



EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PADMA LAKSHMI | ROXANE GAY | NAVA MAU | DEBBIE MILLMAN | ALOK VAID-MENON | CHASE JOYNT | FAWZIA MIRZA



SURVIVOR



MADE

DIRECTED BY DREW DENNY

THE IMPACT GUIDE



LEVEL GROUND PRODUCTIONS AND BABY DAAL PRODUCTIONS PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ALLSTATE FOUNDATION AND PRINCIPAL FOUNDATION "SURVIVOR MADE"
DIRECTED BY DREW DENNY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY YAHNA HARRIS EDITOR CARLA RODA ORIGINAL MUSIC BY CHRISTINA GAILLARD WITH SONGS FROM FKA TWIGS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHASE JOYNT, FAWZIA MIRZA, ROXANE GAY, NAVA MAU, ALOK VAID MENON, DEBBIE MILLMAN, AND PADMA LAKSHMI PRODUCED BY SAMANTHA CURLEY AND ANDRIA WILSON MIRZA

COMMUNITY REVIEWS

“THIS FILM GAVE ME HOPE AT A TIME WHEN HOPE IS SO HARD TO COME BY.”

- NIC, SEATTLE, WA

“I’M NOW INSPIRED TO MAKE MY OWN DOCUMENTARY ABOUT MY LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A TRANS SURVIVOR.”

- MERCY, OAKLAND, CA

“AN EXCEPTIONAL FILM THAT IS A TESTAMENT TO RESILIENCE, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF COMMUNITY AND EMPOWERMENT.”

- JULIA, COLORADO

“FINALLY, A FILM THAT DIVES DEEP INTO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ITS IMPACTS BY HIGHLIGHTING RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH AND HEALING INSTEAD OF DWELLING ON TRAUMA.”

- ANONYMOUS, SEATTLE, WA

“SURVIVOR MADE HAS INSPIRED ME TO MAKE CHANGE IN MY LIFE AND IN THE WORLD.”

- FREDDY, LOS ANGELES, CA

“I SAW MYSELF IN THIS FILM.”

- JENNIFER, NEW YORK

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Take Action. Shop GIFTED. Share Your Thoughts.
THIS IS WHERE POSSIBILITY BEGINS.

The issue.

**ECONOMIC ABUSE
IS THE DELIBERATE
CONTROL, LIMITATION,
CONCEALMENT, OR
WITHHOLDING OF
SOMEONE ELSE'S
FINANCES TO GAIN
CONTROL AND
CREATE DEPENDENCY.**

WHAT SURVIVORS SAY:

2,163

survivors across 49 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico highlighted four urgent opportunities for change in a 2017 FreeFrom study.

92.3%

of survivors face economic abuse, demanding stronger financial protections.

57.9%

have their bank accounts controlled, highlighting the need for financial independence.

74.1%

lack safe bank accounts, crucial for rebuilding and safety.

SURVIVORS NEED \$1,567 ON AVERAGE TO MEET BASIC NEEDS AND ACHIEVE STABILITY.

SOURCE: FreeFrom, Support Every Survivor: How Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality, and Disability Shape Survivors' Experiences and Needs, 2022, <https://www.freefrom.org/support-every-survivor>.

What it looks like:

- **HINDERING JOB OPPORTUNITIES**
- **OPENING CREDIT CARDS IN SOMEONE'S NAME, CREATING DEBT**
- **DAMAGING CREDIT SCORES**
- **CONTROLLING PAYCHECKS**
- **IMPOSING AN ALLOWANCE WITHOUT CONSENT**
- **DISCLOSING PRIVATE INFORMATION AT WORK**
- **BLOCKING SAVINGS TOWARD PERSONAL GOALS**
- **CLOSELY MONITORING SPENDING**
- **WITHHOLDING ESSENTIAL IDENTIFICATION OR FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS**

AT WHAT COST?

A female survivor in the U.S. faces a lifetime personal cost of nearly

\$105,000

In 2003, the cost of intimate partner violence (IPV) in the U.S. was annually over

\$8.3 billion

Adjusted for inflation, in 2023 that's about

\$13.88 billion

58% of the 87,000 women intentionally killed in 2017 were murdered by an intimate partner or family member.

