

**Filmfest
FrauenWelten**
TERRE DES FEMMES



**Menschenrechte
von Frauen
im Blickpunkt
des Films**

Press Release

The main topics of the 21st Filmfest FrauenWelten by TERRE DES FEMMES have been determined

Berlin, August 26, 2021: The main themes for this year's festival program of the **21st Filmfest FrauenWelten** (Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 2021) have been determined:

#bornequal - livefree

rights & religion and

mission empowerment.

Filmfest FrauenWelten will present 12 feature films and documentaries on these three focal points. As before, the themes are based on the work of TERRE DES FEMMES - Menschenrechte für die Frau e.V. and thus offer a cinematic look at the human rights of women worldwide. The focus topics are supplemented by discussion rounds with experts and directors on location, in the cinema in the Kulturbrauerei Berlin.

The focus theme **#bornequal-livefree** takes a look at stories of women who have to experience human rights violations or discrimination just because they were born with two X chromosomes and are female. Films screened include:

BREAKING THE SILENCE - Priscila Padilla, Colombia / Bolivia, 2020 Documentary about genital mutilation on women of the indigenous community Emberá Chamí in Colombia. A brutal legacy of colonialism.

BELLY OF THE BEAST - Erika Cohn, USA, 2020.

Documentary about illegal forced sterilizations in the largest women's prison in the world.

The **rights & religion** theme focuses on the connection between religion and gender justice, for which the film festival has included these documentaries in its program:

AS I WANT - Samaher Alqadi, Egypt / France / Norway / Palestine / Germany, 2021.

The documentary film by director Samaher Alqadi begins at a demonstration on the occasion of the second anniversary of the 2013 revolution in Tahrir Square, Cairo. Violent sexual assaults occur, after which crowds of angry women take to the streets against these massive sexual assaults. Alqadi joins the queue and takes her camera with her - for self-protection and to document the uprising that is forming.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER - Antonia Kilian, Germany, 2021

To escape a forced marriage, 19-year-old Hala finds shelter in a military academy for women in northeastern Syria. While learning how to fight, she is inspired by the promise of liberating all women from patriarchal structures.

Under the heading of **mission empowerment** are those films that are about women who are courageous, stand strong and make possible the previously unthinkable:

CHOLITAS - Jaime Murciego / Pablo Iraburu, Spain / Bolivia / Argentina, 2019.

Documentary about five Bolivian women who participate in a unique expedition. As a symbol of liberation and empowerment, they want to climb together the highest mountain of America, the 6961 meters high Aconcagua in the Argentine Andes. And they will do so in their traditional Bolivian costumes.

9 DAYS IN RAQQA - Xavier de Lauzanne, France, 2020

Documentary about 30-year-old Leila Mustapha. She is Kurdish and Syrian and was elected mayor in Raqqa, the former capital of IS and current war ruin. Defying patriarchal structures, she dedicates herself to her mission: rebuilding the city, which is almost completely destroyed, and establishing democracy.

Also this year, almost the entire film program will be available online throughout Germany during the festival period from 27.10-03.11.2021. The screenings at the cinema in the Kulturbrauerei will be complemented by conversations with directors and experts, so that viewers can get complementary information about the sometimes severe human rights violations.

For inquiries and interviews, please contact TERRE DES FEMMES/Filmfest FrauenWelten, Carolin Bitzer, Press and Public Relations, tel. 030/40504699-17, or e-mail kommunikation-filmfest@frauenrechte.de.

Since 2001 TERRE DES FEMMES organizes annually the Filmfest FrauenWelten, which puts the human right situation of women world-wide into the focus. Since 2020, the festival, originally founded in Tübingen, has been held in Berlin, where the federal office of TERRE DES FEMMES is located. In more than 30 current short films, feature films and documentaries from more than 20 countries, women's rights in different cultures are the focus every year and always open up new perspectives on the relevant topics to the approximately 4,000 viewers.

TERRE DES FEMMES - Menschenrechte für die Frau e.V. is a non-profit human rights organization that promotes a self-determined, equal and free life for girls and women worldwide. Through high-profile actions, publications, events, campaigns and lobbying, TERRE DES FEMMES raises public and political awareness of gender-based violence and discrimination.

TERRE DES FEMMES was founded in 1981 and is financed by donations, membership fees and grants. For more information, visit www.frauenrechte.de