

BOOST Conference Film Festival
Facilitators:
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PARIAH

Dee Rees' film portrays a part of the coming out process in the world of Alike, a 17-year-old living with her family in Brooklyn. Her parents are beginning to suspect Alike may not be straight, while Alike is struggling with how to come out to her parents. The film shows how beliefs and fears can make it difficult to merge different worlds together.

"I know God doesn't make mistakes." – Alike's Mom

"Come as you are." – Laura

"I'm not GAY gay, I'm just doin my thing." – Alike's classmate

Discussion Points

While watching Pariah, you may want to consider the following questions:

How can your out-of-school time organization support youth who are coming out and feeling ostracized by their families?

Regardless of your own beliefs, how can you be supportive to a teen like Alike?

What resources would you provide to Alike? To Laura?

What advice would you give Alike's mother? Father? Sister?

There is a scene in which Alike overhears her peers having a conversation about the 'gay' girls. How can we make our programs more accepting and supportive of everybody?

How would you help create a safe environment where everyone feels accepted, especially to help decrease violence in schools against members of the LGBTQ communities and their allies?

Themes to Consider:

1. The coming out process
2. Religion, sexuality, and the family
3. Focus on appearances – both physical and as a family
4. Transitions between family, individual & cultural groups

See the love shine in through my cracks? See the light shine out through me? ... my spirit takes journey, my spirit takes flight... and I am not running, I am choosing. Running is not a choice, from the breaking. Breaking is freeing. Broken is freedom. I am not broken, I am free. -Alike

Websites

Human Rights Campaign: www.hrc.org

Family and Youth Services Bureau: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/>

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth: www.naehcy.org