SOURCES: Cora Peterson et al., "Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 55, no. 4 (October 2018): 433–44, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2018.04.049>.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States* (Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003), <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/6543/>; Wendy Max et al., "The Economic Toll of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States," *Violence and victims* 19, no. 3 (June 2004): 259–272, <https://doi.org/10.1891/vivi.19.3.259.65767>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UN Women, *Gender-related Killings of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide): Global estimates of female intimate partner/family-related homicides in 2022, 2023*, https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Femicide_brief_2023.pdf.

REFLECT

Here are some questions to ponder as you watch the film.

Feel free to reflect silently or share with a neighbor or a friend.

BEFORE YOU WATCH

- When you think of a survivor of gender-based violence (GBV), what comes to mind?
- What movies or T.V. shows have you seen that feature GBV? How did these make you feel while watching and after?
- What are some ways society and survivors can mutually support each other? What's already being done?

REFLECT

AFTER YOU WATCH

- How did the film challenge or differ from your expectations?
- Did you connect with any of the cast members? What moments resonated with you most?
- What did you learn about GBV from these survivor stories? What deepened your understanding of what survivors are subjected to?
- Have you heard survivors speak about their lives after abuse before? How did this shift your perspective on what survivorship and healing look like?
- Financial abuse is one of the most common forms of GBV, yet it's rarely depicted in the media. Why do you think that is?
- What new insights do you have about how society and survivors can mutually support each other? What feels possible now?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Spread the word about SURVIVOR MADE

- Host a screening of SURVIVOR MADE for your community
- Share your reflections
- Follow and tag @survivormadocumentary with your reactions on social



**“A DOCUMENTARY
SHOWCASING
SURVIVOR JOY,
HEALING, AND
SUCCESS THAT
MAKES ME FEEL
SAFE TO SHARE
MY OWN STORY.”**

- KASHAOKIWAKI, LOS ANGELES, CA

SAFETY PLAN FOR YOURSELF & LOVED ONES

Economic abuse happens when someone controls or hides money to create dependency. Here are some things to consider as you evaluate your situation. You are not alone. Contact a [local domestic violence agency](#) for free, confidential help in creating plans for safety, each step of the way.

DURING THE RELATIONSHIP

- Set aside extra money in a private account, or safely hide it if this is not possible.
- Have a backup plan in case this extra money is discovered.
- If you trust friends or family, ask 1-2 safe people to hold small amounts for emergencies.
- You are not alone. Reach out to [a local domestic violence agency](#) for free, confidential support in creating a detailed plan to flee.

WHEN LEAVING

- Ensure only you have access to your bank account, updating deposits and PINs.
- Take at least half of any joint accounts - or 75% if you have children.
- Track how you spend funds, as you may need to explain it later.
- You are not alone. Contact [a local domestic violence agency](#) for guidance on safely managing these funds in the first critical months after leaving.

AFTER LEAVING AND BEYOND

- Be mindful of who you share your experience with, including employers or housing programs. Trust those who will respect your privacy.
- Some laws protect survivors, but discrimination can still happen.
- You are not alone. [Domestic violence agencies](#) offer free support, legal advocacy, and help with your next steps.

SURVIVOR FINANCIAL SECURITY POLICY MAP & SCORECARD

A ROADMAP FOR CHANGE

Survivors face outdated policies and systemic gaps while building financial security. It doesn't have to be this way. Changing the laws that shape economic policies can change outcomes—and lives. Local wins are within reach, and they are the key to lasting progress.

Our National Survivor Financial Security Policy Map and Scorecard is a powerful tool for action.

WHAT THIS TOOL DOES

- Breaks down state laws that impact survivor financial security—in plain language.
- Evaluates how well each state supports survivors in building wealth.
- Recommends survivor-centered policies to close the gaps.
- Equips everyone—survivors, the movement, and changemakers—with action steps to make an impact.

**SEE WHERE YOUR STATE STANDS.
LEARN WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE.
TAKE ACTION TO CREATE A WORLD
FREE FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.**

EXPLORE THE MAP AND TAKE ACTION

#SURVIVORMADE WORKPLACES

FREEFROM surveyed

2,421

survivors on how being subjected to harm impacts their ability to work and how employers can better support them.

To refine findings and develop recommendations, **FREEFROM** then hosted four virtual focus groups with 34 survivors.

