



Care and Choice at the End of Life

# Pilot Program:

# *Here Awhile* Film

# Discussion Guide

July 2020



# About the Film

*Here Awhile*, starring Anna Camp, follows a young woman dying of cancer as she moves to Portland, Oregon, to access the state's Death With Dignity Act.

Anna superbly brings to life the voice of someone fighting to end her life on her own terms. "This is a topic that people shy away from — most people don't want to talk about death," Anna told Compassion & Choices. "But we're all ultimately going to die at some point; it's inevitable... No one should be forced to suffer."

[Watch the Trailer](https://bit.ly/HereAwhileTrailer) at  
<https://bit.ly/HereAwhileTrailer>



# Host a Discussion Party!

It's easy to host a *Here While* discussion party. It's a lot like a book club discussion. You'll ask invited guests to watch the film in advance, then come together for a robust discussion.

We provide everything you need:

- Instructions for how to host a discussion party
- Discussion questions
- Details about how to get involved with Compassion & Choices



# How to:

## All you need:

- An invitation list, date and time
- A video conference platform, such as Zoom.
- Details about where to stream the film, see [hereawhile.com](http://hereawhile.com)
- Discussion questions  
*(you can also create your own)*

## A few tips:

- Suggest guests watch the film before joining the discussion
- Encourage guests to get involved with Compassion & Choices
- Provide feedback to us at [hereawhile@compassionandchoices.org](mailto:hereawhile@compassionandchoices.org)  
*(include anyone interested in getting more involved)*

# Discussion questions:

1. What struck you the most watching this film? Did it make you think about death and dying differently?
2. Why do you think death is so hard to talk about openly in our culture?
3. The theme of acceptance runs through the movie in many different ways, what are your thoughts about acceptance as it relates to a patient's preference at the end of life?

# Discussion Questions (*continued*)

4. If it is not already legal in your state, do you think death with dignity could pass in your community? What are the steps you would need to take to help the movement?
5. Now that you've watched the film, do you think you'll interact differently with someone living with a terminal diagnosis? Do you think you would prepare for your own death differently?
6. Are you personally willing to support such an effort?

COMPASSION & CHOICES  
**IMPROVES CARE,**  
EXPANDS OPTIONS,  
AND **EMPOWERS**  
**EVERYONE** TO  
CHART THEIR  
**END-OF-LIFE** JOURNEY.

# What you can do now!

- Volunteer with Compassion & Choices
- Email or call your state legislator
- Become a storyteller
- Stay informed with the Staying Stronger Together seminar series
- Donate
- Start your own advance care plan



# Resources

## End-of-Life Care Planning

- Plan Your Care Resource Center
- Tools to Finish Strong
- Consultation Services
  - Phone: 800.247.7421
  - Email: [eolc@CompassionAndChoices.org](mailto:eolc@CompassionAndChoices.org)

## COVID-19 Toolkit

Available in English and Spanish

- Understanding Your Options
- Using Telehealth to Reduce Your Risk
- Advance Care Planning
- A COVID-19 Addendum to Your Advance Directive
- Dying in the Age of the Pandemic
- Impact on Underserved Communities

Find these resources and more at:  
[CompassionAndChoices.org/end-of-life-planning](https://CompassionAndChoices.org/end-of-life-planning)

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