

FRONTLINE®



2025 IMPACT REPORT

For more than 40 years, FRONTLINE has been a voice of truth and change in the world of journalism. These investigations have brought to light stories that shape our world – from local struggles to international crises – spurring action, conversation, and opportunities for meaningful change. FRONTLINE’s journalism has been cited in amicus briefs at the U.S. Supreme Court, prompted U.N. resolutions, and perhaps most importantly, reached audiences of millions who want to be better informed about what is happening around the world and at home.

In a year defined by escalating threats to human rights and a global strain on reliable journalism, FRONTLINE’s mission has never been more vital. While the rescission of federal funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) shattered the traditional financial model for public media, the overwhelming support of our community has ensured the series’ resilience.

We are pleased to present this snapshot of our 2025 accomplishments, all of which are possible because of our friends and supporters.

Introducing The FRONTLINE Trust

In 2025, we the FRONTLINE Journalism Fund became the FRONTLINE Trust, the primary fundraising vehicle for the series. We hope this new name signals our deep gratitude for the trust you place in us and our work. You can learn more about the FRONTLINE Trust [here](#).

Recognition

2025 News & Documentary Emmy Awards

Outstanding Social Issue Documentary

Two American Families: 1991–2024

Outstanding Climate, Environment and Weather News Coverage

Maui's Deadly Firestorm

2025 Pulitzer Prize Finalist

Investigative Reporting

Lethal Restraint

2025 Edward R. Murrow Awards

Investigative Reporting

South Korea's Adoption Reckoning

News Series

Lethal Restraint

2025 Scripps Howard Awards

Excellence in National/International Video Storytelling

A Year of War: Israelis and Palestinians

Excellence in Local Video Storytelling

Maui's Deadly Firestorm

2025 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards

International Television

A Year of War: Israelis and Palestinians

International Print

"Who Am I Then?" Stories From South Korea's Adoption Reckoning

2025 Sundance Film Festival

Directing Award: World Cinema Documentary

2000 Meters to Andriivka (Mstyslav Chernov)

2025 CPH:DOX

F:ACT Award

2000 Meters to Andriivka

2025 Online Journalism Award

Digital Video Storytelling (Long Form, Large Newsroom)

The Rise and Fall of Terrorgram

Our Work

Noteworthy projects in 2025:

[Trump's Comeback](#)

Donald Trump's return to the presidency, overcoming unprecedented obstacles and opposition.

[The Rise and Fall of Terrorgram](#)

FRONTLINE and ProPublica investigate how an online network known as Terrorgram spread extremism and violence.

[Syria After Assad](#)

Syria's uncertain future under Jihadist-turned-statesman Ahmad al-Sharaa.

[Trump's Power & the Rule of Law](#)

Inside the high-stakes showdown between President Donald Trump and the courts over presidential power.

[Remaking the Middle East: Israel vs. Iran](#)

How Israel ended up fighting wars in Gaza and Iran - and the U.S. role.

[Born Poor](#)

An incredible look at the realities of growing up poor in America.

[2000 Meters to Andriivka](#)

A stunning portrayal of war in the trenches from the Oscar®-winning team behind [20 Days in Mariupol](#).

The logo for FRONTLINE, featuring the word "FRONTLINE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a red rectangular background.

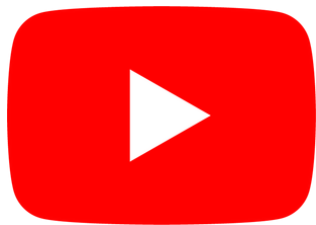
Successes on Streaming

2025 was a year of evolution for FRONTLINE’s streaming strategy, both on [YouTube](#) and PBS platforms. Building off the series’ strong base of more than 3 million subscribers, FRONTLINE explored new content experiments and adopted a twice-a-week publishing cadence for videos, uploading films from FRONTLINE’s vast archives and additional interviews from old and new films alike.

YouTube

FRONTLINE continues to grow its streaming offerings to meet people where they are and allow viewers to watch films long after their original broadcast. For example, [Syria After Assad](#) reached 1.2 million viewers on its broadcast premiere and was viewed more than 1.6 million times on YouTube in 2025. FRONTLINE’s YouTube channel also reached viewers in more than 200 different countries and territories last year, many of whom have limited access to independent journalism. By the end of the year, the series had more than 3.2 million subscribers, with more than 190 videos on the channel having been watched one million times or more.

After a review of audience habits on the platform, FRONTLINE also launched a 24/7 YouTube stream, aiming to capture missing demographics, including the elusive “breaking news” audience. The stream features full documentaries from FRONTLINE’s new releases and vast archive. This initiative bolsters the series’ presence and visibility on the platform, helping boost FRONTLINE in the algorithm and promoting its reporting to new potential viewers in search of reliable, fact-based stories.