#SURVIVORMADE WORKPLACES

A reflection from our community:

“A LOT OF TIMES SURVIVORS ARE UNDERVALUED IN THE WORK EXPERIENCES THAT THEY HAVE IN WORK ENVIRONMENTS, SO HOW DO WE CREATE A SPACE WHERE THEY’RE MET WITH THE UNDERSTANDING [AND] THE EXPERTISE THAT THEY HAVE WHEN THEY COME INTO THESE SPACES?”

SURVIVOR-LED RESEARCH

Of the survivors surveyed:

96.3%

reported having been subjected to economic abuse

90.3%

reported that the harm they were subjected to interfered with their ability to work

81.1%

said that access to survivor-specific workplace support or benefits would help them stay employed

Survivors in focus groups said:

“THESE FINDINGS SHOULD BE DISSEMINATED TO EMPLOYERS, HR DEPARTMENTS, AND EMPLOYEES THROUGH WORKING GROUPS, MEETINGS, AND PRESENTATIONS.”

“ACCESS TO TOOLKITS AND RESOURCES WOULD GREATLY HELP THEM ADVOCATE FOR WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENTS AND RAISE AWARENESS WITH EMPLOYERS.”

WHAT'S NEXT?

FREEFROM will use these findings to:

- 1.** Create an advocacy toolkit for survivors to recommend survivor-centered policies to their workplaces.
- 2.** Develop an Employer Handbook to guide workplace leaders in building survivor-supportive environments.

**SURVIVORS MAKE IT CLEAR:
THEY ARE COMPETENT, CAPABLE,
AND EAGER TO CONTRIBUTE VALUE
IN THE WORKPLACE. BY SUPPORTING
SURVIVORS, BUSINESSES CAN UNLOCK
GREATER SUCCESS.**

Source: FreeFrom, Workers' Manifesto Safety Fund 2021 (forthcoming).

THE GIFTED MODEL

AT GIFTED, we understand what it looks like to move from surviving to thriving—so we do business in a way that makes it happen.

SURVIVOR-OWNED

- We purchase products from survivor-entrepreneurs, helping them build wealth and expand their businesses.
- Survivor-entrepreneurs grow from small part-time projects to full-time operations with multiple employees.
- These entrepreneurs prioritize hiring people with employment barriers, breaking the cycle of wealth disparity for marginalized communities like survivors.

SURVIVOR-OPERATED

- We pay survivors a living wage of \$38.46/hour and offer flexible hours to help them balance work with parenting and recovery.
- Entry-level positions are easy to learn, requiring no prior experience.
- We provide professional development and training in skills like marketing, merchandising, and financial forecasting, enabling employees to advance in their careers.

THIS IS RADICAL COMMUNITY CARE THAT EVERYONE CAN BENEFIT FROM.

CATCH UP WITH THE CAST

ANA

As seen in **SURVIVOR MADE**, Ana embraced a larger leadership role at GIFTED as Director of Social Enterprise, where she now leads the incredible GIFTED team. She's sharing the powerful lessons of survivor entrepreneurship far and wide, including a trip to Rwanda in 2023 to introduce the GIFTED model for building thriving workplaces for survivors. Ana also took her daughters to El Salvador, where they experienced her roots and met their family for the first time. Elena and Lilly are thriving—Elena recently won first place in her 3rd grade regional track meet, while Lilly became her school's Valedictorian, giving a heartfelt speech thanking her mom for always believing in her.

ELY

Since **SURVIVOR MADE** wrapped, Ely, her sister Diana, and their team celebrated Earthy Corazon's one-year anniversary with a joyful community bash in December 2023. The shop has become a hub for healing, culture, and art, featuring over 20 local artists and small businesses. Ely, Diana, Brenda Ismerio, and Briana Morales have been key to its growth over the past two years. During this time, Ely's father was diagnosed with cancer, and she has made several trips to Mexico to care for him, which has strengthened their family bond. Despite these ups and downs, Earthy Corazon has stayed busy with workshops and now retails in over 20 U.S. stores. The shop was also featured in the L.A. Times as a top Latinx-owned destination for holiday shopping. Ely continues to focus on her spiritual and mental well-being through therapy and ceremonies.

