For Immediate Release

Cancelled: Human Rights Watch Film Festival, London

https://ff.hrw.org/london
#HRWFFLDN
@hrwfilmfestival

We are sorry to announce that we have today taken the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Human Rights Watch Film Festival in London with immediate effect. Human Rights Watch is a global organization, and our decision was made in light of the rapid spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), and in line with Human Rights Watch official policy. The festival opened on 12 March, 2020, and had been due to run until 20 March, 2020 at the Barbican, Regent Street Cinema and Curzon Soho cinemas.

We know this news will be hugely disappointing to many, not only to our audiences who have come to join our events for the last 24 years, but also to the exceptional filmmakers and committed activists whose talents we had hoped to showcase. This will also be a blow to the London arts community, including the cinemas, theaters and performing arts venues who champion freedom of speech and help artists, filmmakers and the public at large to make their voices heard.

While we are heartbroken to miss this chance to connect our London audience with the powerful stories of filmmakers and change makers from around the world, we must do all we can to keep our communities safe.

As things have evolved so quickly, we will come back to the public with our plans to share these films with our audience in the future. We ask our audience to please sign up for our newsletter here so that we may notify you directly when these opportunities arise.

In the meantime, we ask that you please show your support to the filmmakers in this year's program, to the incredible and devoted staff at the cinemas that welcome us back
to their venues each year, and to the artists who will be impacted by these unprecedented events. We are committed to fully supporting our valued partners in the days and months to come.

John Biaggi, Director
Jennifer Nedbalsky, Deputy Director
Leah Sapin, Associate Director, Programming & Production
Frances Underhill, Manager, Programming, Production and Outreach

Any queries and further information to Sarah Harvey,
sarah@sarahharveypublicity.co.uk / 07958 597426.

Human Rights Watch

How We Work
For more than 40 years, Human Rights Watch has defended people at risk of abuse. We practice a powerful, proven methodology: investigate abuses scrupulously, expose the facts widely, and relentlessly press those in power for change that respects rights.

Investigate
We are expert investigators.
Expose
We are effective communicators.
Change
We are determined advocates.

What Our People Do

Front-line investigations by expert researchers lie at the heart of Human Rights Watch’s work. Our researchers examine situations in some 100 countries around the world. They function as investigators, journalists, and advocates:

- Checking and cross-checking facts
- Being on the front line
- Partnering with local activists and human rights groups
- Exposing evidence of abuses
- Convincing key decision-makers to act
• Providing expertise
• Staying the course

Human Rights Watch Film Festival
Through the Human Rights Watch Film Festival we bear witness to human rights violations and create a forum for courageous individuals on both sides of the lens to empower audiences with the knowledge that personal commitment can make a difference. The film festival brings human rights abuses to life through storytelling in a way that challenges each individual to engage and demand justice for all.

MUBI
The HRWFF is proud to continue its exciting partnership with MUBI, the curated online cinema where members can watch, discover, and share the best cult, classic and award-winning films from around the globe. MUBI will be showing select films from the Human Rights Watch Film Festival online during the London 2020 event. Learn more at mubi.com/humanrightswatch.

People’s Postcode Lottery
Thanks to players of People’s Postcode Lottery for their support of the Human Rights Watch Film Festival. People’s Postcode Lottery manages multiple society lotteries promoted by different charities and good causes. People play with their chosen postcodes for a chance to win cash prizes. A minimum of 32 percent from each subscription goes directly to charities and good causes across Great Britain and internationally -- players have raised £500 million so far. For further information visit: www.postcodelottery.co.uk