

One World

International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

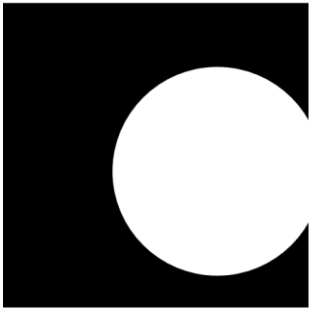
ONE WORLD UNVEILS FULL PROGRAM AND ANNOUNCES THIS YEAR'S HOMO HOMINI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year, One World Festival showcases powerful films exploring human rights issues from around the globe. Covering topics like war, activism, injustice, and personal relationships, these films emphasize the need for empathy and mutual understanding. The 27th edition of One World will feature a total of 95 documentary and narrative films, along with 9 immersive experiences. The festival runs from March 12 to April 27, 2025. Screenings in Prague will run from March 12 to 20, with Prague Echoes continuing afterward.

The opening ceremony of the 27th International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival One World will take place on March 12, 2025, at Prague Crossroads. During this festive evening, the **Homo Homini** will be awarded to two exceptional individuals for their contributions to human rights. The award will be presented by former Slovak president Zuzana Čaputová.

Nigerian journalist **Philip Obaji** will receive the award for *“his detailed documentation of over a hundred cases of gross human rights violations against defenseless citizens by the Wagner Group and Russian paramilitary units.”* He will personally accept the award at Prague Crossroads.

The evening will also see the Human Rights Award presented posthumously to Ukrainian journalist **Victoria Roshchyna**, for *“her courage in telling the stories of Ukrainians in Russian-occupied territories and for her long-term journalistic work dedicated to covering topics threatening Ukraine's democratic order, which she did not back down from despite personal security threats.”* Victoria Roshchyna disappeared in August 2023, and according to a report from the Russian



One World

International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

Ministry of Defense, she died while being transferred from one Russian prison to another.

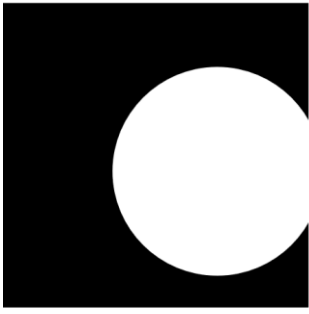
The festival will open with [My Memory Is Full of Ghosts](#), a film by director Anas Zawahri. This poignant essay paints a haunting portrait of Homs, a once-prosperous Syrian city now devastated by war. The same film will also serve as the festival's **opening screening for the public**.

“One World has been documenting the conflict in Syria since it began in 2011. Over the years, many talented Syrian filmmakers and human rights advocates have attended the festival, and their work has been recognized multiple times. While much of the world has turned away from Syria during this prolonged war, we have not,” says festival director Ondřej Kamenický about [My Memory Is Full of Ghosts](#). *“This film symbolically closes one chapter, and we all hope that with the fall of Assad’s regime, better days lie ahead for the country,”* adds Kamenický.

This year, the festival will showcase a total of 84 documentaries, 11 narrative films, and 9 immersive films, along with 14 films for students in elementary school, middle school, and high school. In addition to the four traditional competition sections (i.e. the [International Competition](#), [Czech Competition](#), [Right to Know](#), and [Immersive Film Competition](#)), One World will also present seven non-competitive categories: [The Slovak Journey](#), [Family Webs](#), [Female Gaze](#), [Male Beings](#), [Ecosystems](#), [Searching for Freedom](#), and [Community Boundaries](#). The festival will also engage audiences with a diverse array of debates in various formats.

Human Rights Across the World: The International and Czech Competitions

The [International Competition](#) will feature films from around the world that tackle pressing global events and social issues. Awarded at the



One World

International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

prestigious IDFA festival, the documentary [The Guest](#) takes audiences to the Poland-Belarus border, where Polish armed forces commit atrocities against migrants from the Middle East on a daily basis. Directed by Zvika Gregory Portnoy and Zuzana Solakiewicz, the film highlights themes of humanity, solidarity, and friendship.

