



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **American Public Television, WQED and Not In Our Town Release Film to Help Communities Come Together To Combat and Prevent Hate**

*New Documentary "Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life" Tells the Story of a City's Transformation and Healing After Deadly Antisemitic Attack*

[Pittsburgh, PA] – ***Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life*** (80:00) documents a community's powerful response to hate and antisemitism in the aftermath of the assault on three congregations at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. The lives of eleven people were taken on October 27, 2018 in the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history.

For three years the film follows survivors, families of the victims, diverse community members, students and civic leaders as they examine their vulnerabilities and the impact of rising antisemitism, racism, hate speech, and gun violence. Against the backdrop of a tumultuous period in the country, the film shows the powerful display of unity in a moment of crisis, the resilience of a vibrant city, and a community that has faced violence and trauma working to heal and grapple with what it means to be "Stronger than Hate."

"Pittsburgh has provided a model for what people can do to combat antisemitism and hate," said Executive Producer Patrice O'Neill, CEO of Not in Our Town, the globally recognized team that has produced films on successful community response to hate for more than 25 years. "As we watched the events unfold in Pittsburgh, what we found is a community that cared deeply for one another. We saw a diverse cross-section of the community standing together in the face of horrific violence."

The release of the film marks the 5 year commemoration of the Tree of Life massacre. O'Neill said the message of how Pittsburgh has dealt with the attack is more important than ever, as the country has since seen an escalation of antisemitism and hate motivated violence in the years since the attack.

“Racism and antisemitism are intertwined in the messaging that fueled recent mass hate crime killings,” said O’Neill. “We can do something to stop the spread of hate, and our local communities are places where we can effectively make a change that can be felt in people’s lives. We have to find new ways to mobilize the vast majority of people in our cities and towns who don’t want the spread of hate speech and violence to harm themselves, their children or their neighbors.”

Not In Our Town is continuing its ongoing work to spark civic and educational engagement to address hate and bias with this latest film in their 25 year history of films for public television. Through the Repairing the World campaign, the film can be made available free of charge to civic and faith leaders, community groups, schools, national organizations, government agencies and others for public screenings and discussions, town hall meetings, internal trainings, conference workshops, and other activities.

For a press kit, film trailer, high-resolution images, lesson guide for educators, and resources for screening Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life in your community, visit: [www.repairintheworldfilm.org](http://www.repairintheworldfilm.org).

#### About Not In Our Town (NIOT)

Developed in 1995 by The Working Group, an Oakland, California-based nonprofit strategic media company, Not In Our Town (NIOT) is a movement to stop hate, address bullying, and build safe, inclusive communities for all. NIOT films, new media, and organizing tools help local leaders build vibrant, diverse cities and towns, where everyone can participate. Learn more at [www.NIOT.org](http://www.NIOT.org).

#### About WQED

WQED was an experiment in educational community-supported television that was the forerunner to PBS. Today, WQED is a multimedia powerhouse that is as much a part of Pittsburgh as the three rivers. WQED is WQED-TV (PBS); WQED World; WQED Create; WQED Showcase; WQED PBS KIDS Channel; Classical WQED-FM 89.3/Pittsburgh; Classical WQED-FM 89.7/Johnstown; the Pittsburgh Concert Channel at WQED-HD2 (89.3-2FM) and online; streaming and apps, and WQED Interactive.

WQED is a premier leader in broadcast and digital video production, producing socially relevant, historical, arts, entertainment and educational programming resources. WQED’s Learning Neighborhood model creates an education continuum dedicated to serving our youngest neighbors through Ready To Learn programming, while engaging high school students learning filmmaking and exploring employment opportunities through the WQED Film Academy.

## About American Public Television (APT)

American Public Television (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations. Founded in 1961, APT distributes 250 new program titles per year and more than one-third of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. APT's diverse catalog includes prominent documentaries, performance, dramas, how-to programs, classic movies, children's series and news and current affairs programs. Midsomer Murders, America's Test Kitchen, AfroPoP, Rick Steves' Europe, Pacific Heartbeat, Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Television, The Indian Doctor, Legacy List with Matt Paxton, Lidia's Kitchen, Kevin Belton's New Orleans Kitchen, Simply Ming, The Best of the Joy of Painting with Bob Ross, Front & Center, James Patterson's Kid Stew and NHK Newslines are a sampling of APT's programs, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service and distributes Create<sup>®</sup>TV — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming — and WORLD<sup>™</sup>, public television's premier news, science and documentary channel. To find out more about APT's programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

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