

BEYOND UTOPIA



SCREENING GUIDE

The most interesting thing about North Korea isn't the dictator. It's the people.

Changing the narrative to focus on the North Korean people rather than politics has long been a key pillar of our work.

This film does just that.

Beyond Utopia is a story about the strength and resilience of ordinary North Koreans, despite the staggering circumstances they face. The film embeds the viewer into the lives of several people as they navigate the path to freedom — a mother desperate to reunite with her son, a family of five as they attempt their perilous escape, and a South Korean pastor who's devoted his life to helping North Korean refugees.

It cannot be overstated how rare this glimpse into this modern-day underground railroad is, and what a herculean feat it was for this film to be made. **We're thrilled that it's now available to watch from anywhere via streaming! You can help make an impact by sharing *Beyond Utopia* with your community.** Here's how:



Planning the Event

BEFORE THE EVENT

Plan & Promote:

1. Find a location. This could be a room on your campus, a community center, or even your own living room! No need to make this complicated — anywhere that people can gather to watch a movie will work.
2. Double-check your equipment. Test your subscription/login before the event, play the first minute of the film to confirm there are no hiccups, check the sound to ensure everyone will be able to hear, make sure you have plenty of seating, etc.
3. Spread the word! Collaborate with other groups, create a Facebook event, send an email invitation to your friends and family, post flyers, share the [film's trailer](#) on social media, table on campus, and more.
4. Prepare snacks and refreshments. People love free food, so you can ask local restaurants and grocery stores for donations. *Having a hard time getting donations? You can check out a local dollar store and buy movie theater candy and popcorn to feed a crowd for under \$20!*
5. Review the rest of this screening kit so on the day of the event, you're ready to go!



AT THE EVENT



Introduce:

1. Thank the audience for being there! Give them a quick overview of what the night will entail, where the restrooms are, and ask them to silence their cell phones.
2. Share how you first learned about LiNK and why you care about the North Korean people. If it's a smaller group, you can also ask if anyone wants to share what brought them to the event.
3. Give a brief introduction. Here's a script you can use:

Liberty in North Korea is an international NGO working with the North Korean people as they achieve their freedom. LiNK helps North Korean refugees escape through a modern-day underground railroad and supports them in their new lives to become changemakers, advocates, and leaders on this issue. To date, they've helped over 1,300 North Koreans and their children reach freedom and resettle in South Korea and the United States. LiNK also develops strategies and projects to empower North Koreans inside the country with access to outside information and technology.

Four years ago, LiNK was introduced to the Beyond Utopia team and an opportunity to document the rescue journey. The film follows two North Korean families through their harrowing escape, and a South Korean pastor who's devoted his life to helping North Korean refugees. Liberty in North Korea is proud to be the impact partner for this film and share ways that people can get involved — like tonight — and their CEO Hannah Song is an executive producer on the film.

5. Let the audience know there will be a short discussion afterward and that you'll be sharing how they can take action, make an impact, and join this global movement standing with the North Korean people.

After the Film

1. Ask the audience if anyone wants to share thoughts or feelings after watching the film. While you might not be able to answer all their questions, we included an FAQ section so you can help navigate the conversation!
2. Share the following 3 ways people in the audience can get involved before leaving today:

How to get involved

1 Learn

- Stay connected to Liberty in North Korea! Pull out your phones right now and do two things that will take less than a minute: Follow [@libertyinnorthkorea](https://www.instagram.com/libertyinnorthkorea) on Instagram.
- Scan this QR code. Enter your name and email address so you can get more inspiring stories, advocacy campaign alerts, and updates on future events. (Alternatively, you can have a sign-up sheet to collect names and emails. Then you can sign everyone up after the event.)





2 Give

Every dollar you donate is not only tax deductible but it makes a critical impact in the lives of North Korean people. Here are two ways to give:

– Start a fundraising page and ask your friends and family to help you hit your goal.

