

## TORN APART: SEPARATED AT THE BORDER

# Discussion Questions

### FEAR OF RETURN

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- Vilma is from Guatemala. What was her life like there and why did she choose to leave?
- Imagine being in Vilma's position in Guatemala. Your life, and that of your child, is constantly in danger. What would you do?
- What could have happened if Vilma and her daughter, Yeisvi, were sent back to Guatemala?

### FAMILY SEPARATION

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- Do you remember hearing about family separations in the news last summer? How did that make you feel? What is it like to see Vilma and María's stories of family separation?
- Why do you think the family separation policy was implemented?
- Think back to the moment when Vilma and Yeisvi are reunited. How did you feel?

### IN A NEW COUNTRY

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- What are some of the challenges that Vilma, María, and other asylum seekers may face upon arriving in the United States?
- What do you imagine life is like for Vilma, María, and their children today, now that they have been reunited?
- What support systems do you think Vilma, María, and their families may need as they seek asylum in the U.S.?
- What are some of the differences that Vilma and María see in their children, after reunification?

### THE U.S. IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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- Experts have cited the long-term effects of family separation on children. Can you think of what some of them may be?
- Think about the social workers and attorneys who tried to assist Vilma and María. What are your observations on the roles that they played?
- Have you learned anything new or surprising about the U.S. immigration system through this documentary?
- How do you feel after seeing these stories?

### TAKING ACTION

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- After watching the documentary, take some time to think about ways you can stand up to today's injustices in the immigration system. What are some actions we can take to oppose harmful policies and support asylum seekers?
- What are some ways that you can bring visibility to issues that immigrant survivors of gender-based violence face in your community?