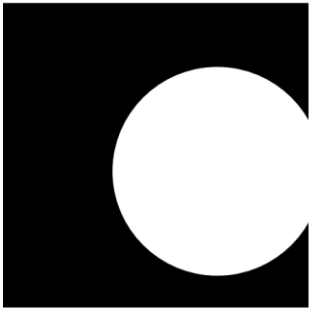
The visual poem [All the Mountains Give](#) follows two Kurdish smugglers risking their lives at the Iraq-Iran border to survive. Directed by Arash Rakhshahy, this film is a powerful testament to the harsh realities faced by the Kurds, where illegal activities often become the only means of escape.

The [Czech Competition](#) continues in its tradition of showcasing a rich variety of local projects, exploring themes that extend beyond the borders of the Czech Republic. Five films will have their world premieres at One World, including [Volver a Volver](#), a documentary about the Venezuelan Sikora family's return to their Czech roots through a special repatriation program. Directed by Jorge Sánchez Calderón and Valerio Mendoza, the film delves into the challenges faced by migrants trying to integrate into society.

The highly stylized documentary [Satan Kingdom Babylon](#) takes viewers on an investigative journey as a detective unravels the mysterious disappearance of a woman within the confines of a hotel. Directed by Marie and Petr Šprincl, the film, set within a video game interface, delves into the growing polarization of American society and the rise of religious fanaticism.

New Perspectives: Right to Know and the Immersive Films Competition

[Right to Know](#) provides a platform every year for stories that would otherwise remain unseen. This year's selection offers a glimpse into



One World

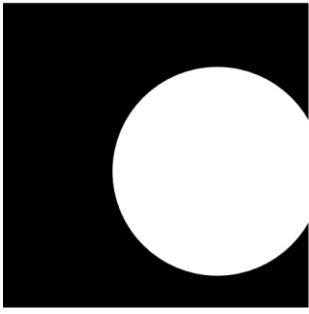
International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

Chinese factories in Ethiopia, the Christian Egyptian community, and present-day Gaza. In this section, twenty-two short films by various directors document the everyday realities of war, viewed through the eyes of children at play and adults fighting for humanitarian aid. [From Ground Zero](#) presents a chilling mosaic of life in Gaza today.

Award-winning director Nanfu Wang and Cuban activist Rosa María Payá first met years ago at One World. While Nanfu presented a film about a Chinese activist advocating for women's rights, Rosa received the Homo Homini Human Rights Award on behalf of her late father, who, along with 10 other Cuban dissidents, fought for human rights in Cuba. Despite sharing democratic values, an ideological rift emerges between them after they both emigrate to the United States. While Nanfu sees disturbing parallels between Chinese and American capitalism, Rosa becomes a supporter of Donald Trump. [Night Is Not Eternal](#) explores the complexities of democracy at a time when its original meaning seems to be fading.

Ten years ago, One World became the first film festival in the Czech Republic to include virtual reality films in its program. This year, the [Immersive Film Competition](#) will showcase nine human rights works that immerse the viewer, providing the illusion of direct involvement and offering experiences otherwise unattainable. The spiritual film [Perinatal Dreaming - Understanding Country](#) invites the audience to enter the mind of an unborn child, reliving the crucial period framed by conception and birth. The film was created under the guidance of artist, researcher, and midwife Marianne Wobcke.

In [RAPTURE II - Portal](#), the audience will find themselves trapped in an abandoned house in Donbas, in a scenario akin to a survival horror experience. Alice Berger's immersive film is a harsh testimony to the Russian occupation of Ukraine, conveying the sorrow stemming from



One World

International
Human Rights
Film Festival
2025

the loss of one's home.

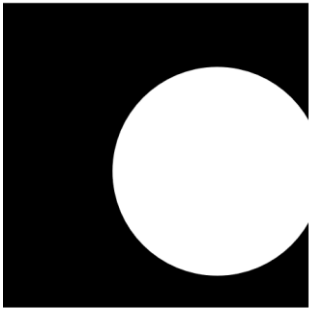
The Slovak Journey

This year's edition of the festival places a special focus on current events in neighboring Slovakia. The non-competitive category [The Slovak Journey](#) explores the fragility of democracy, underscores the importance of civil society, and offers an in-depth look at the situation in a country that all of Europe is watching with bated breath.