3.2 million
subscribers



2.9 million
average monthly viewers





For The Record

In 2025, FRONTLINE launched [For the Record](#), a vertical short video series rooted in FRONTLINE’s journalism and aimed at younger viewers. The series quickly found vital success on both [TikTok](#) and Meta platforms ([Instagram/Facebook](#)). Since its launch, the series has gained more than 29,000 new followers on TikTok and garnered more than 23 million views. FRONTLINE’s profiles on Instagram and Facebook also saw a boost of almost 100,000 followers – with the biggest spike correlating to the release of eight shorts from the documentary *Born Poor*, focusing on Kaylie, who has shared her experience of poverty with FRONTLINE for more than 14 years, starting with the 2012 film, *Poor Kids*. [“Kaylie’s Story”](#) received 28.1 million views across Instagram and Facebook, with the full series garnering more than 50 million views across social platforms. Following the release of the “Kaylie’s Story” series, *Born Poor* saw a bump of almost 62,000 views on YouTube, representing a 197% increase in streaming traffic for the film.

FRONTLINE FEATURES

In November 2025, FRONTLINE launched [FRONTLINE FEATURES](#) – a major new effort focused on producing and globally distributing deeply reported cinematic features and short documentaries. This represents a significant evolution for one of PBS’s most trusted and award-winning journalism brands, building on FRONTLINE’s legacy while positioning it for impact across new platforms, audiences, and global markets. These efforts lay the foundation for FRONTLINE FEATURES as a natural – and strategically important – extension of FRONTLINE’s commitment to bold, investigative journalism that reaches widespread audiences.

The announcement was timed with the PBS broadcast and online streaming premiere of *2000 Meters to Andriivka*, allowing us to harness the surge in attention around the film and underscore the level of journalism and artistry FRONTLINE FEATURES will bring to its slate of productions.



FRONTLINE

Transparency Project

In a time of deep distrust of the media, [FRONTLINE's Transparency Project](#) helps to ensure confidence in our work by making available to the public extended interviews from some of our signature films. In 2025, we published a total of 27 new interviews, in writing and video. Of those, the 19 published on YouTube have been viewed more than 7 million times.

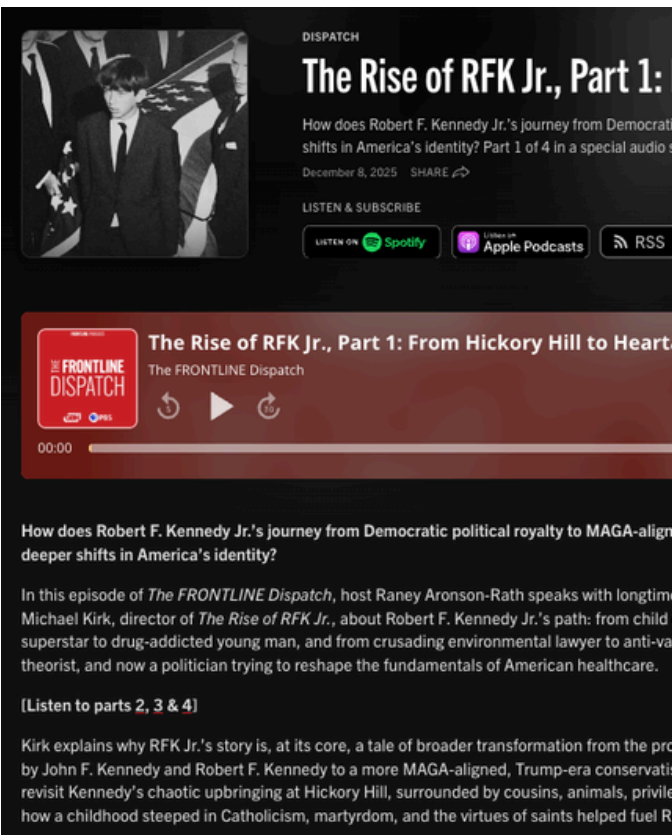
Since its launch in 2017, the Transparency Project has helped garner nearly 200,000 new subscribers to FRONTLINE's YouTube channel.

Local Journalism Initiative

As news deserts expand nationwide, FRONTLINE's [Local Journalism Initiative](#) partners with local newsrooms to produce deep investigative projects, bringing vital accountability journalism to under-resourced communities. LJI projects focus on local issues that often have national resonance – from education and immigration to environmental disasters and mental health crises.

Last season, two local partners – [Maine Public Radio and the Portland Press Herald](#) – produced a multiplatform investigation into Maine's deadliest mass shooting. The project included a newspaper series, FRONTLINE film (*Breakdown in Maine*) and a podcast, which was also interpreted on video into American Sign Language. Creating these videos marked a significant step in the partners' ongoing efforts to make this series accessible to the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The project was also nominated for two Emmy Awards and a George Foster Peabody Award and, following this reporting, in November 2025, Maine legislators passed the state's first [red flag gun control law](#).