Get started at fundraise.libertyinnorthkorea.org

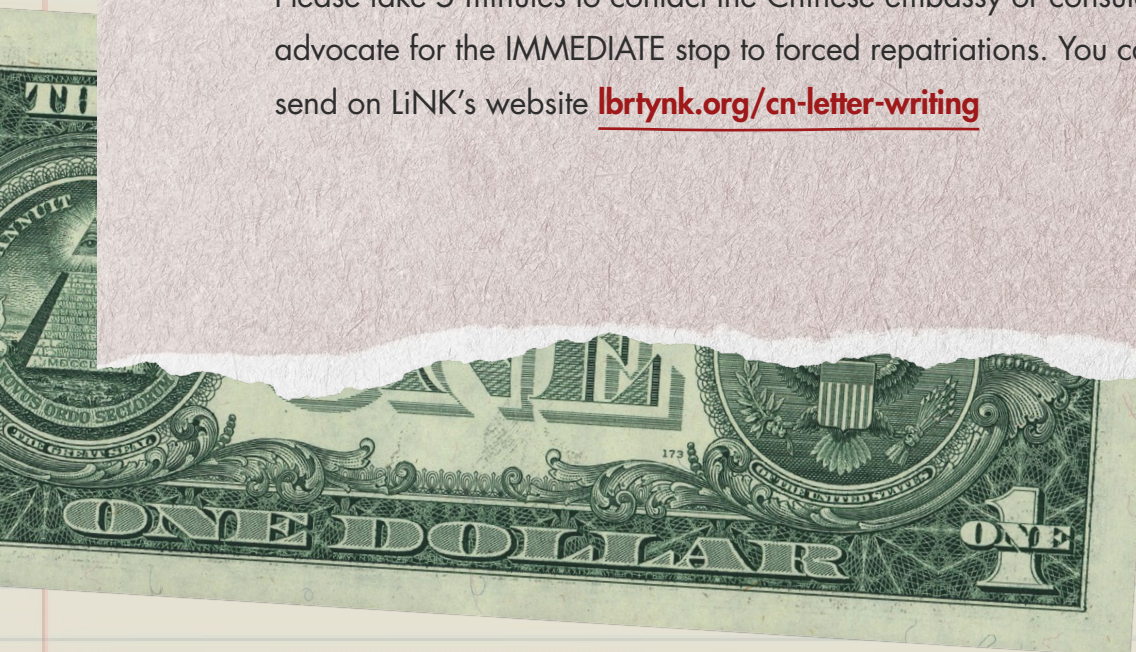
– Become a monthly donor at any amount and help us continue this vital work.

Sign up at libertyinnorthkorea.org/donate

3 Advocate

As you saw in the film, North Korean refugees in China are at risk of being caught and sent back to North Korea, where they may be tortured, imprisoned in horrific forced labor camps, and even executed. Recently, the Chinese government forcibly sent back 600 North Koreans, and they will quietly continue to do so. We need to let them know that the world is watching, and we demand that North Korean refugees be treated with humanity and dignity.

Please take 5 minutes to contact the Chinese embassy or consulate near you and advocate for the IMMEDIATE stop to forced repatriations. You can find a template letter to send on LiNK's website lbrtynk.org/cn-letter-writing



FAQ

Who made this documentary?

Beyond Utopia is an Ideal Partners production and was produced by an incredible group of filmmakers: Madeleine Gavin (Director and Editor), Jana Edelbaum (Producer), Rachel Cohen (Producer), and Sue Mi Terry (Producer). You can learn more [here](#).

How was LiNK involved in this documentary?

Liberty in North Korea is the fiscal sponsor for the film and is proud to be an impact partner, providing opportunities for viewers to turn their interest into action. The organization also worked closely with the film's team as an advisor and provided support in post-production to review footage for security and accuracy. Sokeel Park, LiNK's South Korea Country Director, was featured as an expert interview and LiNK's CEO, Hannah Song, is an executive producer.

Is it dangerous that people in the film showed their faces and shared so much of the journey?

Although everyone was aware of the risks involved in making this film, they nonetheless decided it was important to share these stories so that people around the world could understand the unimaginable challenges North Korean refugees face when trying to escape. There is undeniable power and potential for impact in showing the reality of rescues — the high-stakes peril, raw emotion, and incredible moments of bravery from our North Korean friends. Beyond Utopia pulls back the curtain on the escape journey in a way that honors the truth and the film participants, while preserving the integrity of the work being documented.

Does LiNK's rescue work look the same as what's in the film?

Yes, although LiNK's network of partners on the ground is separate from Pastor Kim's, the film accurately reflects the reality of rescues in this modern-day underground railroad.

How many people has LiNK rescued?

To date LiNK has helped over 1,300 North Korean refugees and their children reach freedom!

How did Covid impact rescue routes?

Over the past few years, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the day-to-day lives of North Korean people. Border lockdowns, increased surveillance, and unprecedented restrictions have made it virtually impossible for North Koreans to escape and reach freedom. During that time, LiNK's field team worked tirelessly to establish new, viable routes and adapt to volatile circumstances on the ground. Although the cost of rescues has increased significantly, LiNK was able to resume this work in late 2022 and remains fully committed to helping as many refugees as possible reach freedom.