

Geneva
9–18 march 2018
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AND FORUM
ON HUMAN RIGHTS



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The FIFDH reveals the sixteenth edition program

From March 9th to 18th, 2018, the 16th edition of the **International Film Festival Forum on Human Rights** highlights Geneva, the city of fundamental human rights and peace. While the main session of the Human Rights Council is being held at the UN, the FIFDH brings together artists, activists, researchers and innovators from around the world with the general public in 57 locations in Greater Geneva, Lausanne, Renens, Orbe, Bienne, Neuchâtel, Sion, Oron and the Vallée de Joux.

A must-attend international event, the Festival features a selection of films and debates that explore geographic, political and artistic boundaries, as well as readings, comics, stand-up, photography, theater, and screenings for young audiences.

"This Festival will never be one of ready-made answers, but one that aspire to ask the right questions. For ten days, our challenge will be to give meaning to the words commitment, truth, freedom, justice, desire. Make this Festival your own, explore it, live it : it's yours!", says Isabelle Gattiker, director of the FIFDH.

Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights **Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein** will open an edition which celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The event will be closed by artist **Ai Weiwei** who, with the screening of his film *Human Flow*, will launch a call for immediate action in the face of the refugee crisis, along with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and the attendance of Doctors Without Borders President, Joanne Liu.

This year's artist of honour is the comic strip artist **Guy Delisle**, who is finishing an artistic residency in Geneva. Among the 280 invited guests, are actors **Vanessa Redgrave**, **Gael García Bernal**, **Leila Alaoui** and **Aïssa Maïga**, activists **Caroline de Haas** and **Marai Larasi**, writers **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** and **Aslı Erdoğan**, the politician **Benoît Hamon**, the synesthete poet **Daniel Tammet**, journalist **Anabel Hernandez**, essayist **Evgeny Morozov**, photographer **Moises Saman**, international filmmakers **Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy** and **Lav Diaz**, alongside Swiss filmmakers **Barbet Schroeder**, **Anne-Frédérique Widmann**, **Germinal Roaux** and **Fernand Melgar** and **Sabine Gisiger**.

A barometer for human rights

The FIDFH Forum continues its exploration of strong social movements that redraw the contours of human rights in the world. It will, from the outset, make a statement with a message from the High Commissioner for Human Rights **Zeid Ra'Ad Al Hussein**. The opening film, Rupert Russell's ***Freedom For The Wolf*** plunges into new forms of resistance that emerge as democracy and fundamental freedoms are threatened by a resurgence of authoritarianism. It will also celebrate the work of human rights defenders, more and more often restricted by systematic repression: an environmental activist is murdered every two days in the world; in Turkey, six journalists have just been sentenced to life imprisonment.

Justice by all means

New ways of enacting justice will be explored, notably through the principle of an universal jurisdiction that offers hope to the victims of the Franco regime, despite an amnesty law in Spain. This debate will follow the screening of ***The Silence of Others*** by **Almudena Carracedo** and **Robert Bahar**. The impunity that reigns in Mexico will be denounced, notably with a statement from the actor **Gael García Bernal**. Moreover, Nicolás Maduro's left-wing terror campaign in Latin America will be debated, particularly in the presence of **Luisa Ortega Diaz**, Attorney-General, who was forced into exile. The Forum will also look at Libya, where rape as a weapon of war is practiced on a large scale, on both men and women: **Cécile Allegra** will present the world premiere of ***Libye - Anatomie d'un crime***.

The challenges of asylum

Global warming and migration compel us to rethink our vision of the world and our actions. People displaced by natural disasters are not recognized by international law, and urgent action is needed. A cry of alarm amplified by the Ambassador of Fiji in Geneva and head of the COP23 negotiations, the Bangladeshi president of the Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change and the Deputy Director of the IOM. The migration crisis has profoundly transformed Europe, dividing our societies. **Should we rethink our asylum policies?**

Technology and human rights

Technology facilitates **freedom of speech**, as in the case of the #MeToo movement that will be the subject of an evening with activists **Caroline de Haas** and **Marai Larasi**. But technology can also, when manipulated, empty it of its meaning. From **artificial intelligence** to social networks, to the development of lethal autonomous weapons, the role and influence of big tech on democracy, human rights and the future of conflicts will also be carefully examined by renowned experts **Stephen Goose** - founder of the "Stop Killer Robots" campaign - essayist **Evgeny Morozov** - criticizing the evolution of Silicon Valley - and **Lorna Mc Gregor**, founder of a university research center on technologies and human rights.

Prospective perspectives

We will also be discussing gender identities with an evening dedicated to the **struggles of intersex people**, with the presence of model **Hanne Gaby Odiele** and Olympic athlete **Dutee Chand**.

Finally, the Forum will return to what is still considered as an utopia, the advent of an unconditional basic income, familiar to the Swiss. Benoît Hamon will be on stage alongside **Guy Standing**, one of the historical theoreticians of the concept.

Abigail Disney et Aïssa Maïga chair the Creative Documentaries & Fictions

Filmmaker, philanthropist and activist **Abigail Disney** chairs the "Creative Documentaries" jury alongside **Marie-Pierre Gracedieu**, publisher at Gallimard, **Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy**, Pakistani journalist and filmmaker who won two Oscars, **Omar Hamilton**, author of the novel, *The City Always Wins* following the Egyptian revolution, now available in French and photographer **Christian Lutz**. They will award the Grand Prize of Geneva, offered by the City and the Canton of Geneva (10,000 CHF) and the Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize (5'000 CHF), offered by the Barbara Hendricks Foundation.

