The Papua New Guinea Human Rights Film Festival

Human Rights Film Festival Committee Papua New Guinea

HE PNG HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL (HRFF) is organized as a forum to promote greater respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights for all as well as a forum for debate to empower the audience with the understanding that personal commitment can make a difference to end discrimination.

The HRFF is designed as a weekend of human rights films, discussion, art and music. It brings to life human rights stories. It challenges each individual to empathize with the most vulnerable and discriminated against in the society, especially victims of human rights violations, and supports justice for all people.

The films being screened present different human rights themes and are followed by panel discussions with the audience. It is an opportunity to look at the current situation in PNG and what can be done to further implement human rights in key areas.

The HRFF is supported by the government of Papua New Guinea, Community Engagement Unit - Law and Justice Sector Secretariat (LJSS), Media Council, PNG Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC), National Capital District Commission (NCDC), United Nations in Papua New Guinea, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Transparency International, Penal Reform International, Papua Hahine, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), World Vision PNG, Marist Brothers Melanesia, Baha'is Papua New Guinea, We CaRe!-PNG, European Union, Adobe Youth Producing Change-Human Rights Watch, IRIN Films and Moresby Arts Theatre.

First HRFF

On 10–12 December 2010, the HRFF was held in Port Moresby with the slogans "Speak Up. Stop Discrimination" and "We are all born free and equal in dignity and rights," based on Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The HRFF formally opened with a video statement by the High Commissioner of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Honorable Navi Pillay, and an OHCHR video on Human Rights Defenders.

It was held along with the celebration of Human Rights Day 2010.¹ The theme for Human Rights Day 2010 was on human rights defenders who act to end discrimination. Human rights defenders are defined as those who speak out against abuse and violations including discrimination, exclusion, oppression, and violence. They advocate justice and seek to protect the victims of human rights violations. They demand accountability for perpetrators and transparency in government action. In so doing, they are often putting at risk their own safety, and that of their families. Some human rights defenders are famous, but most are not. They are active in every part of the world, working alone and in groups, in local communities, in national politics and internationally.

Human Rights Day 2010 highlighted and promoted the achievements of human rights defenders and emphasized the primary role governments must play in enabling and protecting the human rights defenders. The Day was also intended to inspire a new generation of defenders to speak up and take action to end discrimination in all its forms whenever and wherever it is manifested.

Since then, the HRFF has been held annually in different parts of Papua New Guinea.

Themes of the Film Festivals

Each annual HRFF has specific themes which reflect the pressing human rights issues in Papua New Guinea. The first HRFF had the theme about human rights defenders. Starting from 2010, the HRFF adopted a variety of themes, namely:

• 2010 – "Speak Up. Stop Discrimination";

- 2011 Torture Prevention; Right to Health & Ending Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; Sorceryrelated Killings and Impunity; Sexual Violence against Women; Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Business, Environment & Human Rights; Social Change, Elections and Human Rights; Child Rights;
- 2012 Violence Against Women; Discrimination and Sexual Health; Housing Rights End Forced Evictions; Business, Environment and Human Rights; Refugees, Asylum-seekers and People Smuggling; Ending Impunity for Torture and Inhuman Treatment;
- 2013 "Gender and Identity";
- 2014 Business and Human Rights, The Bougainville Referendum, Sports and Human Rights, and Access to Health and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- 2015 "Stori bilong yumi" (Our Story);
- 2016 "Noken lus tinting long raits bilong mi" (Do not forget my rights);
- 2017 Sorcery-related Violence, Women's Economic Empowerment; Equality; and Church Partnership;
- 2018 "Stand Up Today to Change Tomorrow" (Sanap Nau Lo Senisim Tumora);



West Papuan traditional dance performance, opening ceremony of 3rd Annual PNG HRFF, 2012 @ Moresby Arts Theatre.



A bus load of participants arriving at the Moresby Arts Theatre, 4th PNG HRFF, 2013.



Day 1 - 5th PNG Human Rights HRFF, 2014 @ the Moresby Arts Theatre

 2019 - Gender Equality and GBV; Climate Change and Conservation; Right to Equality for Key Populations; Right to Health and Universal Health Coverage; Right to Education; Claiming Your Rights; Freedom of Expression, and Rights in the Bougainville Referendum.

Film Selection and Screening

Films being screened at the HRFF are selected by a film selection committee composed of representatives from each partner agency of the HRFF. This committee uses a set of criteria including the following:

- 1. The film conveys a message about human rights in Papua New Guinea;
- 2. The film relays information about emerging issues around human rights in the country;
- 3. The film does not contain extreme violence;
- 4. The film promotes the human rights concept and reflects a positive image of human rights;
- 5. The film clearly states the type of audience that is eligible to view the film:
- 6. The language in the film can be easily understood by the general public.

