



United Nations
Regional Information Centre
for Western Europe



DRAFT AGENDA HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2010, BOZAR

18.30 – 19.00

Welcome in the lobby

19.00 – 19.15

Opening address:

Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Steven Vanackere
Welcoming words by United Nations and European Union Representative

19.15 – 19.20

Introduction to the film:

Léo Kaneman, Co-Director, International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights in Geneva
Bryan Single, Film director

19.20 – 20.40

Screening of the award-winning documentary film “Children of War”

20.40 – 22.00

Sofa-setting panel debate: "Every one of us can make a difference"

The 2010 theme for Human Rights Day highlights the role of everyday human rights defenders – reaffirming that we all have a role to play in ensuring respect for human rights and to act to defend discrimination, whether in Europe or elsewhere. But what can YOU do in situations of everyday discrimination or in situations as harsh as the one depicted in “Children of war”? Tips and testimonies will be shared by prominent human rights defenders from all walks of life.

Moderator: Reed Brody, spokesperson Human Rights Watch

Panelists:

Bryan Single, director and producer of “Children of war”
Els De Temmerman, Belgian journalist and author, founder of the NGO Childsoldiers in Uganda
Gabor Gombos, Hungarian defender of the rights of persons with mental health problems, future member of the CRPD
Julia Ehrt, German Vice-Chair of TransGender Europe
Sri Kumar Vishnawatan, activist of Indian origin defending the rights of Roma in the Czech Republic

Questions from the audience can be asked in English, French or Dutch

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2010 – WHO IS WHO



Bryan Single - a filmmaker born and raised in the American south. His creative exploration began as a still photographer while trekking foreign lands, and resulted in a diverse body of work notable for its themes of witness, compassion, and contemplation of the human condition. After attending the California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles, Bryan's passion focused on cinema and documentary film. He has subsequently worked as a cinematographer on several documentary and television projects. The award-winning "Children Of War", which he directed, produced, and co-edited, is his first documentary feature.



Els de Temmerman - a Belgian journalist and author, who as correspondent in Africa for a number of Belgian and Dutch newspapers witnessed both the genocide in Rwanda and the war in Uganda. She decided to put her journalistic career on hold, to help former child soldiers and advocate for their rights. She is the founder of the NGO Childsoldiers and her book "Aboke Girls – Children abducted in northern Uganda" has been published in five languages.



Gabor Gombos - a Hungarian researcher, who experienced first-hand the degrading conditions of psychiatric wards before becoming an activist on behalf of users of mental health services. He has focused on ending practices that violate human rights, such as cage beds, and on highlighting the human potential of persons with mental health problems.



Julia Ehrh - a transgender activist who started her trans activism almost ten years ago with a group of young transgenders questioning the omnipresent bi-polar gender identity approach in society. Shocked by the ignorance trans people face in their everyday lives and by the lack of proper legislation she moved on to political activism. She has been involved with several organizations including TransInterQueer and since 2005 Transgender Europe. She works as a mathematician at the Humboldt University Berlin.



Léo Kaneman - Founder and Director of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH).



Reed Brody - Spokesperson for Human Rights Watch in Brussels, whose work as lead counsel for the victims in the case of the exiled former dictator of Chad, Hissène Habré – who faces trial in Senegal – and in the prosecution of Augusto Pinochet has been featured in three films, including "The Dictator Hunter." He has worked on a variety of human rights issues, from the U.S. treatment of prisoners in the "war on terror", to monitoring human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo; El Salvador; Haiti; Tibet and Nicaragua.



Sri Kumar Vishwanathan – a high school teacher from India, who decided to move in with marginalized Roma after the 1997 floods in the Czech Republic, helping them to design and build a create a new neighbourhood called "Coexistence Village", which to this day remains an unprecedented success story of integration. Since, he has continued developing projects with and for Roma – against racial violence and discrimination and for better integration into society.



Steven VanaCkere – Deputy Prime Minister; Minister for Foreign Affairs and Institutional Reform of Belgium.