CATCH UP WITH THE CAST

MARY

Mary is currently working as a case manager for asylum seekers at CHIRLA, a non-profit organization. She helps clients navigate the services they need as they settle in the U.S. It's challenging but rewarding work, especially since many have escaped difficult situations and face gender-based violence and trauma. On a personal note, her 10-year-old daughter Islanny has started taking self-defense classes and absolutely loves them.

INDIAN

Indian's company, **PACT Bodycare**, continues to operate out of Los Angeles, CA, expanding its offerings to include premium herbal teas and natural feminine care products. Indian's family has also grown, and she now enjoys spending time with her spouse, two sons, and beautiful baby girl while managing her business.

MARTHA

Martha continues to focus on herself and her kids, all of whom are now involved in various sports. Her daughter is about to begin her final year of middle school. She loves supporting her children, taking them to practices and games, and cherishing their family time together. Their fur family has also grown to include six cuddly pets. Martha continues to thrive as a Shipping Clerk at GIFTED, where she ensures curated gifts are sent with care and intention.

CATCH UP WITH THE CAST

JESS

Jess has collaborated with state legislators, co-authoring numerous anti-violence bills, six of which have been enacted into California law. Their ethically and sustainably sourced plant-based body care and traditional medicine products continue to grow in popularity at GIFTED and at various LA community markets. On a personal note, their daughter Mia is in an all-girl band and recently wrote, produced, and debuted in a play about catcalling, inspired by her experiences as a pre-teen in Los Angeles.

JEANINE

Since starting her role at GIFTED, Jeanine has been living independently, which has given her the space to focus on herself and her beloved dog, who is her world. She's been working on her healing journey, practicing self-love, and discovering balance within. Professionally, as the Operations Manager at GIFTED, Jeanine led the organization's first-ever community market, providing a platform for 37 survivor-entrepreneurs.

CHERRY

Cherry continues to thrive in her role as Sales & Marketing Manager at GIFTED, growing brand awareness and mission with creativity, joy, and intention. Her family is thriving, with her two oldest children now graduates and family vacations and holiday traditions kept alive. Cherry's business [HerFortitude](#), a reflection of her thriving forties, is growing and is now featured at GIFTED.

ENTREPRENEURIAL WISDOM BY SURVIVORS, FOR SURVIVORS

“BALANCE PROFIT AND PASSION: PROFIT WILL SUSTAIN YOUR BUSINESS, PASSION WILL SUSTAIN YOU AS THE BUSINESS OWNER.”

– INDIAN, PACT BODYCARE

“THERE IS SO MUCH SPACE TO DREAM WHEN WE OVERCOME THE FEAR OF UNCERTAINTY. SOMETHING NEW AND UNFAMILIAR COULD BE THE START [OF] A HEALING JOURNEY, FOR YOURSELF AND [FOR] THOSE AROUND YOU.”

– ELY, FOUNDER & ARTISAN, EARTHY CORAZON

“EMBRACE CURIOSITY AND REMEMBER YOUR WHY. WHEN FACING HARDSHIP, GO BACK TO YOUR WHY – IT WILL FUEL YOUR DETERMINATION TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD.”

– CHERRY, HERFORTITUDE

ENTREPRENEURIAL WISDOM BY SURVIVORS, FOR SURVIVORS

“ENTREPRENEURSHIP CAN TAKE A TOLL ON YOUR MENTAL HEALTH, ENERGY, AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, BE GRACIOUS TO YOURSELF, AND BE PROUD OF YOURSELF.”

– ANA, ELLI GREETINGS

“CREATE OFFERINGS THAT BRING YOU AND OTHERS JOY. JOY CREATES THE FUTURES WE ARE DREAMING OF AND KEEPS US GOING WHEN THE WORK IS HARD OR HEARTBREAKING.”

– JESS, BROWN SUGAR HONEY CHILD

“YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED ALREADY TO SUCCEED. REMEMBER THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS. AND REMEMBER TO BE SO PROUD OF YOURSELF EVERY SINGLE DAY BECAUSE YOU ARE INVESTING IN YOURSELF.”

