

To mark International Human Rights Defenders Day, the United Nations Regional Information Centre, the Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, and the European Union present:

Jaha's Promise

The screening will be introduced by Birgit Van Hout, Regional Representative for Europe, UN Human Rights Office, and will be followed by a panel discussion with:



Patrick Farrelly

Co-Director 'Jaha's Promise'

Patrick worked with Michael Moore in the 1990s producing his award-winning satirical series, TV Nation and the Awful Truth. His 2005 HBO documentary 'Left of the Dial' (about the ill-fated launch in 2004 of the first liberal radio network, Air America featured Al Franken, Rachel Maddow, Marc Maron, and Janeane Garofalo) was an Emmy Award nominee. 'Voices from the Grave', a film about the Northern Ireland Troubles won Ireland's Best Documentary award in 2010. 'Nuala', a 2012 film he made about the Irish writer Nuala O'Faolain won Best Irish Film at the Dublin Film Festival and awards at the Vancouver and Palm Springs film festivals.



Marjeta Jager

Deputy-Director General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

Marjeta is currently Deputy Director General in DG DEVCO. She has been working in the Commission since 2005, starting as Director for Security in DG TREN and later being Director for international energy and transport files and institutional affairs, as well as Head of Cabinet of the Transport Commissioner. Before joining the Commission, Marjeta was working since 1991 for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and she was the first Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the EU.



Veronica Birga

Chief, Women's Human Rights and Gender Section, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

Veronica joined OHCHR in 1999, after working in the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo) with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In OHCHR, she has served both at HQ and in the field, covering a variety of thematic issues and country situations. Before joining the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section, she served as OHCHR Deputy Regional representative for Central America. She has been heading the Women's Rights and Gender Section since March 2014.



Caroline Petit

Deputy Director, UNRIC

Caroline has worked in the field of strategic communication and media partnership at international level for 25 years. She joined the UN in 2001 and, was posted first as Head of the Media Partnerships Unit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York before joining UNRIC in 2013. Caroline Petit started her career at the European Commission' Media Programme where she was in charge of promoting European film producers at major film festivals in Europe.

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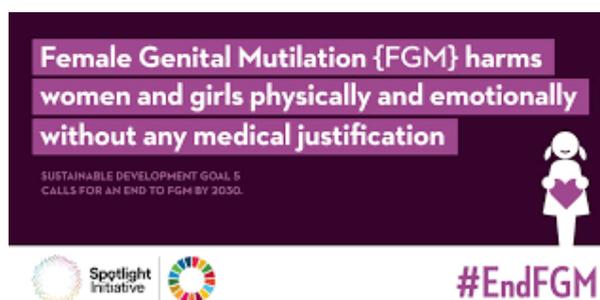


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'Jaha's Promise' shows how an individual can make a tremendous difference in the battle for human rights.

Every year, millions of women and girls worldwide have their quality of life drastically altered by female genital mutilation (FGM). The procedure involves partial or total removal of their external genitalia or other injury to their genital organs for non-medical reasons. Thousands of women and girls around the world are affected or at risk.

FGM is internationally recognised as a violation of women's human rights and a form of child abuse. In common with other forms of gender-based violence, 'it constitutes a breach of the fundamental right to life, liberty, security, dignity, equality between women and men, non-discrimination and physical and mental integrity'. It also violates the rights of the child as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Between 100 and 140 million girls and women in the world are estimated to have undergone FGM, and 3 million girls are estimated to be at risk of undergoing the procedures every year.

Communities that have employed a process of collective decision-making have been able to abandon the practice. Several governments have passed laws against the practice, and where these laws have been complemented by culturally-sensitive education and public awareness-raising activities, the practice has declined.



This screening illustrates how one individual can make a tremendous difference.

We invite YOU to take the pledge to stand up for human rights! Head to: www.standup4humanrights.org/en/take-action

Supporting human rights defenders is a priority for both the UN Human Rights Office and the European Union.

