

The FIFDH unveils the programme of its 20th edition.

The Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights - FIFDH - celebrates a significant milestone, its 20th edition. For 20 years, the event has been taking the pulse of a world under tension, highlighting current burning issues and bringing light to forgotten causes.



To mark this 20th anniversary, and after two digital editions, the FIFDH is offering a remarkable international selection of fiction films and documentaries, as well as debates, interviews, meetings, masterclasses, exhibitions, and a concert by **Barbara Hendricks**, the Festival's patron. The FIFDH is inaugurating new audio and video formats and several exclusive podcasts and is offering a selection of films on VOD.

Among the 250 guests expected to attend are the whistleblower and analyst **Chelsea Manning**, WTO Director-General **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, activists **Paxton Smith** and **Nathan Law**, Nobel Peace Prize winner **Shirin Ebadi**, UN Director-General in Geneva **Tatiana Valovaya**, writers **Alice Zeniter** and **Uzodinma Iweala**, filmmakers **Rithy Panh**, **Aïssa Maïga**, **Nabil Ayouch**, **Shahrbanoo Sadat** and **Ala Eddine Slim**, the lawyer **Philippe Sands**, the playwright and director of the Avignon Festival **Tiago Rodrigues**, the brother of the Nobel Peace Prize winner **Nadia Murad**, **Saeed Taha**, the historian **Benjamin Stora**, the director of Human Rights Watch **Kenneth Roth** and the photographer **Véronique de Viguerie**.

“Everywhere, thanks to the courage, tenacity and imaginative power of activists, thinkers and artists, new horizons are emerging, lights are being lit, still frail but very real. Without ever giving up denouncing unacceptable situations, this 20th edition of the Festival offers a panorama of reflections, impulses, dreams and new ways of living in the world.” **Isabelle Gattiker**, directrice générale et des programmes du FIFDH

An exploration of the new territories of human rights

In a rapidly changing world, human rights are being redefined. They extend to digital data, which we will discuss with former US army analyst **Chelsea Manning** around the film and cross-media project *Made to Measure*. They now also touch on artificial intelligence and transhumanism, which will be discussed with neuroscientist **Olaf Blanke** and philosopher **Nita Farahany**. The issues of ecocide and the need to recognise the rights of nature will be addressed in two debates entitled *From Genocide to Ecocide* with **Philippe Sands** and *The Weapon of Law to Defend the Rhone*. *Green finance* will also be examined with essayist **Lucile Schmidt** and explorer **Bertrand Piccard**. Finally, a discussion entitled “*Why does it take so long for humans to respect human rights?*” will bring together **Kate Gilmore**, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, neuroscientist **Nayef Al-Rodhan** and primatologist **Richard Wrangham**.

Inspiring women* at the heart of the 20th edition

The Festival honours women* who risk their lives for their convictions and dedicates this edition to imprisoned Vietnamese journalist **Pham Doan Trang** and Trinidad and Tobago activist **Ida Leblanc**. Sudanese photographer **Eythar Gubara**, Myanmar artist **Chuu Wai Nyein**, and Afghan filmmaker **Shahrbanoo Sadat** are also among the guests of this 20th edition. They are joined by Nobel Peace Prize winner **Shirin Ebadi** who will present the film *White Torture*, whose director **Narges Mohammadi** is imprisoned in Iran. We will be meeting WTO Director-General **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** and UN Director-General in Geneva **Tatiana Valovaya** in two in-depth interviews. A debate will deal with sexual and reproductive rights, with American abortion rights activist **Paxton Smith**. As for the film selection as a whole, it is equally made by women* and features many powerful and committed protagonists, such as *Freda*, by Haitian director **Gessica Génésus**.

Withdrawal from violence: which way to go?

Several debates and films address the problematic issues of peace and reconciliation, such as in Algeria with writer **Alice Zeniter** and the historian **Benjamin Stora**. An evening marks the 5th anniversary of the Peace Agreements in Colombia, with **Rodrigo Londoño**, former FARC leader, alongside **Sergio Jaramillo**, who negotiated the Agreements for President Santos, and activist, **Bertha Lucía Fries**. The delicate issue of the analogy between the Apartheid and the Israel-Palestine relationship will be discussed with former Knesset Speaker **Avraham Burg** and historian **Elias Sanbar**. A necessary debate will give voice to Yezidi women fighting to free their loved ones from the Islamic State, alongside **Saeed Taha**, brother of **Nadia Murad**. **Giovanni Buccomino's** film *After a Revolution*, shot in Libya and during the peace negotiations in Geneva and Montreux, looks back at the Libyan revolution. Finally, the question of democracy in Tunisia brings together **Lobna Jeribi**, a member of the Tunisian constituent assembly, and **Ghofrane Binous**, the first black woman to stand for election in the country.