– SONYA, FREEFROM, CHANI

THE CREATIVE TEAM

I'm so proud that our film, **SURVIVOR MADE**, truly is made by a team of survivors. Our engagement with the participants and themes of the film is not just a professional endeavor but is an everyday element of our lives — we are members of the communities we're representing. This did not make our process easier. There were moments when members of our crew collapsed into tears right alongside our on-camera participants, and there were shoot days when members of our crew realized that the relationships they were in at that time were not safe. So we leaned on each other — we hugged, we housed each other, we created our own systems of safety within an industry that so often causes us harm. The benefit of survivors representing survivors isn't just our authenticity or the sensitivity we bring to the treatment of our participants or the hard-won expertise we bring to the craft of telling their stories — though all of that, of course, matters. It's also the opportunities this rare challenge catalyzed for us to catch each other in various states of falling out of safety and to remind each other that safety is something we all deserve. We made this film for survivors to see themselves represented on screen, many for the first time. And we hope that those who have not experienced abuse will begin to understand us, and to learn how to love us, a little bit better.



DREW DENNY
Director & Producer

PRODUCED BY



**SAMANTHA
CURLEY**



**ANDRIA WILSON
MIRZA**

A LEVEL GROUND PRODUCTION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH **BABY DAAL PRODUCTIONS**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS



**FAWZIA
MIRZA**



**CHASE
JOYNT**

FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS



**PADMA
LAKSHMI**



**ROXANE
GAY**



**NAVA
MAU**



**ALOK
VAID-MENON**



**DEBBIE
MILLMAN**



With songs by
FKA TWIGS

“SURVIVOR MADE is exactly what the title suggests — a moving film by survivors about survivors for survivors. The film offers a necessary reminder that there is an economic and moral imperative to providing survivors the financial lifelines they need to rise out of poverty, support themselves and their families, and build lives for themselves free from abuse, lives where they don’t just survive but also thrive. Empowering survivors of gender-based violence is a fight we must all take up, in our communities and with our elected leaders, and the warmth and clear-eyed intelligence of this film is a resounding argument for why.”

— ROXANE GAY



CARLA RODA

Editor



YAHNA HARRIS

Director of Photography



CHRISTINA GAILLARD

Composer



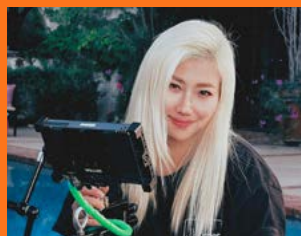
VIDHISHA MAHESH

Production Coordinator



LENA LEE

Gaffer



INA YANG-POPPER

Camera operator



HILARY STEWART

Audio Supervisor



LAUREN FISHER

Graphics



JOANNA KATCHER

Sound Designer



DAYMIAN MEJIA

Colorist

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION COORDINATORS	Jamie Tubbs Tyrrell Shaffner	Evelyn Martinez
ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER	Camila Franco Ribeiro Gomide	
ADDITIONAL CAMERA OPERATORS	Kim Cohen	Nicole Bramley
DIT	Ino Yang-Popper	Christina Helm
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Kaila Williams	
INDIAN'S HAIR AND MAKEUP	Jasmine Artis	
CHERRY'S HAIR AND MAKEUP	Joel Sebastian	
SET PHOTOGRAPHER	Michelle Felix	
ASSISTANT EDITORS	Lily Cosgrove Kyle Boberg	Guiselle Gonzalez
ADDITIONAL GRAPHICS	Chelsea Marotta	
FINISHING BY	Alter Ego	Dunya Post
FINISHING ARTIST	Corey Martinez	
ALTER EGO EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Pravina Sippy	
DUNYA POST EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Kashif Pasta	
CLOSED CAPTIONING	StormMiguel Florez	
AUDIO DESCRIPTION	Descriptive Video Works	
PRODUCTION COUNSEL	Cathie Saadeh, Saadeh P.C.	
INSURANCE	Provided by Hiscox Brokered by Front Row Insurance	
MUSIC SUPERVISOR	Christina Gaillard	
ORIGINAL SCORE	Composed, performed, recorded, and mixed by Christina Gaillard	
IMPACT STRATEGY AND PRODUCTION SERVICES	Red Owl	

SHOPPING IS THE NEW INVESTING AT GIFTED

Ending GBV starts with investing in survivors, and 100% of your purchase at GIFTED does just that.



Honor the resilience and creativity of survivors everywhere with your SURVIVOR MADE sweatshirt—community care, done cozy.

PURCHASE HERE

**RECLAIM YOUR
PURCHASING
POWER**

Enter **POWER** at checkout for **10%** off your next order

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