier, safer societies.

[Support Don't Punish](#) is a global grassroots-centered initiative supporting harm reduction and drug policies that prioritize public health and human rights. The campaign seeks to put harm reduction on the political agenda by strengthening the mobilization capacity of affected communities and their allies, opening a dialogue with policymakers, and raising awareness among the media and the public.

[National Harm Reduction Coalition](#) on The Principles of Harm Reduction - A handful of individual activists, educators, and people who used drugs began launching grassroots efforts to support members of their communities who were dying from this brutal disease. Brought together by their love and compassion for people who use drugs, these individuals formed a small working group that became the start of the Harm Reduction movement.

[RELEASE](#) is a UK-based national center of expertise on drugs and drugs law. RELEASE believes in a just and fair society where drug policies should reduce the harms associated with drugs and where those who use drugs are treated based on principles of human rights, dignity, and equality.

Transform Drug Policy Foundation is a charitable think tank that campaigns for the legal regulation of drugs both in the UK and internationally.

The New York Times - 'They Are Slaughtering Us Like Animals' "Inside President Rodrigo Duterte's brutal antidrug campaign in the Philippines, our photojournalist documented 57 homicide victims over 35 days."

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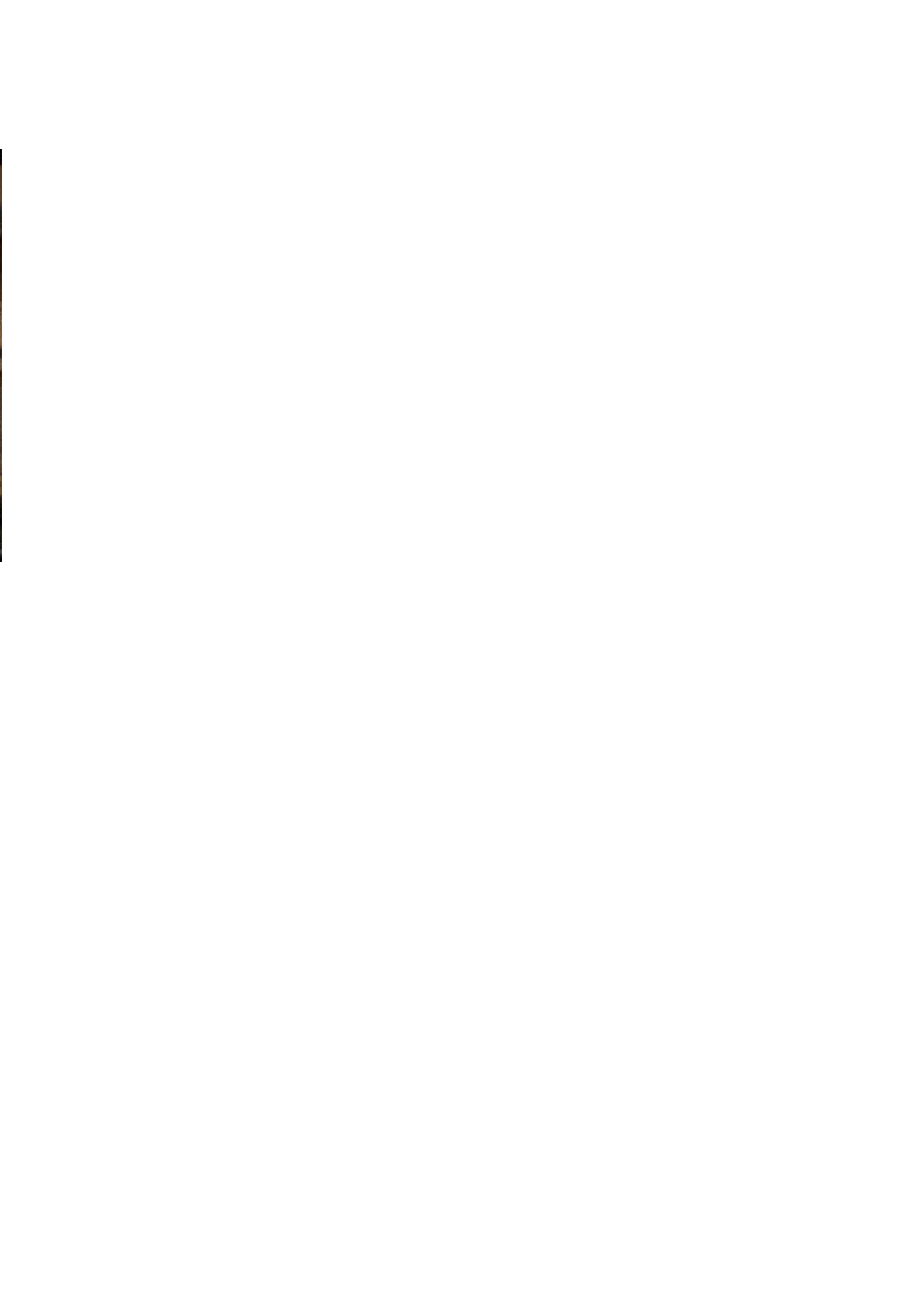
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Infographics used in the Fast Facts





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