



Hello Not In Our Town community,

With 2012 on the horizon, it's heartening to reflect on a successful, busy year. *Not In Our Town: Light in the Darkness*, a three-year-effort, premiered on PBS in September and sparked hundreds of conversations in your towns, classrooms and houses of faith.

While one film does its work, another was completed. Right before the Thanksgiving holiday, we shipped off our next film, *Not In Our Town: Class Actions*, our first PBS production to focus on education.

Most of all, we are proud to have served this great community of people who stand up to hate and intolerance and work to create better, safer, more inclusive places for all of us.

This issue we feature two people who took Not In Our Town stories and used them to create change in their own communities. Jesse and Priya are just two among many leaders and we thank you all for your support.

Wishing you happy holidays,

The Not In Our Town team

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New Film! Not In Our Town: Class Actions



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a Donation: This holiday season, please consider dedicating a gift in someone's name to Not In Our Town. [Here's how.](#)

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We are so excited about the potential of this new film to provide models of change for schools and campuses grappling with hate and bullying. Narrated by *Survivor* winner Yul Kwon, the half-hour documentary will debut on PBS stations on Feb. 13, 2012.

The film features these three stories:

- **University of Mississippi** football fans resurface the chant, "The South will rise again." Student leaders confront the divisive practice, sparking a campus visit from the Ku Klux Klan and a peaceful counter demonstration led by the student organization One Mississippi.
- New solutions are found in **Lancaster, a city east of Los Angeles**, after teen suicides in nearby towns shake the town into action. A middle school counselor starts an anti-bullying program that inspires a citywide campaign.
- The college town of **Bloomington, Ind.**, shocked after a Korean student was murdered by a white supremacist a decade ago, bands together again after anti-Semitic attacks on the eve of Hanukkah.

Stay tuned for information on how to view the film in your home and with your community or classroom.

High School Students Create Campaigns to End Bullying, Create Acceptance



"This type of racist oppression has negatively affected the student body's attitude towards education and their ability to succeed, and when I was told that I could change it, I was absolutely inspired! It was an extra plus for me that The Working Group pointed out nearby schools that had successfully done it."

We first met Priya when she came into the Not In Our Town offices this summer with American University's Discover the World of Communication Summer Program. The students came to design a model public relations campaign to end bullying and harassment and promote intercultural acceptance and awareness.

Watch the student-produced 30-second PSAs, "[Be an Upstander](#)," "[Acceptance](#)," and "[Light in the Darkness Promo: I Am Human](#)."

This fall, Priya returned to Fremont High School in Sunnyvale, Calif., inspired to make a change on her campus. [Read about her experience here.](#)

Bringing Community Together: Jesse Castaneda Takes On Silicon Valley

One highly motivated and persistent person can help spark significant

action in a community.

That's what Jesse Castaneda did in Silicon Valley. Because of his actions, key civic leaders in Santa Clara County renewed their commitment to prevent hate crimes. Since August 2011, Castaneda has been screening the film [*Not In Our Town: Light in the Darkness*](#) with civic leaders, teachers and immigrant groups.



While many leaders in the area have been aggressive about addressing hate crimes, the new film, and Jesse's persistence helped shed light on the dangers of anti immigrant violence, and encouraged people to come together to find new solutions.

[Read more...](#)

Light in the Darkness [on the radio in Grand Rapids, Mich.](#) and in [eight libraries in Washington state.](#)

Not In Our Town / The Working Group
PO Box 70232 | Oakland, CA 94612-0232 | Ph: 510.268.9675 | niot.org

