



A House of Dynamite Gathering & Discussion Guide

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in hosting a gathering to watch *A House of Dynamite*. We hope this guide will help you have a successful, meaningful gathering and that folks - despite the film's all-too-real depiction of the nuclear risks we live with every day - will come away with the motivation to act, a desire to get involved with *Back from the Brink*, and the feeling that they can make a difference.

There's no right or wrong approach to hosting a gathering. Do what feels right for you so that you and the others gathered - however you do that - feel comfortable, heard and supported. This is a serious, difficult topic, but don't feel like you can't have fun or bring joy and levity into the viewing and discussion after (thus the bingo cards!). It's up to you to decide who to invite. If you see this as an opportunity to foster dialogue with others in your community who you do not know, consider hosting the gathering virtually, instead of in your home, for safety purposes. (Please note that it is generally a violation of copyright laws to host public screenings of films without permission).

We do not know how long *A House of Dynamite* will be airing on Netflix, so we encourage you to host your gathering as soon as possible. Even if you don't host a film-watching gathering, some of the suggestions and questions in this guide may

help you prepare for conversations about the film with family and friends.

We're here to help. Don't hesitate to reach out to Jeremy Love at jeremy@preventnuclearwar.org.

Before Your Gathering

You first have to decide what kind of gathering you want to have, when to have it, and who to invite. That's all up to you. Here are some suggestions:

Keep It Small - We recommend you limit the number of people to no more than 8-10 so everyone feels like they can participate and share their reflections and perspectives on the film - regardless of whether your event is in person or held virtually.

If Hosting in Your Home - For safety reasons, only invite people you know and trust into your home. It's important that people feel comfortable, so be sure to have plenty of seating and a big

enough television. It's always a good idea to make it a potluck so you are not solely responsible for having food/snacks and things to drink.

Ways to Host Virtually – It's possible for you and other folks to watch the movie at the same time, with each person watching on their own computer or mobile device through online applications, like [TeleParty](#) or on [Discord](#). It's also possible to schedule and agree on a date and time when your party will watch the film and then schedule a Zoom gathering immediately after the film is over. If you and your folks wish, you can set up a text thread to communicate with each other while you are all watching. Let us know if you are interested in having someone from BftB join your virtual discussion.

Inviting Folks – Here's what you might say in an email or text message inviting folks to your gathering:

Dear XXX,

You may have heard about the film, A House of Dynamite, now playing on Netflix. It depicts an all-too-real scenario, in which U.S. leaders realize that the country is being attacked with a nuclear weapon, that could escalate to full-scale nuclear war. This film offers a real opportunity to talk about nuclear weapons and what can and needs to be done to reduce the risk of nuclear war. Will you join me/us to watch the film? I will be hosting a gathering [FILL IN INFORMATION ABOUT LOCATION] on [DATE/TIME] to watch the film and have a discussion about it afterwards. I am involved with [Back from the Brink](#), the national nuclear disarmament campaign which is encouraging folks around the country to have these gatherings so more people can get informed about the issue and ways to get involved. Here's a link to BftB's [Beginner's Guide to Nuclear Weapons](#), which you might read before watching the film. Please let me know if you are able to join us. [INSERT DETAILS ABOUT FOOD, LOGISTICS, PARKING ETC.]. If you're not able to attend, I encourage you to watch A House of Dynamite on your own and consider learning more about Back from the Brink by [signing up to get their emails](#) and following them on Facebook, Instagram and BlueSky.

Set Up/Things You Might Need – Be sure to gather up any materials you might want to have on hand to share such as copies of the bingo cards (see below), discussion prompts, BftB fact sheets, action alerts, and flyers. Please let us know if you would like us to mail you any materials, including BftB stickers, flyers, and action alerts.

Gathering to Watch The Film

Once folks have arrived in-person or in your virtual viewing room, take a moment to allow folks to introduce themselves and perhaps ask each of them to share what motivated them to be part of your gathering and one thing they hope to come away with afterwards.

