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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 22-30, 2019

for correspondence:
11 Mala Zhytomyrska str.,
office 10, Kyiv 01001, Ukraine

RIGHTS NOW!

HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM AT DOCUDAYS UA 2019

Between March 23 and 30, the 16th International Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA will have the biggest (in terms of the number of events) human rights program RIGHTS NOW! in its history.

The program includes over 40 events. These are discussions, lectures, workshops, trainings and screenings of documentary films which conceptually speak about the central topic of Docudays UA, human rights in the digital age and online security.

RIGHTS NOW! program will include screenings of the four short documentaries that won the **CIVIL PITCH: Civil Activism Films** competition. As a reminder, in 2018 Docudays UA organized a project competition for documentary filmmakers and representatives of the third sector to create new documentary films which will promote change in the society.

For a year, documentary filmmakers worked in cooperation with activists, studying specific socially important and urgent topics. Is it safe to fight against corruption? Can engaged citizens stop illegal construction in the capital and preserve the architectural face of Kyiv? How protected are the rights of sex workers in Ukraine? How do refugees fare in our country? By now, the civil activism films are ready, and the audience can see and discuss them with the activists, filmmakers, and the film's protagonists.

Can documentary films change the public opinion and the world in general? By itself, it probably can't. But the contemporary digital world is the world of cooperation and changeability. In the special program **CHANGE IT! Influence Lab for Activists and Documentary Filmmakers**, three headliners of impact distribution from the US and the UK will demonstrate the success that can be achieved by filmmakers and human rights advocates in joint campaigns if they have a well-developed strategy and effective tools.

The team of the Human Rights Department of Docudays UA will announce the launch of a **National Ukrainian Campaign Against Cyberbullying and Cybergrooming**. This campaign will bring together NGOs and government agencies. Together, they will work to strengthen the instruments of protection from cyberbullying and cybergrooming and to change legislation in this sphere.

A special series of lectures and discussions within the human rights program will be dedicated to digital rights and security, the issue of regulating the internet. In particular, Oleh Soldatov, a PhD student at Bocconi University, will give an exclusive talk about the practice of the European Court of Human Rights in the sphere of human rights violations on the Internet.

In recent years, social media have become battlefields during election campaigns. How do we form and preserve our own opinion in this situation, how do we recognize manipulative election techniques and realize our right to free choice in the digital age? We will talk about it in the middle of the campaign period at the lecture *Without Buckwheat. Where Is the Choice Made: In the Voting Booths or on Social Media?*

How should government bodies work, ideally, to meet the standards of human rights protection? This will be demonstrated at the presentation of the virtual legal city **Pravopil**.



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And at the roundtable on **Sheriffs for New Communities**, activists will speak about the experience of organizing the safe environment in small and medium-sized Ukrainian communities.

Separate topics at RIGHTS NOW! are the campaign for freeing the prisoners of Kremlin, human rights violations in Crimea, the war in Donbas. Docudays UA will have a VR cinema which will show fragments from a future 3D film *Prisoners of War*. Documenters from the Ukrainian human rights organization Truth Hounds will speak about how they recorded war crimes and how they worked near the frontline in Donbas.

The bulk of events in the RIGHTS NOW! program will be held in the Creative Space IZONE on 8 Naberezhno-Luhova str.

In Zhovten Cinema, the audience will have a chance to join the **#SaveOlegSentsov** campaign. The cafe in this cinema will host traditional meetings in the **Coffee with Human Rights Advocates** format. Experts will discuss if it is possible for human rights advocates to preserve their anonymity online; who collects, who sells and who buys personal data, the “currency” of the 21st century; why the majority of Ukrainian MPs do not want to ratify the Istanbul convention and recognize domestic violence as a crime.

An effective instrument for fighting the most widespread stereotypes will be our Living Library, where you will be able to pick a “human book” with interesting life experience and ask them questions that trouble you.

For more details about the program and to arrange interviews, please address **Iryna Sydorenko, the program’s PR coordinator**, at iryna.sydorenko@docudays.ua.

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