

Working group 26:

Human Rights in Film

Background

FOR A 1000 LIVES: BE HUMAN is an appeal from European filmmakers and other film professionals to national governments and the EU to take immediate action to place the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of people belonging to minorities in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail, at the core of their asylum politics.

The Fundamental Rights Forum, in partnership with the School authority and the office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the city of Vienna, organised – in the context of the forum – a human rights school competition on the three forum themes: inclusion, refugee protection and the digital age. Videos, drawings, and collages were produced by students aged 6-19 who attend schools in Vienna.

Objectives

The workshop aimed to explore the power of film as a medium for raising awareness of human rights with different audiences, learning for and about human rights, and addressing human rights emergencies. The workshop was attended by the winners of the Fundamental Rights Forum's connect.reflect.act award. These were pupils in Viennese schools who took part in the forum's human rights school competition. The workshop provided a meeting point for a variety of film industry and human rights professionals, as well as teachers, students and others, to engage in an interactive debate. It consisted of two parts aimed at different age groups (ages 9-14 and 15-19).

Speakers

- Nathalie Borgers, Film director
- Sepp Brudermann, Film director & producer
- Arash T. Riahi, Film director
- Hilde Dalik, Actress
- Students and teachers from the forum's human rights school competition
- Eva Sobotka, Programme Manager – Fundamental Rights Forum, FRA

Main messages

1. If you want to change the world, start with smaller goals.

2. Connect with people who share your ideas and become active.
3. Film is a strong medium for educating, raising awareness, and reaching out to others.