

## **Donostia / San Sebastian Human Rights Film Network European Forum Declaration**

*We, the European Festivals of the Human Rights Film Network (HRFN) gathered in San Sebastian, 2016 European Capital of Culture, for a special forum with the intention to emphasize the power of cinema and film festivals to face the presently active human rights violations, make the following statement:*

We reject the migration policy adopted by the European States. With more than 60 million people displaced and forced to abandon their homes worldwide, we are faced with the highest number of forced displacements since World War II.

Given this humanitarian emergency situation, we, the undersigned, wish to recall the duty of all states to respect and guarantee the human rights of all people simply for being human, regardless of their "legal migratory status", nationality or origin. As European film festivals, we stress that the respect for fundamental Human Rights and for international standing conventions is the obligation of all members of the international community.

We condemn the border control agreements with neighbouring states such as Turkey under which these states act as the European Union police force. We demand the end of illegal refoulement and the respect for and guarantee of the principle of non-refoulement. As long as European politics remain based on the tightening of its borders, people will be forced to arrive by dangerous routes which may cost them their lives. Europe closes, denies and returns at a time when it should open, welcome and take in.

Donostia / San Sebastian, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**María Carrión** (FiSahara)

**Maurizio Del Bufalo** (Festival del Cinema dei Diritti Umani di Napoli)

**Isabelle Gattiker** (Festival du Film et Forum International sur les Droits Humains, Ginebra)

**Giulia Grassilli** (Human Rights Nights, Bolonia)

**Farah Hasanbegović** (Pravo Ljudski Film Festival, Sarajevo)

**Andrea Kuhn** (Nuremberg International Human Rights Film Festival)

**Ketil Magnussen** (Human Rights Human Wrongs, Oslo)

**Tadeusz Straczek** (Watch Docs, Varsovia)

**Dirk van der Straaten** (Movies that Matter, La Haya)

**Javier Vilalta** (Festival Internacional de Cine y Derechos Humanos de Valencia)

**Josemi Beltrán, Ana Garayalde** (San Sebastian Human Rights Film Festival)