International cinema

This edition presents a vibrant official selection, with several world premieres, including *Angels of Sinjar*, about the genocide of the Yezidi people and directed by Oscar-nominated filmmaker **Hanna Polak**, but also *Jungle Rouge* by **Juan José Lozano** and **Zoltan Horvath**, a mixed animation drama, *Je suis noires*, by **Rachel M'bon** and **Juliana Fanjul**, and *Dans la mesure du possible* by **Romain Girard**, which traces the development of the latest creation of **Tiago Rodrigues**, director of the Avignon Festival.

The Festival will also present movies that have been noticed at the most important festivals, such as *Hit the Road*, by **Panah Panahi**, the opening film, or *A Night of Knowing Nothing* by **Payal Kapadia**, which won awards at Cannes and Toronto, *The Last Refuge* by **Ousmane Zoromé Samassékou**, which won an award at the CPH festival, and *Good Madam* by **Jenna Cato Bass**, a thriller about the ghosts of Apartheid in South Africa. The French-Moroccan filmmaker **Nabil Ayouch** will give a masterclass in parallel with the selection of his film *Haut et Fort (Casablanca Beats)*, as will the Tunisian filmmaker **Ala Eddine Slim**, who will talk to the director of the Locarno Festival **Giona A. Nazzaro**. Finally, the Franco-Senegalese filmmaker **Aïssa Maïga** will close the Festival with a major talk about her film *Walking on Water*.

Putting an end to systemic racism

Two evenings are devoted to racism in Switzerland and Geneva: the first one will look at our public spaces, where many monuments, parks or streets bear witness to a racist and colonial past. The debate will bring together many activists and researchers to establish avenues of work, including **Doudou Diène** and **Kanyana Mutombo**. A second evening will address the challenges of the quest for identity by *Black and Swiss women*, including the lawyer **Brigitte Lembwadio Kanyama** and the blogger **Rebecca Stevens Alder**. Finally, the Festival interrogates the postcolonial question with a debate entitled *Faut-il en finir avec la coopération?* in the presence of the entrepreneur **Ragnimwendé Eldaa Koama**, the author of *Beasts of No Nation* **Uzodinma Iweala** and the researcher **Olivia Umurerwa Rutazibwa**.

Youth invents the world of tomorrow

The new generation continues to engage with passion, renewing the codes and continually offering new perspectives. This 20th edition puts them in the spotlight, with a debate bringing together **Winnie Tushabe** from Uganda, **Marina Al-Khawand** from Lebanon and **Paxton Smith** from the United States. Hong Kong activist **Nathan Law** will be present for an evening devoted to China, moderated by **Christine Ockrent**. Youtube artist **Carolina Gonzales**, aka La Carologie, will host a public discussion on digital activism. The debate *Reinventing school: yes, but how?* will close a year of reports and investigations by Heidi.news and Le Temps. The film *Tout commence* by **Frédéric Choffat** tells the story of two teenagers in Geneva, both committed to climate activism. The Festival does not forget the young asylum seekers rejected in Switzerland with a debate around the documentary *Mebrahtu*, by **Béatrice Guelpa**. The Festival also offers round tables organised by Codap and the Geneva Youth Parliament, as well as an ambitious educational programme and a selection for young audiences.

The Impact Days programme

Some films have the power to bring about lasting change in our societies. To broaden the potential of cinematographic narrative as a tool for strengthening the defence of human rights, the Impact Days invite filmmakers, producers, NGOs and foundations to meet at the heart of the FIFDH.

Several events are proposed here <https://fifdh.org/professionnelles/impact-days>.

The programme in figures

36 films - 20 of which will also be presented on **VOD from 12 to 20 March 2022**
20 debates - 15 of which will be broadcasted live, online
8 major interviews
6 meetings
19 partner events with, among others, round tables, plays and screenings
10 exhibitions presented with the Festival's partners
6 activists' words and 5 filmmakers' words
3 masterclasses with Callum Macrae, Nabil Ayouch and Ala Eddine Slim
5 podcasts, Binge audio, RTS Genève Vision, Utopia³, La Carologie and RTS la1ère
1 concert by Barbara Hendricks at the Forum Meyrin, for the 20th anniversary of the Festival
1 online educational programme for secondary school classes

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