

Discussion Questions for *Mama Gloria*

After viewing Mama Gloria, reflect on the film and consider the following questions:

General Discussion Questions for *Mama Gloria*

- What surprised you most about the film?
- What special challenges confront our transgender elders?
- In what ways are these difficulties exacerbated by race?
- Gloria Allen grew up during the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960. How do you think that impacted her resiliency? How do you think that contributed to chronic trauma that so many people of her generation have experienced?
- How is Gloria a trailblazer for her community? How did her experience inspire others?
- Isolation is pervasive among transgender seniors, what ideas do you have to help address this problem?
- According to the Human Rights Campaign, 2020 was the deadliest year on record for violence against transgender and gender non-conforming people since HRC¹ began tracking the data. What kind of measures can you identify that might make 2021 safer for transgender people and gender non-conforming (GNC) people?
- The majority of trans and GNC people killed are Black females, most of them under 30. What do you think accounts for this large disparity?
- Did Gloria's reaction to the violence she experienced surprise you?
- What kind of resources should be available for people struggling with traumatic violence?
- Family has been a critical element of Gloria Allen's life. In what ways has your family expanded or diminished your ability to meet your full potential?

¹ <https://www.hrc.org/press-releases/marking-the-deadliest-year-on-record-hrc-releases-report-on-violence-against-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-people>

- Has viewing this documentary changed your perception of transgender people? If so, in what ways? How has it changed the way you perceive transgender elders?
- What societal truths are revealed by this documentary?
- Do you have any lingering questions about Gloria and her life story?
- Why is it important to share stories such as *Mama Gloria*?

College Campuses

- What was the single greatest take-away you learned by watching this documentary?
- Have any of your classes raised the issues confronting transgender people of color? If so, in what way? If not, which classes would support a discussion or unit on transgender people?
- What are two social challenges among trans elders that were highlighted in the film?
- Can you think of other perspectives in the documentary that were not addressed?
- Recent studies indicate that attitudes toward transgender people are more positive in the young adult community. Do your own experiences on campus suggest this is true? Why or why not?
- Can you think of any virtual or face-to-face service initiatives that might support transgender elders?
- What critical message does *Mama Gloria* provide for transgender young adults?

Law School Campuses

- What kind of policy changes are needed to support our transgender elders?
- In what ways do wealth disparities make things more challenging for Gloria Allen and other transgender elders?
- How can the government best respond to the threats on transgender rights ushered in under the prior administration? What would you identify for the Biden administration as top priorities in this arena?

- The Equality Act would offer expansive anti-discrimination protection for LGBTQ people. LGBTQ advocates say the state patchwork protections currently in place are not enough. Why do you think a comprehensive federal statute is needed to protect LGBTQ people?
- The Equality Act has generated historic support from the business community. To what do you attribute this corporate commitment to anti-discrimination protection for LGBTQ people?
- What are the top two public policy arguments you can advance in support of the Equality Act?
- What is the strongest legal precedent for Congress to pass the Equality Act?
- How will the law improve the quality of life for Black trans elders such as Gloria? What kind of practical improvements will it advance? What kind of psychological benefits will the legislation spur among people in the LGBTQ community?