See Annex A for the film selection form.

Each year, certain films powerfully convey the festival themes and deeply resonate with the audience. Films made in Papua New Guinea are found to be well received by audiences. There are also certain international films that members of the audience are able to identify with despite different cultural contexts and type of human rights issues presented. Some of these films are described in following paragraphs.

In the 2010 HRFF, a film directed by Iara Lee, titled *Cultures of Resistance*, was shown. This film explores how art and creativity can be ammunition in the battle for peace and justice. It presents experiences from different countries such as graffiti and rap as tools in fighting government repression (Iran), monks acting in the tradition of Gandhi taking on a dictatorship (Myanmar/Burma), musicians reaching out to slum kids and transforming guns into guitars (Brazil), and the use of photography, music, and film in raising a voice to those rarely heard (Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon).

In 2011 *The Green Wave* directed by Ali Samadi Ahadi and released in 2010 was shown under the theme of torture prevention. The film begins with scenes of the eve of the June 2009 presidential elections, when a new generation of Iranians believed that change was possible. Carried forward

by an immense surge of dissent and freedom, a tidal wave – the famous Green Revolution – sweeps across Iran, its goal being to overturn the status quo and remove the governing regime from power. Mixed with interviews, amateur video footage and other electronic media products, the animated film reveals the protagonists' humanity, thus adding to the emotion of the audience as they witness the painful events that dashed the hopes of the people.

A major theme in the 2012 PNG HRFF was Discrimination. The 2005 documentary film *Pursuit of Equality* directed by Geoff Callan and Mike Shaw about the struggle of same-sex couples for marriage equality in the United States was shown in line with this theme. The focus of the film is mostly on the same-sex marriages performed in San Francisco from 12 February to 11 March 2004. By issuing same-sex marriage licenses, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom uproots the status quo, attempts to change the way the nation looks at life, love, and marriage. This film was inspiring to some and challenging to other members of the audience.

In 2013, among a number of films exploring various themes, HRFF showed an Australian film titled *Mary and Mohammad* depicting the friendship of an elderly Australian woman and an Afghani asylum seeker. The film opens with the Australian government's surprise announcement to build Tasmania's first detention center and the local community erupts with hostility. After the center opened, four women from a knitting club take beanies to the male detainees in the center and forge unexpected friendships with them. When the detention center closed after six months, some of the refugees decide to settle in Hobart. The knitters stay in contact with them and a close relationship develops between Mohammad and Mary.² *Mary and Mohammad* is directed and produced by Heather Kirkpatrick, released in the year 2013 and runs for one hour and nineteen minutes.

In the 2014 HRFF, the film *Mr. Pip* was shown. It was a 2012 New Zealand film written and directed by Andrew Adamson and based on Lloyd Jones' novel *Mister Pip*.

The film is set in 1989 as a war rages in the province of Bougainville, then known as North Solomon. The story is narrated by Matilda, a young girl who becomes transfixed by the Charles Dickens novel *Great Expectations*, which is being read at school by the only white man left on the island after the historical blockade of the Bougainville Copper Mine. Matilda finds comfort in the story of a Victorian orphan when her own world is falling apart.

The Papua New Guinea military sent to destroy the local rebels are getting closer. Matilda writes 'Pip' in the sand. This simple act leads to terrible consequences when the Redskins suspect Pip to be a rebel leader and demand he be brought before them.

With the Bougainville Referendum scheduled for 2019 and fast approaching, the PNG HRFF Committee included a theme on the Bougainville Referendum. The Referendum which was conducted in 2019 showed that 98 percent of Bougainvillians voted for independence for this historically conflicted Papua New Guinean province.

In 2015, in line with the theme "story bilong yumi" (Our Story), a Papua New Guinea documentary film titled *A Girl's Life*, was shown. The story follows the story of a young Motuan girl, Rhonda, in the capital city of Port Moresby as she changes her life by keeping her traditions and culture alive by participating in the Hiri Moale Festival pageant. The film looks at how Rhonda and her family live and follows the path she takes to become a *Hiri Hanenamo* (Miss Hiri Moale – the title of winner of the Hiri Moale pageant) in the Hiri Moale Festival in Port Moresby. This cultural event is a celebration of the past Motuan traditions and trade with distant neighbours.

