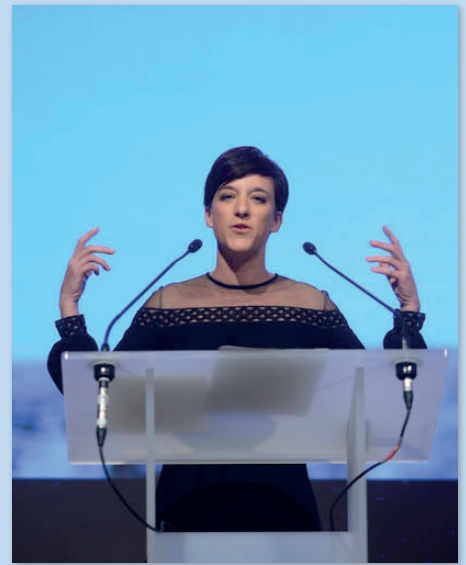


## PRESS RELEASE

Geneva, 26 January 2022

# Isabelle Gattiker, General Director, to leave FIFDH after the 20th edition to head the Geneva Cantonal Office for Culture and Sport

Isabelle Gattiker, General and Programme Director of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH), has been appointed General Director of the Cantonal Office for Culture and Sport (OCCS) by the State Council of the Canton of Geneva. She will head her final edition of the FIFDH with its 20th-anniversary celebration from 4 -13 March 2022.



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Having led eight editions of the FIFDH with dedication and creativity, Isabelle Gattiker will leave her position at the end of April 2022 to take up her new responsibilities on 1 May 2022. The Foundation Board and the FIFDH team commend Isabelle Gattiker's remarkable work and congratulate her for her new role at the OCCS.

Isabelle Gattiker joined the FIFDH in 2013 as deputy director before taking over as director in 2015. Under her leadership, the Festival has grown considerably and developed a vast network of 170 partners in Switzerland and abroad. In eight years, the FIFDH has seen its attendance double; it has organised events in 85 venues in the Geneva region and has toured the world in 60 countries. Isabelle Gattiker and her team have brought to the FIFDH personalities such as Ai Weiwei, Edward Snowden, Angelina Jolie and Angela Davis, Gael Garcia Bernal, Forest Whitaker, Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Denis Mukwege, writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Arundathi Roy, Joe Sacco, Roberto Saviano, Svetlana Tikhonovskaya and many others. The Impact Days programme was created to strengthen dialogue and collaboration between filmmakers and activists and to increase the impact of film productions on civil and political society. Under the direction of Isabelle Gattiker, the FIFDH has also greatly expanded its cultural action programmes to address an ever-growing and diverse audience.

*«We are proud and grateful for the tremendous work accomplished by Isabelle Gattiker as head of the Festival team. She was able to develop the Festival not only in size and presence but also in depth and legitimacy, transforming it into an international platform for the defence of human rights, yet firmly rooted in Geneva. We regret her departure but look forward to working with her in the interest of Geneva's culture and its influence.»* - Bruno Giussani, President of the FIFDH Foundation Board.

Isabelle Gattiker: *« I am leaving to take up an exciting professional challenge, but these years with the FIFDH will always hold a special place in my heart. It is an honour to have contributed to such an important Festival, and I did so with tremendous enthusiasm and passion. The Festival is in good hands, and I would like to thank the Board, my co-directors, our partners and the outstanding teams who have accompanied me every day along the way and made this adventure possible. The future of this unique event in the world can only be exceptional.»*

Isabelle Gattiker and her team are currently working on the **20th edition of the FIFDH, which will take place from 4 to 13 March 2022**, an anniversary edition that will celebrate the commitment of human rights activists and filmmakers. The full programme will be revealed on 15 February, 2022.

The FIFDH will recruit a new director for its 21st edition, set to take place in March 2023. The call for candidates will be issued shortly. In the meantime, the FIFDH Foundation Board, the Administrative and Financial Director and the Director of Communications will guide the transition.

## SAVE THE DATE

Press conference  
Presentation of the programme  
**Tuesday 15 February 2022,**  
**11am.** Registration and  
information: [presse@fifdh.org](mailto:presse@fifdh.org)

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