In addition to works by established Slovak filmmakers such as Marek Šulík and Maroš Brázda, [The Slovak Journey](#) will also showcase several student projects. In [The Most Beautiful Corner in the World](#) and [Long Live Death](#), director Robert Mihály examines the rise of neo-Nazi tendencies in Slovak society and the unchecked spread of Russian disinformation. [Confession](#), the graduation film by director Rebekah Bizubová, delves into her personal experience with sexual harassment by church authorities.

Interpersonal Relationships: Family Webs, Female Gaze, and Male Beings

Family relationships, whether protective or restrictive, have become a central theme in this year's program. The [Family Webs](#) section, dedicated to this topic, highlights the many forms family can take. The observational documentary [Motherboard](#) offers an unfiltered look at single parenthood. Renowned director and BAFTA award winner Victoria Mapplebeck, who will personally present the film, spent twenty years filming herself and her son, Jim, capturing both the fragility and resilience of their relationship. Meanwhile, [When Harmattan Blows](#) takes the audience to a Ghanaian village, where Barbara confronts her parents about the trauma caused by her forced departure from her



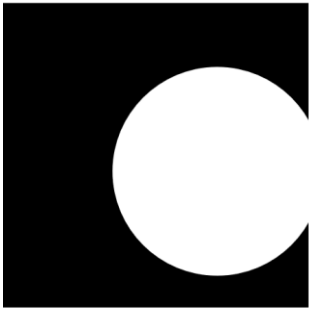
One World

International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

homeland. Meanwhile, Edyta Wróblewska's film tackles the painful experience of rape and the deep yearning for understanding.

Films in the non-competitive [Female Gaze](#) category are united by strong female protagonists and the complexity of the situations they navigate. [XiXi](#) tells the story of the eponymous artist, who has lived under the constraints of censorship imposed by the Chinese communist regime since childhood. Director Fan Wu meets XiXi in Berlin, where the artist experiences the freedom she's longed for. Supported by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Fan Wu will attend the festival to present the film. The documentary [Nice Ladies](#) follows the lives of older Ukrainian cheerleaders who challenge societal prejudices through dance. The Russian invasion forced some of the women to emigrate, but the team remains united despite the long distance. Director Mariia Ponomarova, who will personally present the film at One World, shares a deeply personal testimony about leaving her homeland, losing her identity, and the unbreakable bonds that endure.

The [Male Beings](#) section is dedicated to exploring the experiences of men, their search for self-awareness, and the deconstruction of stereotypes. The narrative film [The Quiet Son](#) tells the story of a widower whose older son—like many young, frustrated working-class French men—becomes entangled in the path of right-wing extremism. The film received the 2024 Collateral Impact Award at the 81st Venice Film Festival. The documentary [Silent Men](#) seeks to answer why so many contemporary men struggle to express emotions. This essayistic film, grounded in research and balancing self-irony with vulnerability, draws on the personal experience of director Duncan Cowles and chronicles his years-long journey toward emotional expression.



One World

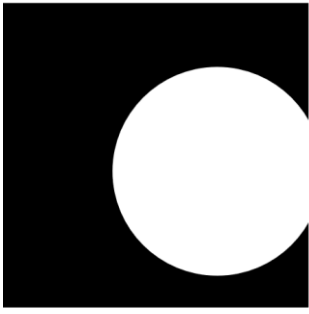
International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

On People, Nature, and the Fight for Freedom: Community Boundaries, Ecosystems, and Searching for Freedom

Films in the [Community Boundaries](#) section offer a glimpse into communities around the world facing extreme situations. The social thriller [The Legend of Vagabond Queen of Lagos](#) follows Jawa, a single mother from a Nigerian fishing community. When the government plans to build luxury apartments in a slum area, she confronts corruption head-on. Directed by a seven-member team, the film is inspired by the real-life violent eviction of tens of thousands of people, an illegal operation carried out by local authorities in Lagos. Nigerian journalist and Homo Homini Award laureate Philip Obaji will attend the screening on March 13 at Světozor Cinema in Prague. The documentary [Separated](#) transports viewers to the US-Mexico border, where, during Donald Trump's first term, tens of thousands of children were systematically separated from their parents. Directed by Oscar-winner Errol Morris, the film offers an in-depth look at the "zero tolerance" policy and identifies the key figures behind it.

