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WEDU Joins National Conversation with PBS Special “After Newtown”

DECEMBER 21, 2012, Tampa, FL — As the country comes together to grieve the loss of life in Newtown, a national conversation has begun about how to better protect and serve our communities in the face of catastrophe. The questions of how to respond to these tragedies face us all: government at all levels, educators, mental health professionals, the media, and individual Americans. WEDU will join in this vital discussion, airing ***After Newtown*** on Friday, December 21 at 8:00 p.m., ET bringing together news and public affairs teams from across PBS in a joint effort to analyze and illuminate the issues surrounding these events.

After Newtown, anchored by **Gwen Ifill**, addresses such issues as access to guns and the politics of gun laws; mental illness in young adults; the science of detecting violent impulses; and how communities react to unspeakable tragedy. The program features in-studio interviews and conversations with regular contributors to ***Washington Week***. Contributions from PBS hallmark news programming ***PBS NewsHour***, ***FRONTLINE***, ***Washington Week***, ***Need to Know***, and ***NOVA*** provide insight and analysis to ***After Newtown*** by pooling resources for the special.

“PBS is going beyond the headlines to provide a comprehensive look at this tragedy and provide a forum for an in-depth national conversation,” said PBS Chief Programming Executive and General Manager, General Audience Programming Beth Hoppe.

The program will be streamed to national audiences at PBS.org/afternewtown and will be available after broadcast. On the site, viewers can also learn more about the issues discussed and are also encouraged to join the national conversation by using the Twitter hashtag #afternewtown.

After Newtown is a production of CNG for WNET in New York, in association with WGBH, WETA, and PBS NewsHour. Executive Producer: Stephen Segaller.

The program was made possible by public television viewers. For more information, visit: PBS.org/afternewtown

ABOUT WEDU

WEDU is west central Florida’s leading PBS station and public media company reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of award-winning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of multi-media platforms including: television programming, station’s website, wedu.org and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine *Premiere*, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU’s focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America (Harris Interactive Trust QuickQuery, February 2012). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit wedu.org; WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

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