In 2016 an international film that greatly resonated with the audience was *Sonita*, a film that tells the inspiring story of Sonita Alizadeh, an eighteen-year-old Afghan refugee in Iran. Sonita dreams of becoming a bigname rapper and thinks of Michael Jackson and Rihanna as her spiritual parents. However, her family has a very different future planned for her: as a bride she is worth \$9,000. Iranian director Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami poignantly shifts from observer to participant altering expectations, as Sonita's story unfolds in this personal and joyful portrait. An intimate portrait of creativity and womanhood, *Sonita* powerfully echoes the HRFF 2016 theme of "noken lus tinting long raits bilong mi" (Do not forget my rights).

In 2017 a film titled *Tanna* made in the neighboring Pacific Island of Vanuatu was shown under the theme of women's rights and equality. *Tanna* is set in the South Pacific where Wawa, a young girl from one of the last traditional tribes, falls in love with her chief's grandson, Dain. When an inter-tribal war escalates, Wawa is unknowingly betrothed as part of a peace deal. The young lovers run away but are pursued by enemy warriors intent on killing them. They must choose between their hearts and the future of the tribe, while the villagers must wrestle with preserving their traditional culture and adapting it to the increasing outside demands for individual

freedom. *Tanna*, is based on a true story and performed by the people of Yakel in Vanuatu. This film resounded with the audience who understood the Melanesian values and traditions depicted in the film.

The theme for the 2018 HRFF was "Stand Up Today to Change Tomorrow." In line with this theme, a Papua New Guinean film, *Aliko and Ambai*, was shown and well received widely by the audience across all the centers the festival was taken. *Aliko and Ambai* is a 2017 feature film made by the Centre for Social and Creative Media (CSCM) at the University of Goroka, Papua New Guinea. The film follows the story of two young women, Aliko and Ambai, facing the challenges of growing up in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. The challenges are significant: tribal conflict, poverty, bullying, domestic violence and forced marriage. Aliko struggles to complete her education and Ambai searches to escape her abusive home and reunite with her biological father. They navigate the many obstacles in their lives and endeavor to build brighter futures for themselves, supported by the strength of friendship.

Posts on Facebook and feedback after screenings have demonstrated that young audiences are deeply affected by this story that shows the beauty and the pain of contemporary indigenous experience in Melanesia. The film aims to inspire the current generation of young people to overcome the obstacles in their lives and persevere to reach their goals and fulfil their aspirations, to "stand up today to change tomorrow."

Several themes were advocated during the 2019 film festival. One of which was gender equality and countering gender-based violence. In line with this theme a Papua New Guinean film, *Power Meri*, was shown and was well received by the audience. *Power Meri* is a 2018 film directed by Joanna Lester. The story follows PNG's first national women's rugby league team, the PNG Orchids, on their journey to the world cup in Australia. These trailblazers must beat not only the sporting competition, but also intense sexism, a lack of funding, and national prejudice to reach their biggest stage yet. Proud, strong, and hopeful, the pioneering women in the PNG Orchids team have overcome more challenges than most to play their much-loved national sport. But after years at grassroots level, they have just three months to transform themselves into a competitive national team. *Power Meri* takes audiences on a journey through rarely seen corners of PNG and behind the scenes of women's sport. It follows the PNG Orchids through selection trials, arduous training with a fly-in-fly-out Australian coaching mentor, and di-

verse personal struggles as they face the world champion Australian Jillaroos and compete at the world cup. But their mission is greater than winning. In a country with appalling rates of domestic violence, sport is one of the few arenas in which PNG women can show their strength. If they can perform like men on the rugby field, can they change attitudes about the treatment and status of women back home?

See Annex B for the list of films shown in HRFF over the years.



Pre-screening at Jack Pidik Park, Port Moresby. 4th PNG HRFF, 2013.



OUR STORIES by Marie Stopes – Youth in Port Moresby Discuss relationships, sex, and growing up. Day $2-5^{\rm th}$ PNG HRFF, 2014 @ Moresby Arts Theatre.



Screenings at Peit were hosted in a classroom in Hapan Primary School, 4th PNG HRFF, 2015.



UN Resident Coordinator Gianluca Rampolla speaking during the 9^{th} PNG HRFF, 2018, Moresby Arts Theatre, Port Moresby.



9th PNG HRFF, 2018 @ Moresby Arts Theatre.

Other films on a variety of human rights themes are also shown in the Film Festival.

Panel Discussions

Films screenings are followed by interactive panel discussions led by experts from government, civil society, academia, United Nations (UN) agencies and international organizations. Through this format, the HRFF strengthens public engagement on critical human rights issues impacting Papua New Guinea.

