



United Nations
Human Rights

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

STORIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS BY FILMMAKERS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS



To mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in collaboration with a non-governmental organisation, Art for the World, has commissioned a series of short films by leading filmmakers and artists from around the world. The ambitious project includes an associated book featuring five Nobel Prize winners, and posters designed by arts students from more than 20 countries.

THE FILMS

The films are of the highest cinema quality. Some are plainly-told stories of everyday lives while others take a more metaphoric approach. All are thought-provoking and ideal for triggering discussion about human rights. Educators and advocates everywhere will find among them films suitable for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The 22 short films have been made by 25 of the world's leading filmmakers and video artists originating from 22 different countries. Filmmakers were invited to select from six cross-cutting themes that together capture the ideals enshrined in the UDHR: Culture, Development, Dignity and Justice, Environment, Gender and Participation.

THE FILMMAKERS

Each filmmaker was given one of the six cross-cutting themes arising from the UDHR to deliver a three minute film designed to educate and inform people everywhere about their human rights. The directors had artistic autonomy and guidance on international human rights norms and standards from a group of experts from OHCHR.

The directors and video artists involved in the project are:

Culture Theme

Marina Abramovic – The Netherlands
Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster & Ange
Leccia – France
Walter Salles & Daniela Thomas –
Brazil
Apichatpong Weerasethakul –
Thailand

Pablo Trapero – Argentine

Bram Schouw – The Netherlands

Environment Theme

Zhang Ke Jia – China
Francesco Jodice – Italy
Pipilotti Rist – Switzerland
Sarkis – France

Development Theme

Sergei Bodrov – Russia
Murali Nair – India
Idrissa Ouédraogo – Burkina Faso

Gender Theme

Armagan Ballantyne – New Zealand
Saman Salour – Iran
TERESA SERRANO – Mexico

Dignity And Justice Theme

Shira Geffen & Etgar Keret – Israel
Runa Islam – United Kingdom
Abderrahmane Sissako – Mauritania

Participation Theme

Hany Abu-Assad – Palestine
Charles de Meaux – France
Jasmila Žbanić – Bosnia

THE BOOK

Works by 12 internationally-known writers, including five Nobel Prize winners, feature in a publication designed to complement the films. Divided into the same six cross-cutting themes, the book includes interviews with the film directors, their film scripts and photographs taken during the making of the films, alongside the authors' works. The quality publication, produced and distributed by the publishing house Electa, will be available for sale in a limited number of retail stores.

THE POSTERS

Arts students in more than 20 countries have competed to have their winning poster designs selected for display in Geneva and New York. The competition has been developed and run by the New School of Fine Arts (NABA) in Milan through their international networks, to enable students to learn more about human rights and participate in the United Nations' international project. The seven winning posters are available to download from the website and through the FTP servers.