The traditional non-competitive [Ecosystems](#) category shines a spotlight on nature and the environment. This year's selection of environmental films explores the complex relationship between humans and nature.

[I Am the River, the River Is Me](#) tells the story of the Whanganui River, the first river in the world to be granted the legal status of a living person. Directed by Czech filmmaker Petr Lom, who now resides in Canada, the film follows his journey along New Zealand's longest river with a Māori guide. It explores not only the stunning beauty of the local ecosystems and Māori culture but also the painful legacy of colonialism. [Compost Me](#) introduces an alternative ecological approach to burial: composting human bodies. This poignant documentary follows a Belgian activist group campaigning for the legalization of composting, which they view as a spiritual act that transforms death into a natural part of the life cycle.



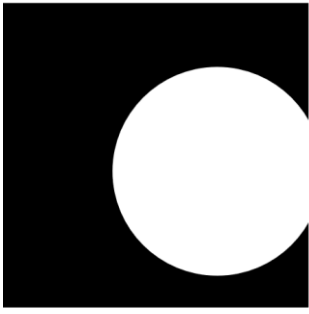
One World

International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

The [Searching for Freedom](#) section transports audiences into countries grappling with various forms of oppression. The films' protagonists, from all corners of the globe, stand up against Chinese totalitarianism, Orbán's corruption, and labor conditions that violate human rights. In the social drama [On Falling](#), the Portuguese protagonist Aurora works in Edinburgh's warehouses for a minimum wage. Directed by Laura Carreira, the film explores how contemporary capitalist society isolates and exploits migrant workers in Western Europe. The animated documentary [Flavours of Iraq](#) follows Iraqi-French journalist Feurat Alani as he revisits Iraq through his own memories. Personal childhood experiences intertwine with key political events, offering a deeper understanding of modern Iraqi history. Director Léonard Cohen will also be attending the festival to present the film.

Debate Program: On the brain drain of Slovak Gen Z and the radicalization of social media

A core element of One World Festival has always been its debates. Today, the festival offers a variety of discussion formats where both international and Czech guests, along with the audience, can participate. While cinephile film analyses will take place at Ponrepo Cinema, larger panel and expert discussions will be held regularly in the grand hall of the Municipal Library. After the special section [The Slovak Journey](#), a discussion will follow the screening of [Question of the Future](#), with director Maroš Brázda, Andrea Michalcová (director of the Centre for the Informed Society), and Katarína Batková (director of Via Iuris) exploring why so many young Slovaks are leaving the country. Political scientist Jan Charvát, anthropologist Marie Heřmanová, and data analyst Josef Šlerka will also take part in a debate on the radicalization of social media and the online space, a topic highlighted in the film [Hacking Hate](#).



One World

International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

The Abakus Foundation remains the festival's general partner for the fifth time. As part of its efforts to support systemic changes in education, it has also sponsored the debate program aimed at fostering meaningful dialogue on a range of important topics and enhancing the impact of the films. After the panel and expert debates, the audience will have the chance to vote for the Abakus Foundation Audience Award for Outstanding Debate.

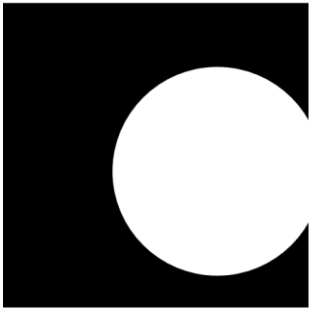
Film professionals will also have the opportunity to attend the 14th edition of the East Doc Platform, the largest event for documentary filmmakers from Central and Eastern Europe, which will once again be held in parallel with One World.

