

INTRODUCING THE FILM AND PROJECT TO THE AUDIENCE

ELDER ABUSE IN AMERICA

This intimate 16-minute documentary reveals a hidden crisis harming older Americans in every community across the country. The film brings you into the homes of four courageous American elders, to hear their poignant and real stories about the abuse, neglect or abandonment they have experienced. Elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver, trusted individual or stranger that harm an elder. This includes physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, financial and material exploitation, and neglect and self-neglect.

This is a problem from which no older American is safe, as elder abuse cuts across racial, religious, ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, geographic and gender lines. Worse yet, many elders don't even realize it is happening to them. With the rapid aging of America, the incidence of abuse will undoubtedly grow.

To begin to bring awareness to this epidemic the National Council on Aging (NCOA), a nonprofit service and advocacy organization and WITNESS, an international human rights organization, teamed up with elder rights advocates from across the country to produce ***An Age for Justice: Confronting Elder Abuse in America***.

The film empowers elders to speak out against abuse and unites the voices of abused elders, family members and experts from across our nation to help bring the issue of elder abuse out of the shadows. Ultimately, this story asks us to imagine what we would do if someone we loved was beaten, neglected or financially exploited and we were in a position to do something about it.

Explain Also:

- **What you hope the audience will get out of the film**
- **Post-screening support for any audience members who have an emotional reaction and will need to talk with someone**
- **Format of the post-screening discussion (if applicable)**
- **Introduce campaign:**

The **National Council on Aging (NCOA)** and **WITNESS** established the **Elder Justice Now campaign** in early 2009 with the support of the **Elder Justice Coalition**. As part of the campaign, **NCOA, WITNESS** and a team of elder rights advocates from across the country (that are now also first-time filmmakers) produced this video.

The film, *An Age for Justice*, seeks to increase public awareness of elder abuse in America and to empower elders to speak out about this hidden crisis so we – as a country – can further protect our seniors from abuse.