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March 8, 2017

Women's Voices Now Film Festival

INVINCIBLE AND UNSILENCED: WOMEN IN THE WORLD

LOS ANGELES – On March 8th, 2017, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, the fourth annual Women's Voices Now Online Film Festival will go live. This film festival is a celebration of uncensored and unapologetic voices from feminists and their allies under the theme **INVINCIBLE AND UNSILENCED: WOMEN IN THE WORLD**. Women's Voices Now received 86 films submissions from 24 countries on five continents, and 36 films were [accepted](#) for the 2017 festival.

The films will be made available online from March 8-April 5, 2017 **exclusively** on the [Women's Voices Now website](#) for FREE. Women's Voices Now invites viewers from around the world to watch and vote for their favorite films. During this time, a diverse panel of international [judges](#) will also be viewing and casting their votes to determine the recipients of the \$10,000 in prize money. Winners will be announced mid-April 2017.

"In this distinct curation of selected films we see women of all colors and walks of life protecting themselves and their communities from the adverse economic, social, cultural, and political challenges humankind faces in the 21st century. Witnessing these stories through the medium of film creates solidarity toward the common goals of women's rights, respected and dignified on a global scale," says Heidi Basch-Harod, executive director of Women's Voices Now.

The 36 films featured in the **INVINCIBLE AND UNSILENCED: WOMEN IN THE WORLD** film festival program portray intimate glimpses into the difficulties experienced by women and the victories that highlight a common thread of perseverance and persistence in the face of adversity. From the rural communities of Brazil, Nepal, and Kenya, to the urban centers of Tehran, London, and Fukushima, these are the realities women champion every day.

"The unique contribution of Women's Voices Now to the film festival circuit is that it is both a celebration of bold storytelling through the vehicle of filmmaking as well as a call to action. Providing a platform for the voiceless to be heard in all corners of the globe is a noble endeavor that is most powerfully accomplished through the empathy-generating activity of watching films. While the festival focuses on the voices of women, it is inclusive of the male gaze in order to enjoin men *and* women in the very necessary work that needs to be done in the sphere of

women's rights," says Ehab Al Shihabi, board director of Women's Voices Now and former deputy managing director of *Al Jazeera* English.

In addition to their annual film festival, [Women's Voices Now](#) is home to the "Netflix of feminist films," a free online archive with over 200 international women's rights films that can be viewed for free from anywhere in the world.

WVN is a non-profit organization that promotes the free expression of the worldwide struggle for women's civil, economic, political, and gender rights. Through free online content and community-based events with global partners, WVN creates platforms that connect conscientious art and media creators, activists, filmmakers, audiences, and advocacy organizations in an effort to shape and change public consciousness and policies on women's rights. Using the medium of film, we strive to create an interconnected, mobilized women's rights community that works together to improve the status of women worldwide.

For more information: womensvoicesnow.org

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