In 2010, the screening of Path to Justice was followed by a discussion on the question "What can be done to improve conditions of detention and prevent torture in PNG?" The screening of Stolen Generation was followed by a discussion on the question "Human Trafficking – what can be done to prevent it in PNG?" The film screening of Crude: The Real Price of Oil was followed by a discussion on the question "What are the concerns in PNG and how can we protect the rights of people affected?"

In 2011, the panel discussions covered these questions:

- What has been done to prevent torture since the official mission of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture in May 2010 and what other action is needed?
- What can be done to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in PNG and ensure all of us can equally enjoy fundamental human rights like the right to health?
- Concerns have been expressed about the phenomenon of sorcery related killings in PNG and the lack of protection for victims and witnesses. What is the situation? What more can be done to combat impunity for these crimes and to protect human rights defenders who are working to support victims seek justice and medical care?
- What is the situation of sexual violence in PNG and how does this impact the women, men, girls and boys of our nation?
- Fleeing persecution, conflict, disasters, climate change, seeking urban opportunities, learning, working, making a living, returning people move for many reasons. Often they are compelled to do so. What is the situation in Papua New Guinea? Are we ready for migration?

- What is the situation of persons with disabilities in Papua New Guinea? What can be done to ensure that rights of persons with disabilities are respected?
- Extractive industries can provide jobs and revenues for development; but they can also exploit environments and peoples causing irreparable damages. What's the current situation in Papua New Guinea? Is the business sector responsible enough? PNG is known worldwide for its environment, the indigenous land, and the different cultures. What sustainability can we guarantee?
- Elections give us men and women the power to choose our representatives. An open political debate, information, freedom of expression, security and same opportunities are key requirements to reduce divisions and ensure true political participation. What is the situation in Papua New Guinea?
- What is the situation of child rights in Papua New Guinea? What is your organization doing to advocate and protect child rights? What are the major challenges and can we expect more positive things to happen in future?

In 2012, the panel discussions covered these questions:

- What is being done to end violence against women in PNG? This
 was in relation to the mission to PNG in March 2012 of the UN
 Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women who described
 the problem of violence against women as a "pervasive phenomenon" and urged authorities to address traditional practices that are
 harmful to women. The situation is equally alarming in urban and
 more "modern" settings;
- How do we ensure the rights of individuals at risk of HIV to equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services to prevent the further transmission of the virus? Evidence indicates that structural factors including religious and traditional beliefs, the deep-rooted and pervasive stigma and discrimination against sex workers, men who have sex with men and high rates of violence against women contribute to the transmission of the HIV as well as efforts at prevention, treatment, care and support.
- The dilemma of business and human rights. In a country such as PNG where employment and development are so badly needed,

- how should doors be opened to international companies and exploitation of resources while ensuring sustainable and healthy environment and indigenous values for the future generations?
- The debate around asylum seekers and refugees is often challenged by myths and misconceptions. Governments' concerns related to national security and preventing irregular migration can negatively affect these vulnerable groups putting them at risk of human rights violations. In Papua New Guinea, on-going developments related to fighting people smuggling, processing asylum seekers, but also the concerns expressed by the government for the struggle of refugees, have reinvigorated the discussion on the protection of the rights of vulnerable migrants and refugees.
- What was done since the Special Rapporteur's visit to implement his recommendations and to combat impunity for torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment?



Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Day 2 - 5th PNG HRFF, 2014 @ Moresby Arts Theatre.

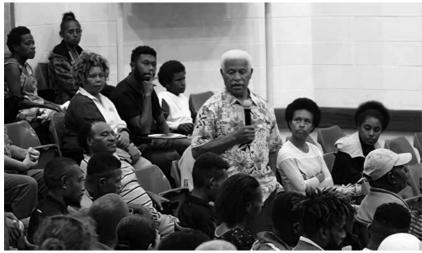


5th PNG HRFF, 2014, the Moresby Arts Theatre.

In 2016, the HRFF showed films associated with the theme of Papua New Guinean Culture (past and present). The questions discussed in the Panel were concerned with the role of film, art and culture and its influence on human rights and politics in Papua New Guinea.³

The discussions dealt with the following questions:

 How have we seen Papua New Guinea's artistic culture change over time?



A member of the audience partaking in post screening discussions in Madang, 9th PNG HRFF, 2018

- Are indigenous cultural practices under threat?
- Should young people feel obliged to protect cultural traditions?
- What role can film/art/creativity/performance play in Papua New Guinea?
- What role can it play in the human rights discourse?
- Can art/ film be a form of political expression and political resistance?

