



## CONNECTION LOST: PRESENTING THE THEME AND NEW FORMAT OF THIS YEAR'S ONE WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

### Press release

Prague, 13 April 2021

**Internet connection, webcam, the constant clicking of the mouse, and trying, if only for a moment, to see the people on the other side of the screen. "Connection lost" has become one of the most common messages people encounter during meetings made possible by the technological advances of the internet. It is the computer's way of informing us of a weak connection or of other technical difficulties that negatively affect our technology-based communication. At the same time, these words perfectly describes the situation that many people have found themselves in during the pandemic. Who has been disconnected merely from a video conference, and who feels disconnected from everyday life? What challenges has the transition to an online world brought us and what is our place within the new reality? These are some of the questions asked by the twenty-third edition of the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, which runs from 10 May to 6 June. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the festival will be held online, accessible from anywhere in the entire Czech Republic. Thus, like last year, there will be just one One World.**

"In deciding on the festival's main theme, we agreed that One World must, as it always does, reflect current events at home and abroad. In our view, the most pressing issue today is how the ongoing pandemic and the move to an online world have accentuated inequalities in society. We thought about how much control we have over this transformation of our lives at work and school or in the family, and to what extent it is a development that can no longer be stopped," says festival director Ondřej Kamenický, who also explains the decision to hold the festival online in response to the current situation surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic: "In view of the uncertain situation in the entire cultural sector, where among other things it still isn't clear when cinemas will reopen, we have decided to hold One World primarily as a virtual event. We will endeavour to provide audiences with as many debates and post-film discussions as possible, and if the situation allows, in late May we will also hold screenings at various outdoor cinemas throughout the Czech Republic."

This year's festival format and its main theme, "Connection Lost," are made possible thanks to support from One World's general partner, Pavel Baudiš and Eduard Kučera's newly established Abakus Endowment Fund, which hopes to focus on difficult social issues that are often outside mainstream interest.

For the fourth year running, the festival's marketing campaign has been organized by Studio MT (Matyáš Trnka in collaboration with Matěj Růžička). The main motif of this



year's visual is the image of different people at a video conference – today's alternative to meeting in person. "Frozen faces on the computer screen, the sound of clicking, people cursing, and also the exhaustion that accompanies many daily online video conferences – these are the things we have captured in this year's visual, which reflects our current lives. The subject's abruptness is underscored by bright – for some people perhaps almost aggressive – colours that at the same time are easily identifiable even for people with visual impairments," explains Matyáš Trnka, the creative mind behind the campaign.

Debates from the studio and films available for online viewing at any time  
This year's festival will thus have a whole new format. From 10 to 19 May, audiences can enjoy One World live in the form of regular screenings accompanied by streaming discussions with the filmmakers. The first streaming event will feature the presentation of the 2020 Homo Homini Awards and the festival's opening film. From 20 May to 6 June, audiences can watch all of the films on the new One World Online platform, which was created independently from the festival's move to an exclusively online format. "We had long wanted our own platform, a place where the best films from past festivals would be available year-round but which could also be used during the festival. The recent digitization and existence in a virtual world have given us the necessary impulse, and thanks to our collaboration with the Prozeta company, we put together the new platform for this year's festival," states Kristýna Ganttnerová, programming head of the festival's distribution department. The films will be available at any time and from anywhere in the Czech Republic. Just as with cinema screenings, selected films will have audio commentary or special subtitles for the hearing impaired. The first One World Online screening will take place at 7pm on 13 April with a live broadcast on Facebook and Zoom, which is also when the festival's director Ondřej Kamenický will unveil the festival trailer and introduce this year's theme. The first film of this year's program is *Foundation Pit*, which viewers can watch in advance in order to try out the new One World Online viewing platform.

