

Conversation Guide:

200 Meters

200 Meters, by Palestinian filmmaker Ameen Nayfeh, explores the impact of Israel's barrier, checkpoints, and permit system on an ordinary Palestinian family. Palestinians across the West Bank grapple with this reality on a daily basis; the system also affects Israeli Jews, even if they are not always conscious of its impact. We offer this conversation guide as an opportunity to reflect on the film in the context of the reality on the ground and to explore the themes and values it lifts up.

***A note about language:** In highly contentious situations such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, people may use different words for the same thing, and those words often carry added sensitivity and weight. For example, Jews or Palestinians may refer to the security fence, separation barrier, or apartheid wall depending on how they understand its purpose. In this guide we have used the term "barrier" in an effort to be as objectively descriptive as possible. We encourage you to explore the range of terms different people use and to discuss what values, fears, or commitments might lie behind each choice of words.



Themes to Explore

- **"Security fence" or "separation wall"?**
Israeli sources often describe the barrier as necessary to protect Israel from terrorism. Palestinian sources often describe it as a "land grab," "separation barrier," or even an "apartheid wall." What insights does this film offer to help navigate the tension and complexity reflected in these different perspectives?
- **Holding values in tension**
Encounter's Values include Ahavat Yisrael, a deep commitment to the Jewish people; Kvod Ha'adam, human dignity; and Areivut, a recognition that the fates of Jews and Palestinians are inextricably intertwined, and that this must guide our relationships. How does the film highlight the importance of, and tension between, these values?
- **The impact of separation**
Many Palestinians note that since the construction of the barrier, the only Jews they have regular contact with are soldiers and (often armed) settlers, a phenomenon reflected in the film. How does this lack of contact impact Palestinian society? How does it impact Israeli society?

About Encounter

Encounter is an educational organization committed to informed, courageous, and resilient Jewish communal leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As a nonpartisan educational organization, we support Jewish leaders and communities in serving as a positive force in the pursuit of a durable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that upholds the dignity, security, and rights of all parties. To learn more, visit www.encounterprograms.org.



Did You Know?

- Construction of the barrier officially began in 2002. Its planned route is approximately 700 kilometers, large segments of which have not yet been built.
- Israeli cars have yellow plates. Palestinian cars have white & green plates and may not enter Israel proper. West Bank Palestinians cannot legally drive yellow-plated cars or drive inside Israel proper.
- In 2020, around 26,000 Palestinians entered Israel without permits to seek work.



Questions for Discussion

- What were your thoughts about the barrier before viewing the film? How did your thinking shift or develop as you watched?
- How might the following characters describe their feelings about the barrier and its accompanying checkpoint and permit system: Mustafa and Salwa's children? The Israeli soldiers at checkpoints? Rami? The settlers inside the West Bank? The smugglers? The owner of the building under construction?
- When watching this film, what, if anything, troubled or concerned you? What inspired you or gave you hope?



Recommended Reading

[Israel has denied certain married couples the right to live together. Some hide. Others break up.](#), Washington Post, July 2021

[Israel's new family unification approvals bring hope to Palestinians](#), Ynet, October 2021

[Through the wire - Palestinians risk jail to work in Israel illegally](#), Times of Israel, November 2019

[Report on Palestinian workers in Israel](#), Kav LaOved Worker's Hotline, April 2021

[Palestinian workers in Israel: Opportunity or exploitation?](#), Jerusalem Post, August 2021