“We are pleased to collaborate with One World Festival long-term, helping to bring important films on critical topics to a broader audience. Supporting their creation and presentation to the public is crucial for us. This year, we will welcome over 60 upcoming documentaries at the East Doc Platform and believe many of them will later appear in the One World program, as has been the tradition for years. This partnership brings us great satisfaction, and we hold it in very high regard,” said Zdeněk Blaha, program director of the Institute of Documentary Film, on their collaboration with One World Festival.

The full East Doc Platform program is available on dokweb.net

One World Nationwide in the Czech Republic

From March 12 to April 27, 2025, the festival will take place in a record 56 cities across the Czech Republic, in addition to Prague. For the first time ever, the festival will visit Vrchlabí, Humpolec, and Černošice. On February 19, 2025, individual cities will unveil their curated film selections and debate programs.

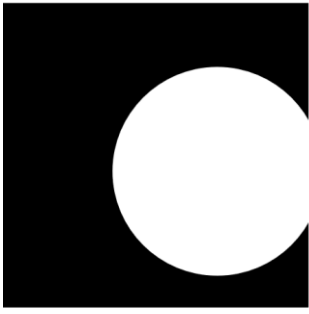


One World

International Human Rights Film Festival 2025

Practical Information

- Tickets will go on sale on Tuesday, February 19 on GoOut. Tickets can be purchased at the info stand at Lucerna from March 12, during the festival, as well as at the info stand at the Municipal Library and at cinema box offices. The price for general admission is 170 CZK.
- Holders of ZTP (Severe Disability) and ZTP/P (Severe Disability with a Need for Assistance) cards, and senior citizens over 65 years of age, are eligible for a 50% discount on all screenings.
- An assistant to a ZTP/P cardholder gets free entry.
- The press center, where journalist accreditations will be issued during the festival, is located on the 1st floor of the People in Need Center – Langhans (Vodičkova 37, Prague). It will be open from March 12 to 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Throughout the festival, two information stands will be open—one in the Lucerna Passage and the other in the foyer of the Municipal Library in Prague. At these info stands, visitors can find all the essential festival information and purchase festival merchandise, which will also be available for purchase in the One World e-shop at mujjedensvet.cz/shop
- Tickets can also be purchased directly from the two information stands. Here festivalgoers can buy tickets to any cinema and for any screening. They will receive printed tickets instead of e-tickets.
- This year, ticket bundles will also be available for purchase on GoOut. There are three types of bundles to choose from:
 - 3 tickets for 450 CZK
 - 5 tickets for 700 CZK
 - 10 tickets + 2 films on the VOD platform One World Online for 1300 CZK
- Information about the accessibility of cinemas and the festival program is available at oneworld.cz/accessibility. The festival website



One World

International
Human Rights
Film Festival
2025

also enables you to filter your search by accessibility type in the Program section so that you can find the screening that best suits your needs.

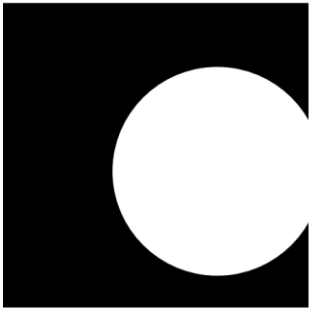
For more details and downloadable materials, visit the website at www.oneworld.cz.

You can watch this year's festival spot [here](#).

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One World

**International
Human Rights
Film Festival
2025**

Partnerships and Sponsorships

Organizer: People in Need

Co-organizer: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

General Partner: Abakus Foundation

Main Partner: Donors of the Better School for All campaign

Key Partners:

City of Prague

Czech Audiovisual Fund

Creative Europe – MEDIA

CDN77

European Parliament – Department for Relations with Civil Society

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Technical and VR Partner: Alza

General Media Partner: Czech Television

Main Media Partner: Czech Radio