The category "Connection Lost" will show films about digital connection and disconnection

The theme of this year's One World festival, "Connection Lost," is also reflected in the eponymous main festival category, which will present films exploring unequal access to online information, internet dependence, online manipulation, or how technology incorporates human bias into its algorithms, thus transferring it into new areas. One documentary to explore these issues, *White Noise*, takes a unique look inside the American far-right nationalist movement. Director Daniel Lombroso succeeded in getting to the heart of a scene that spreads fear and hatred on social networks. Another film to study social networks, with a particular focus on the relationships that are formed on them, is Kateřina Hager and Asad Faruqi's longitudinal documentary *A Marriage*, which is being presented in its European premiere. The film follows two people who met while playing Farmville online and spent five years living a primarily



online relationship. In *I Am Gen Z*, meanwhile, director Liz Smith explores the effect of omnipresent mobile telephones and the internet on the lives of Generation Z. And what are the challenges faced by journalists who move their work for India's *Khabar Lahariya* newspaper online? *Writing with Fire* by directors Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh tries to find the answer.

Besides "Connection Lost," the festival includes three traditional competition categories (Czech Competition, International Competition, and Right to Know) and fourteen other thematic categories. Selected films will be accompanied by discussions with the filmmakers, which will be streamed online as part of One World Live. Some of our guests are notable not only for their work but also for their personal standpoints. Dutch diver Kiki Bosch looks at the phenomenon of cold water immersion and its influence on mental health. Turkish-German lawyer, female imam, and activist Seyran Ateş will talk about the equal treatment of women in Islam, and Meredith Broussard, an American professor at New York University, will discuss her work in the field of data journalism and her study of the ethics of artificial intelligence.

## One World – This year, just one

Regional screenings have long been an integral part of the One World festival. These allow audiences to attend the festival outside of Prague in towns through Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. Thanks to its online format, this year's festival will be accessible to viewers throughout the entire Czech Republic. For the first time in its history, audiences in Polička, Brno, and Pardubice – i.e., anywhere, from the safety and comfort of their home – will have the exact same range of films to choose from. But the movies are just one part of our program: Audiences will also have the unique opportunity to discuss important social issues through online streaming events, which will be joined by selected regional cities. Depending on the current situation, regional festival audiences can also look forward to outdoor screenings, held in line with all government orders and hygienic measures.

## One World for all

Over the past several years, it has become a given that the festival will be accessible to viewers with various disabilities. Even this year, with the festival held online, we continue our work towards making the festival accessible for everybody. "This year's edition is a great challenge for us, because the things we know and are familiar with from making cinemas accessible cannot all be simply transferred to the online world. Even so, we hope that we will be able to make the festival accessible to as broad a spectrum of people as possible," says the festival's accessibility coordinator Mariana Chytilová. Selected films in the festival's filmothèque will have subtitles for hearing-impaired viewers and some films will also offer audio descriptions. If outdoor screenings are permitted, the festival will endeavour to make them maximally accessible in these areas, so that the screenings will not differ from those at indoor cinemas.

# JEDEN SVĚT

MEZINÁRODNÍ FESTIVAL  
DOKUMENTÁRNÍCH FILMŮ  
O LIDSKÝCH PRÁVECH

10. 5. – 6. 6. 2021

online po celém Česku



We also screen at / for schools

Since schools can't visit the movies, our team has decided to bring One World to the classroom – or at least into online instruction. The festival's films will be available on the One World in Schools website (JSNS.CZ) along with informational materials and interesting activities for working with them in the classroom. "For younger pupils, we have three short dubbed films about kids their age who are dealing with issues such as being isolated from their classmates, school inclusion, or how to prevent food waste. For older students, we have chosen *Where Were You*, an animated film about the serious issue of domestic violence, and two films from the festival program – *A Marriage* and *We Are Russia*. We have also included last year's successful film *China's Artful Dissident*, which many people have not had a chance to see," says Linda Šilinerová, program coordinator for One World's school screenings. For secondary school students, all the films also include the possibility to engage in online discussion with the filmmakers, the films' subjects, or interesting experts on the particular topic.

Additional information, as well as this year's visuals, are available for download at [www.jedensvet.cz](http://www.jedensvet.cz)

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