



This is the official site for the VESSEL. Arrangements can easily be made to rent this film. A great deal of discussion resulted from showing this film. It provides insight on the status of women's access to reproductive health care and abortion internationally and in the United States.

This link emphasizes discussion among Christian groups and provides some <https://www.movieguide.org/reviews/the-vessel.html> Below is a list of discussion questions that CORCRC used and found useful.

### **Discussion Questions following the movie "Vessel"**

1. What are your reactions to the movie? What was most surprising, interesting? How has it affected you?
2. Before watching Vessel, how many of you knew the specifics about medical abortion, if so raise your hands? Do you think many people know about it, and if not why not?
3. Rebecca says, "I realized that there is a connection between the law and the fact that women are dying." What does she mean by this? Can you list the possible ramifications of laws that make abortion illegal or restricted?
4. On the Women on Waves ship, women leave the boundaries of their national sovereignty for another in international waters. What does this transition highlight about the nature of sovereignty? What does it mean to have sovereignty over your own body?
5. Rebecca explains, "The ship is a symbol of freedom, has always been, but it's been a male domain." Is it important that Women on Waves is founded and staffed by women, including the captain of the ship? Do you think women and men play different roles in the movement for access to reproductive services?
6. Women on Waves conducts campaigns in countries where abortion is illegal. While abortion is legal in the United States, do you see parallels between public responses to the Women on Waves ship campaigns and the public discourse about abortion in the US?
7. Rebecca asks, "How could we create a space where the only permission a woman needs is her own?"
8. In Ecuador, Women on Waves and local activists display their hotline number on a statue of the Virgin Mary. What is the symbolism of this placement? Some of the activists worry that this tactic will lead to negative reactions. Do you agree with their concerns? [Question of tactics, publicity]

9. Do you think the abortion pill and the Internet shifts the cultural debate around access to abortion?
10. What can we do to ensure women's reproductive rights in this state and country?

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