Exhibitions

As part of the 2010 HRFF program, photos, posters and materials on specific themes were displayed throughout the duration of the event:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 An exhibit featuring human rights by PNG children and youth illustrating the different articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Prevent Torture
 The UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment or punishment visited PNG in May 2010;
- Housing Rights are Human Rights
 An exhibition on the right to adequate housing in PNG: the human rights standards and the reality of life in urban settlements without basic services.

In 2011, other themes were included:

- Migration is about Rights: 10м 60th anniversary picture display;
- Refugees: Drawings and pictures depicting the conditions of refugees in Papua New Guinea;
- Yumi Piksa video and photo narrative workshops.

There are also booths in each HRFF that provide important information to those who are inspired and affected by the films. In the 2016 HRFF, information booths at the Moresby Arts Theatre were set up by invited not-for-profit civil society organizations and other institutions to share their messages in line with the human rights theme of the festival "Noken lus ting long raits bilong mi" (Do not forget my rights). The following organizations were invited to open booths during the HRFF



Information stalls at the entrance to the auditorium, including the sponsor, Family Voice @ University of Goroka, 4^{th} PNG HRFF, 2013.



Children viewing information stalls at the Moresby Arts Theatre, 4th PNG HRFF, 2013.

- Unicef
- Coalition for Change
- Yumi Kirapim Senis
- Stop Sorcery Violence
- Youth Blood Drive
- Buk Bilong Pikinini I can do this one as I met them!



Secondary School students at information stalls, day 2, 5th HRFF, 2014 @ Moresby Arts Theatre.

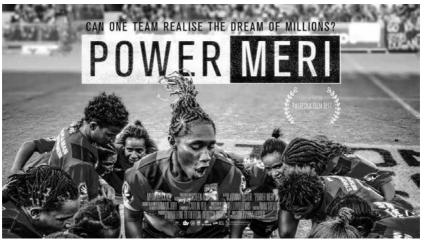


The Mount Sion band performing an intermission number, University of Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, 4th PNG HRFF, 2013.

- Pink Nose
- World Bank Film Booth.

Other Activities

Poster contests such as on the best illustration of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been organized in the different years of the Film Festival.



"Power Meri" Poster, shown on the 9th PNG HRFF, 2018.

There are also activities for families, children and youth such as Human Rights Quiz, Kids Art Corner, drama, dance, and other forms of entertainment.

Audience

The HRFF has been attracting students from primary school to tertiary institutions, working-class professionals, villagers, urban youth, inmates in prison, stakeholders in the area of human rights, staff of international organizations operating in the country and the general public. In the 2018 HRFF, over two hundred students from seven schools attended the Friday school session focused on youth rights and the right to education. This included students and teachers from Badihagwa Secondary School, Coronation Primary School, La Salle Technical College, Koki primary school, Gerehu primary school, Port Moresby Technical College, and St. Joseph's International Catholic College.

Venues

The HRFF is brought to the different parts of PNG to enable more people to join the activities.

In 2012 the HRFF was brought to two other centers apart from Port Moresby. It began in Port Moresby on the 14 -18 of November at the

University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and then moved to Buka, in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville from 24-26 November at three different locations; the Kuri Resort (24 November), Hutjena High School (25 November), and Kenny's Hall (26 November). On the last leg of its tour, the Raun Raun Theater of Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea hosted the HRFF for two days, 30 November to 1 December.

The 2015 HRFF travelled to all four regions of the country, opening in Port Moresby, and travelling on to Madang, 7-9 August, Bougainville, 11-15 August, and Goroka, 2-4 September. Dedicated committees in each location made this possible. The efforts and strong support of sponsors and committee members always make the HRFF possible.

The 2016 HRFF screened films inside the Bomana Prison, the Port Moresby Correctional Facility. Through showcasing human rights films, the HRFF creates an inclusive dialogue of empowerment, protection, and respect.

The 2018 HRFF travelled to all four regions of Papua New Guinea. In the highlands region, the HRFF was held in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province from the 23 - 25 October at the University of Goroka, Mark Solon Auditorium. For the Momase region, the HRFF visited two locations; Madang and Morobe. In Morobe the HRFF was held at the Duncanson Hall in the University of Technology from 2 - 4 October. The panel discussions were led by University of Technology student representatives, a senior jour-



Screenings at Peit were hosted in a classroom in Hapan Primary School, 4th PNG HRFF, 2015.

nalist of the biggest media company in Papua New Guinea, and a Morobe Provincial welfare officer.

The final chapter of the 2018 HRFF was in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, visiting three locations: Buka on 3 November, Arawa on 11 November and Buin on 17 November.