Take the opportunity to set the tone and ask folks if they want to establish any ground rules for the gathering, such as when and whether people should talk/comment during the film, whether to take breaks, etc. *If you choose to, use this time to distribute the BftB A House of Dynamite bingo cards and talk with the group about how you plan to play the game while watching the film.*

Consider suggesting to folks that they take notes about issues, questions, or reactions they had while watching the film.

Discussing The Film

After watching the movie, folks are likely to have strong feelings/emotions. You might take a 10-15 minute break before you start the discussion or ask the group what they would like to do. It will be really important to start the discussion by giving everyone the opportunity to say a few words (if they choose to) about their overall feelings and reactions and to identify specific things they would like the group to talk about. You might share some of the the following questions/prompts before you start the discussion:

EMOTIONAL REACTIONS:

- What's one moment that stuck with you? What's one word that describes how you felt watching the film?
- How does living with this threat affect your sense of safety, purpose, or future?

THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT IS DEPICTED IN THE FILM:

- What about this scenario seemed most realistic/unrealistic in regards to current policies and what would happen in real life?
- Did you know that nuclear missiles can reach the U.S. in under 30 minutes?
- How does it feel to know that one person—the president—has the sole authority to order the launch of US nuclear weapons? How might fear or confusion affect real-world leaders in a similar situation?
- What does the film tell us about the idea of nuclear deterrence - the concept that our

nuclear weapons and the threat to use them will deter others from using them against us or our allies?

- Do you think the film's depiction of missile defense was realistic?
- How do you imagine life would change after such an event? What ripple effects—economic, emotional, societal—might follow?
- How do you think cyber threats or misinformation could complicate a real-world response?

TAKING ACTION:

- What alternatives to this system can you imagine, and what do you think needs to happen to bring about these changes?
- What's one feeling, insight, or commitment you're taking away from tonight's conversation?
- Do you feel motivated to do something about this problem? If so, why? If not, why?

Pentagon officials “are systematically lying about the performance of a weapon system that is supposed to defend the people of the United States from nuclear attack.”

Dr. Theodore Postol, physicist and professor emeritus at MIT, quoted in The New York Times, 2000

What Can Each of Us Do?

We hope you will reserve some of your time together to have a discussion about how folks can get involved and make a difference, to share what the Back from the Brink campaign is, and what folks think a world without nuclear weapons would demand—from leaders, from communities, from us. It's especially important to set a hopeful tone, perhaps sharing some of what we know about the success and momentum of BftB and other movements advocating for major social and political changes. Emphasize that change is possible – if we the people demand it. Ask folks to take one or more of the following actions while gathered:

- Write to their U.S. House Representative and Senators urging them to co-sponsor H. Res. 317 and S. Res 323 respectively. Point them to these action pages on BftB's website.

[Tell Your Representative: Co-sponsor H. Res. 317](#)

[Tell Your U.S. Senator: Co-sponsor S. Res. 323](#)

Write to their local/state officials (e.g. mayors, city councilors, state legislators, county commissioners) urging them to sign BftB's letter to Congress members in support of H.Res.317 and S.Res.323. Point them to these action pages on BftB's website where they can take the action.

[Urge Your Local/State Officials To Take Action](#)

Post something like the following on social media, tagging their members of Congress and local/state officials

Sample social media post:

Just watched A House of Dynamite, an all-too real depiction of how nuclear war might happen. But we the people can prevent nuclear war if we demand leadership and action from our local, state elected officials and Congress @backfrombrink @Repxxxx @MayorXXX @CouncilorXXX

- Contact BftB/Sign Up To Receive emails

Encourage folks to get involved with Back from the Brink. Encourage them to [sign up to receive BftB emails](#) (and tell them that our campaign tries to send no more than 5-6 emails/month) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [BlueSky](#) - and check out our [YouTube channel](#). Tell them about our 26 BftB organizing hubs around the country and encourage them to join one or to create one. To get more information about BftB hubs, tell them to contact our national field organizer, Jeremy Love - jeremy@preventnuclearwar.org.



Scan for the latest links and actions.
www.preventnuclearwar.org

Back from the Brink is a national grassroots campaign of committed individuals, organizations, and elected officials advocating for common-sense policies to prevent nuclear war and abolish nuclear weapons from the planet.

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