The "Fictions Competition" Jury is chaired by the actress **Aïssa Maïga**, who has worked with the greatest international filmmakers, along with filmmaker **Teresa Villaverde**, the South African filmmaker **Khalo Matabane** and lawyer **Philippe Cottier**. They will give the Grand Prix for Fiction, offered by the Barbour Foundation (10'000 CHF). The trophies of the Festival are designed by the artist **Clément Brazille**, alumni of the HEAD.

Vanessa Redgrave, Fatih Akin, Nabil Ayouch, Diego Lerman, Lav Diaz:
The best of international cinema dedicated to human rights

The FIFDH notably features among others, award-winning documentary and fiction films from major international festivals, such as Cannes (*In the Fade* by Fatih Akin, awarded Best Female Performance to Diane Kruger), the Venice Film Festival for *Les Versets de l'oubli* by Alireza Khatami, Sundance with Bernadett Tuza-Ritter's *A Woman Captured*, and the Amsterdam Film Festival (IDFA) for *The Distant Barking of Dogs* by Simon Lereng Wilmont, *The Deminer* by Hogir Hirori's and *The Other Side of Everything* by Mila Turajlic, which explores Serbia's past.

An exceptional event: the actress **Vanessa Redgrave** will present her first film as a director, *Sea Sorrow*, shown in the official selection at the last Cannes Film Festival. Also on the program is Matthew Heineman's highly anticipated *City of Ghosts*, *Razzia* by Nabil Ayouch, *Notre Enfant* by Diego Lerman, and Armando Iannucci's dark comedy *The Death of Stalin*, starring Steve Buscemi, which was banned in Russia.

The FIFDH also offers cinematographic discoveries by engaged artists, such as *I Am Truly a Drop of Sun on Earth* by Georgian-born filmmaker Elene Naveriani, *Black Cop* by **Cory Bowles**, and *Matar a Jesús* by **Laura Mora**, which recounts with incredible strength the spiral of violence in Colombia. The FIFDH is co-organizing Talking HEADS / Meeting with Filipino filmmaker **Lav Diaz**, as well as a retrospective of his work with the HEAD-Geneva.

Among the world premieres: *Guerre de l'info: Au cœur de la machine russe* by **Paul Moreira**, which deals with Russia's new propaganda weapons and its networks of influence.

Barbara Hendricks, Leila Alaouf, Aïssa Maïga and twelve women from Geneva alongside Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie for a public reading

Writer **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** will be at the FIFDH to speak about her book *Dear Ijeawele, or a feminist manifesto in fifteen suggestions*, translated into 43 languages. The book will be read by women in their mother tongue, comprising 15 languages in all. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie will translate and read one of the chapters in her own language, Igbo. The event will be staged by **Nalini Menamkat**, organized with Gallimard editions, and followed by a conversation with the author.

Three events to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of **Human Rights**, this edition also marks an important milestone in the Human Rights Film Tour, which the FIFDH is organizing with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. (OHCHR), across 45 countries.

The FIFDH will also partner with the OHCHR for an online campaign for human rights: **#standup4humanrights**

Program for young audiences

In addition to its essential educational program that reaches 3000 students throughout the Canton of Geneva, the Festival offers for the first time a session reserved for children accompanied by their parents: *At the Philosophers' School* by **Fernand Melgar**, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker and the poet **Daniel Tammet**, known for having recited the first 22'500 decimals of Pi.

The Festival also features **Eric Gravel's** *Crash Test Aglaé*, as well as *Breadwinner*, an animated film produced by **Angelina Jolie** and nominated for the 2018 Oscars. Finally, the Maison de la Créativité offers cooperative games for children up to 6 years old.

A rapidly expanding Festival

The International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH), created in 2003 in Geneva, is the most important international event dedicated to cinema and human rights. Since 2017, it has established a Foundation, presided by Bruno Giussani, alongside Marie Heuzé, Antonella Notari Vischer, Aude Py, Yves Daccord, Jacques de Saussure and Me. Cyril Troyanov.

The FIFDH is based on a unique concept: to present great films followed by international debates, that are open to the public and broadcasted on the internet, which deal freely with pressing topics during the March session of the UN Human Rights Council.

With a stable budget of 1.8 million francs, it is supported this year by 155 partners, including important new partners: the European Parliament, the Fondation pour Genève, les éditions Gallimard, the Musée de l'Elysée, the Sesam Foundation and the Ecole Supérieure de bande

dessinée et d'illustration de Genève. Its media partners are RTS, Le Temps, TV5MONDE, ARTE, Courrier International, the Huffington Post and Euronews.

In 2018, the Festival has expanded to 57 venues, including 14 additional venues, spread throughout French-speaking Switzerland and Greater Geneva: theaters, universities, museums, schools, neighborhood houses, as well as prisons, hospitals and accommodation centers for migrant people.

It is organized with the support of Amnesty International, OMCT, FIDH, ISHR and MSF, as well as the University of Geneva, The Graduate Institute, HEAD, ECAL and the Swiss Cinémathèque. The FIFDH is supported by the City of Geneva, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, 25 municipalities of Greater Geneva and the Association des communes genevoises, the Loterie Romande, the Barbour Foundation, the Fondation Meyrinoise du Casino, the Fondation Philanthropia, the Fondation de Bienfaisance du Groupe Pictet, the Hospice Général, the Bureau de l'intégration des étrangers du Canton de Genève, as well as several private foundations and generous patrons.

Detailed program and tickets : www.fifdh.org

Watch the 2018 Festival trailer : [here](#)

The 16th edition of the FIFDH will take place in Geneva and throughout French-speaking Switzerland from March 9th to 18th, 2018.

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