2019 Film Festival

With the support of the HRFF patron, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Davis Steven, MP, the HRFF celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2019 with the theme of "Stand with me for rights in PNG," adapted from the global theme on the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The 2019 HRFF was attended by approximately ten thousand people and traveled to five provinces in PNG from 27 September to 3 December 2019 across the locations below, travelling to Lae and Alotau for the first time, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Film Screening Schedule and Venues

| 27-29 September | 2-4 October | 17-20 October | 23-25 October | 1 – 3 November |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Madang, Madang | Lae, Morobe | Port Moresby, NCD | Goroka, EHP | Alotau, MBP |
| Divine Word | PNG University of | Moresby Arts | University of | Kenu & Kundu |
| University | Technology | Theatre | Goroka | Festival Grounds |

In Port Moresby, panel discussions were moderated by FM100 broadcaster, Cullighan Tanda, and broadcasted on FM100 Community Corner Talkback Show, extending the HRFF's reach to the station's two and half million listeners nationwide, with live updates posted on Facebook. Films screenings were followed by interactive panel discussions.

Films

The HRFF continued to promote PNG films which continued to resonate strongly with the festival audience and generate interactive discussions. Twenty out of thirty of the feature and short length films in the festival program were made in PNG and featured over twelve provinces, including dialogue in Tok Pisin or local dialects (*tok ples*). The films were selected

by the HRFF committee, through an open call for submissions, and were reviewed by the PNG Censorship Bureau.

Location Summaries

Madang, Madang Province: 27-29 September 2019, Divine Word University

The HRFF returned to Madang for the fifth time, hosted at the Divine Word University SVD Memorial Auditorium, and opened to a packed audience for a screening of the widely popular film, *Power Meri*, which documents the journey of the first PNG National Women's Rugby League team in the 2017 Women's Rugby League World Cup. The screening was attended by PNG Orchids player, Jacobeth Wake, who also participated in a Q&A session post-screening with the audience. On the second day of the HRFF in Madang, student-led local civil society organizations hosted information stalls on disability rights and climate change, and engaged the audience in activities, including a disabilities hashtag challenge. The Madang festival included discussions on gender equality, climate change, freedom of expression, and child rights led by lecturers and students at Divine Word University, including a student film on "BYOB: Bring Your Own Bilum" initiative.

Lae, Morobe: 2 – 4 October 2019, PNG University of Technology

With the support of the Public Relations Office of the PNG University of Technology (UniTech), the HRFF was hosted in Lae at the PNG University of Technology Duncanson Hall on the evenings of 2 - 4 October 2019. The HRFF in Lae was opened by UniTech Pro Vice Chancellor, Orea Renagi, and a keynote speech from Scott Waide, EMTV News chief based in Lae. The Lae HRFF featured the following topics: equality, environment and climate change, and gender-based violence through films and panel discussions led by UniTech lecturers and student representatives and involved active engagement from the audience.

Port Moresby, NCD: 17-20 October 2019, Moresby Arts Theatre

The HRFF in Port Moresby engaged over two thousand people and was opened by the HRFF patron for the second consecutive year, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and Attorney General,

Honorable Davis Steven, MP. In his keynote address, the Deputy Prime Minister reiterated the government's support for the HRFF as an annual event. The opening night in Port Moresby also featured the launch of the film, Unheard Voices on maternal and child health in Papua New Guinea, by the National Department of Health and the World Health Organization. The HRFF engaged four hundred students across ten schools and youth groups, through a youth-focused session on climate change and environment on day two of the festival. Information stalls on organizations working on human rights were also set-up in the foyer of the venue. The Port Moresby HRFF for the first time debuted a performing arts piece on domestic violence, choreographed by Vanessa Tamburi, and performed by two local dancers, Meriba Igara and Kwalahu Nou. The Port Moresby HRFF also featured the festival's first flashmob performance, which was performed by the SASA! Advocates following the session on "Claiming your rights!" The SASA! Advocates performed the song "This is my dream," which won the 2017 UNWomen song contest on ending violence against women in PNG. The Port Moresby chapter of the HRFF engaged volunteers from Equal Playing Field, and Gini Goada provided free transportation to the event.

Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province: 23-25 October 2019, University of Goroka

Attended by almost two thousand people over three nights, the Goroka chapter of the HRFF was opened by the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Delegation of the European Union, Rudie Filon, as the lead sponsor for the Goroka chapter of the festival for the second year in a row. As part of the film *No Moa* on ending violence against women and girls in Papua New Guinea, the Goroka chapter hosted a live performance of the song by the same name, by locally renowned local female artist, Mereani Masani, and Australian indigenous female artist, Emily Wurramurra, as part of a collaboration with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Goroka chapter featured films and discussions on gender equality, cultural and land rights, environment and climate change, and the right to education and health.

