

The United Nations, One World and the Swedish Embassy to Belgium and Luxembourg

Prison Sisters

A collaboration with the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

The film will be introduced by a representative from the Swedish Embassy to Belgium and Luxembourg

A panel discussion will follow the film, featuring:

Nima Sarvestani



Nima Sarvestani worked as a journalist in Iran for several years reporting on social and political issues. He moved to Sweden in 1984 and began directing and producing documentary films. He founded the production company Nima Film Productions in 1987, which has produced films that explore unique global issues through personal life stories. Sarvestani's films often focus on socio-political topics and subjects related to the Middle Eastern countries. He has produced several documentaries about people in harsh environments, people with unique lifestyles, and those fighting for their rights.

Sietske Steneker



Sietske Steneker is the Director of the Brussels office the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). A national of the Netherlands, she has previously worked as UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, Honduras, El Salvador and at UNFPA headquarters in New York.

Dagmar Schumacher



Dagmar Schumacher is the Director of the UN Women Brussels Office. The office is responsible for liaising with EU institutions on joint advocacy, policy dialogue, and joint programming. Prior to joining UN Women, she worked at UN Volunteers as well as with UNDP and the UN in Latin America, Vietnam and New York.

Moderated by

Árni Snævarr



Árni Snævarr, an Icelandic journalist, joined the UN in 2005 and is a desk officer for the Nordic countries at UNRIC.

Follow the discussion on Twitter and Facebook:



@CineOnu #CineONU @UNFPABrussels @UNWomenEU @Jedensvet #NimaFilmSweden #PrisonSisters #OneWorldFF



@CineONU



United Nations Population Fund's work in Afghanistan

Less than fifteen years ago, in 2002, Afghanistan's maternal mortality ratio stood at 1,600 deaths for every 100,000 live births. Today it is 327, but big challenges remain. Maternal mortality in Afghanistan, though a fraction of its earlier levels, it is still among the highest in the world. Skilled attendants, such as midwives, who can assist in a safe and hygienic childbirth and quickly identify and act on complications, are present at only 34% of deliveries. This situation is made worse by Afghanistan's high birth rate, early child bearing, and by pregnancies at close intervals, which put the lives of mothers and infants at risk. UNFPA worked with the Ministry of Public Health to develop national family planning guidelines and organise training for health care providers. With the support of UNFPA around 790 health workers were trained, which helped improve family planning services in 350 health facilities throughout the country.



Women's Rights in Afghanistan

The path to empowerment for Afghan women remains riddled with discrimination, violence and unequal access to opportunities. Education is often not an option for many women and girls in Afghanistan. Among school age children, 38% (4.2 million children) do not have access to schools, most of which are girls. Moreover, a study by the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs and women's groups reports that approximately 57% of girls in Afghanistan are married before the age of 16. The estimated literacy rate for women stands at 15.8%.

Yet, the combined efforts of the Government of Afghanistan, the international community and local civil society organizations have also led to substantial progress for women and girls, including in education, political participation and their increasing economic role. The Afghan National Unity Government has committed to women's empowerment, eradicating violence against women, and changing sexist societal mind-sets, recognizing that without institutionalizing the equal rights of women, the country will never be able to stabilize and develop in a sustainable way. There is yet still a lot of work to do and time and time again we are reminded of how fragile and reversible these gains are.

Rights of Women Migrants

Today, around the world, people are on the move. They are migrating to escape poverty, improve their livelihood or escaping conflict in their own countries. Women represent almost half of the 244 million migrants and half of the 19.6 million refugees worldwide. Women are often the first responders in a crisis, and whether *en route* or in camps, in home countries or destination countries, they play a crucial role in caring for, sustaining and rebuilding their communities. Women remit larger proportions of their incomes, despite earning less than male counterparts, and are more likely to spend remittances on education, health and family care offsetting insufficient services in those fields in their country of origin.

Yet, refugee and migrant women's needs, priorities and voices are often missing from policies designed to protect and assist them. Migrant women and girls are commonly subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, based on their sex and on additional grounds such as race, religion or ethnicity. The contributions of migrant women to fostering more equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth and human development for countries of origin, transit and destination should be recognized.



With generous support from...

The Swedish Embassy to Belgium and Luxembourg

One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

Over the past 19 years One World has grown into the largest human rights documentary film festival in the world. Organised by People in Need, the festival works with a broad definition of human rights, and therefore in addition to films about political causes and development themes, the programme also includes films about social issues, the environment and lifestyles.

The One World film festival takes place in Brussels from 24th April to the 4th of May. For more information go to: oneworld.cz



UNRIC is the communication hub for the United Nations in Europe. Based in Brussels, the Centre covers 22 Western European countries and maintains a website in 13 languages. Visit www.unric.org for more information.