FRONTLINE Podcasts

Understanding today's most urgent issues takes time, rigor, and reporting that goes beyond the surface. FRONTLINE is built to do that work—bringing investigative journalism and careful scrutiny to the stories that matter most. [The FRONTLINE Dispatch](#) podcast extends that mission.

Each episode features Raney Aronson-Rath in conversation with a FRONTLINE filmmaker, unpacking how these investigations come together and exploring the revelations behind the documentaries that illuminate our changing world.

In 2025, *The FRONTLINE Dispatch* demonstrated that audience impact is driven by its editorial strength. During the 14-episode season, the series reached more than 257,000 downloads, evidence that audiences continue to seek out and engage deeply with FRONTLINE's audio journalism.

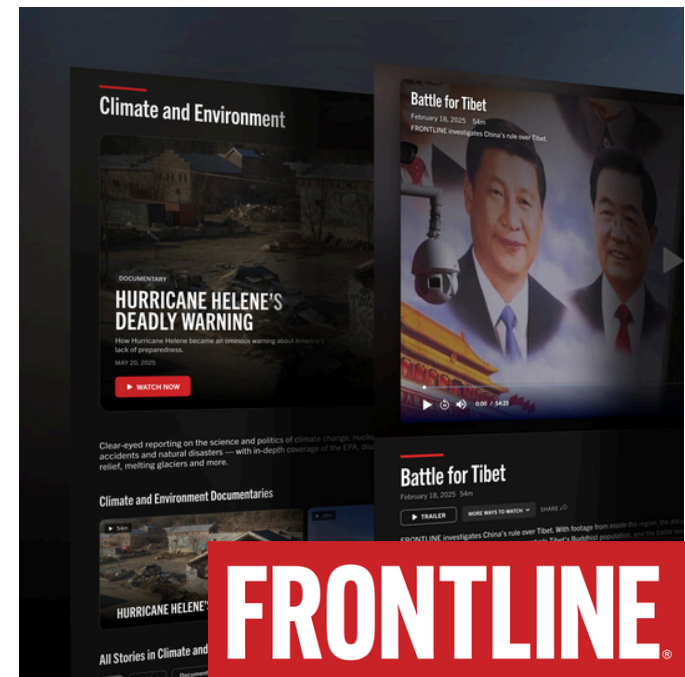
The series also experimented with new formats, for example, serializing the audio of Michael Kirk's latest film [The Rise of RFK Jr.](#), breaking the film into four 30-minute segments and adding a 10-minute interview with Kirk to the beginning of each. The episodes were published twice a week for two weeks, with 78,000 downloads in total—a nearly three-fold increase from the average downloads per episode.

Website Launch

FRONTLINE launched a [reimagined website](#) as a destination for trustworthy and engaging storytelling, offering the most comprehensive archive of FRONTLINE documentaries and journalism available anywhere. In the first two months after launch in October, the site received more than 8.5 million views — more than half of the entire year's web traffic.

The new site includes:

- Optimized documentary streaming experience for all screens big and small, with more than 300 films available.
- Curated collections of films where audiences can explore some of the series' most acclaimed storytelling, organized by topic, region, and more.
- More options for exploring FRONTLINE's journalism through articles, visual and interactive stories, in-depth interview collections, podcasts, and reporting from Local Journalism Initiative partners.



Impact

FRONTLINE's work does not stop with the vital journalism that reaches screens. Our films serve as catalysts for change, used as trusted resources and springboards for conversations among communities, leaders, and policymakers from the local to global level.

Impact highlights in 2025:

- [*Alaska's Vanishing Native Villages*](#) illuminated the displacement and cultural loss Alaska Native communities confront as a consequence of climate change. Beyond the broadcast, we partnered with the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute to engage young leaders in other regions like Oklahoma, and collaborated with the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at Arizona State University for a screening with the filmmakers. Such initiatives extended FRONTLINE's powerful investigative journalism to spark vital national conversation about how Native communities are confronting the climate crisis.
- The investigation that played out in [*South Korea's Adoption Reckoning*](#) continues to drive historic legal action. In 2025, film participant Yooree Kim filed a landmark petition for government compensation over her illegal adoption and falsified records. A successful ruling in this case would establish a groundbreaking precedent, potentially opening a streamlined path to justice and reparations for thousands of other victims.
- [*Maui's Deadly Firestorm*](#) fostered accountability and community healing across Hawaii and California by opening dialogue between survivors, first responders, and policymakers at a screening in Maui. Hosted by Akakū Maui, the participants discussed solutions and disaster preparedness.

FRONTLINE relies on your support that makes it possible for us to address the most pressing issues of our day with independent, fact-based reporting that surfaces nuance and context across a vast spectrum of topics.

Thank you for all the ways you empower this vital work.