Alotau, Milne Bay: 1 -3 November 2019, National Kenu and Kundu Festival Grounds

With the support of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Justice and Attorney General, the HRFF traveled to Alotau for the first time as an integrated component of the 17th National Kenu and Kundu Festival. The festival was opened by the Milne Bay Provincial Administrator, Ashan Numa, and was supported by the 2019 National Kenu and Kundu Festival committee, and the Milne Bay Tourism Bureau, with funding support from the World Health Organization. The screenings were held at the National Kenu and Kundu Festival grounds in an open-air theater. By partnering with the Kenu and Kundu Festival, the HRFF was able to engage thousands of people from across Milne Bay, as well as tourists who traveled into Alotau to attend the National Kenu and Kundu Festival. Over two nights, the Alotau HRFF profiled films and discussions on the "Rights to Health," and "Environment and Climate Change." This included a local film made in the Bwanabwana islands of Milne Bay on "Gwala," a traditional form of conservation practiced in Milne Bay made by Eco Custodian Advocates Limited, a local conservation non-governmental organization based in Alotau.

Media coverage

The 2019 HRFF received a considerable amount of coverage from both national daily newspapers (*Post-Courier* and *The National*) a regional monthly magazine publication (*Stella Magazine*), several local radio stations and one international radio station (Radio New Zealand).⁴

Audience Reflections

There were two interesting highlights of the 2017 HRFF; the Goroka Human Rights Art Competition and interviews with the audience. These are some of the reflections of members of the audience:

I'm just blessed to come here. I was not aware of the festival. I didn't even see, I was on Facebook but maybe because I didn't join all this so I won't know. I'm just blessed following my sister this afternoon and seeing that *Tanna* movie promote that cultural background and coming to this more or less seeing all this big missing in the other segment of this. It's a reality to me and then my comment was on this, like many a time I don't read newspapers on this or see this advertisement, I'm just blessed to come here to see and to know and I believe when I go out from here, I will start promoting what's happening especially from our cultural perspective. Like I was thinking bride price is a good thing but then like coming and hearing others are sharing their ideas on their cultural background than what I see is that we have to understand, every person has to understand. We try to be knowledgeable and then we move from that error to this new age of error and begin to understand and begin to be knowledgeable and we move from there to know and act to help assist one and other. Everything must begin within ourselves so we will have a better community. It's team work for a better future, we have to work in avenues that can be knowledgeable like this film festival and then we can work together to help areas like in Madang like we have the natural disaster in Manam Island.

- Magdaline Missionyaki

I think it's a good thing for creating awareness on human rights. We need to see what's happening in order for us to believe and react. Our people need to understand some of the activities that governments of the world, giant companies are doing in the name of getting money, but it's really destroying the lives of ordinary people but I wish that it's open outside where many more people could watch and just watching this latest one where many more people were affected, I wish that our people in the villages could see this videos. We have to see it, understand it and act upon it.

- Freida Kana

Many people don't know their rights. I part take through picking up and dropping off the participants and came to know little of human rights. I usually do awareness to mothers and youths in my role as a bus offside (bus crew). So when I see this program on the human rights film festival, I am more than happy because this was what I was doing in my daily job as a bus offside.

- Bus crew of Meri Safe Bus

These kinds of programs will help us. I'm very happy to see the human rights film festival and encourage the youths to be involved in such activities to gain more insight of issues within our communities.

- Driver Robin Israel (Meri Safe Bus)

The film festival is a very good opportunity for us to enhance educating the younger generation and through films. It is one of those mediums that people can relate to in terms of visual and listening and its really appropriate for young people to be involved in this whole learning and information dissemination process.

- Tamalis Akus (UNDP)

Human right is a very important issue. Coming to this event is very encouraging to exercise your rights. I feel it will be more important to include such film programs in the education curriculum where a child and individual will know their rights at an early age. The panels encourage us to speak our minds or air our views.

-Salome Waira

These movies addressed the current issues we are facing. People do not know their rights gender wise, and it goes all the way to the levels of how we live in the society.

- Grace Goro

During the 2019 Film Festival, several members of the audience expressed their reflections:

That's the second time where I've attended an actual *Power Meri* screening, and, here the audience was very lively. Watching the documentary with them and how they reacted was very good and motivational; that there's other people out there supporting the women.

- Jacobeth Wake, Madang

This is the kind of change we want to see, more empowerment of women in our societies and communities. We just cannot take that mentality where we see men as the superior. We gotta do away with that mentality and see that women can be equal contributors, if given a chance & opportunity.

- Emmanuel Eralia, Madang

My film, *One too many students*, was a classroom project and then when it played throughout the country during the 2018 festival, it really empowered me, to prepare some more because I really want to show my work every time there's a film festival. It was really nice to see people discussing my film on education, which is the foundation for people in PNG.

- George Joe, Madang

I really liked *Power Meri* because in PNG, rugby league is one of the more male dominated sports, so for women to play rugby league and represent our country in other countries, for me when I watch it, I feel more empowered.

- Nickita Kawage, Lae

I've seen a lot of violence against women and it starts right down at our own level. To prevent these things, we should start now. While we're still young, we should practice non-violence in our relationships.

- Samantha Tomokita, Lae

The film that I liked was *Kagalalo* about the Kaineke project from South Bougainville. This film helped me to know the traditional conservation methods that people back in the village used to preserve their forests for the future generations, which I will be impacted by as well. In Bougainville, land is life.

- Betty, Lae

Where my mum comes from in Lae, they're trying to bring the pipeline from Wafi-Golpu down and put the tailings and waste into the ocean. After watching *Vala North* it gave me a good perspective on how I can approach that.

- Willie, Lae

When we know our rights we can help others, promote gender equality. Womenfolk can support each other and empower each other."

- Simon Sobaim, Madang

"Gender equality is part of human rights and I strongly believe that women should stand up for their rights, and I was really happy when we filmed *Power Meri* and had a discussion on that."

- Pamela Barara, Madang

Recommendations and Reflections

The PNG Human Rights Film Festival continues to actively engage thousands of members of the public across the country, who have shown strong interest and demand to participate in public discourse on critical human rights issues impacting the country at the national and local levels. Public concern on gender equality and gender-based violence, right to health and education, environment and conservation, and access to justice continue to be raised across audiences in all locations the festival travels to, with the public expressing interest to take action to contribute to addressing ongoing human rights issues of concern. Through the theme, "Stand with me for rights in PNG," the 2019 PNG Human Rights Film Festival engaged technical experts from the public, private, academic, and development sectors, at the national and local levels, to analyze the current context, and highlight opportunities for public engagement and activism. The continued support from HRFF patron, the Deputy Prime Minister, highlights the unique nature of the HRFF to give voice to the marginalized and provide a critical platform for discourse, in a context with limited public access to information.

Local films in particular continue to resonate strongly across audiences, generations, and backgrounds, who continue to show interest in human rights films made in PNG told from a nuanced local perspective, as visible through the impact of popular PNG films, *Power Meri, Splinters, Uprooted, I'm Moshanty. Do you love me?, Vala North, The Last Frontier,* and *A New Dawn Break*. This demonstrates a critical need to continue to promote PNG filmmakers and filmmaking in PNG. There con-

tinues to be an interest for a human rights film competition component to the festival, however a dedicated local entity with expertise would be required to effectively run this event, which could partner with the film festival. There is room to explore expanding the HRFF to a human rights arts festival to capture other forms of expression and advocacy on human rights, including performing and visual arts, with dance, song, and spoken word complimenting the festival.

The increasing demand for the HRFF to be held in more locations and reach wider parts of the public, particularly schools, youth, and at the community level led to the inclusion of two new locations for the HRFF circuit this year (Lae and Alotau). However, the involvement and support of local organizations at the provincial level remain crucial, and the weight of the organization and coordination of the event places a disproportionate burden on the lead entity or focal point in each provincial committee, particularly at the central level. For maximum future impact, the festival committee may explore satellite events with stronger focus and follow-up. Strategic partnerships with media, tertiary institutions, as well as cultural events, such as the National Kenu and Kundu Festival, and strategic use of social media, were critical in expanding the Festival reach and audience.

Endnotes

- 1 The discussion in this section on the first Film Festival in 2010 was drawn from the festival brochure, available at https://culturesofresistancefilms.com/files/HRFF program.pdf.
- 2 The film review as taken from www.kanopy.com/product/mary-meets-mohammad.
- 3 The invited Panelists were Dr. Andrew Moutu, Andrew Abel, Delilah Sandeka, Roseanne O'Rourke, Larry Santana, Roy Trivedy, Colin Pake, Isi Our, Alcinda Trawen, a representative from the Department of Justice and Attorney General PNG, Lester Seri, Dr. Lawrence Kalinoe, Ruth Bai, and others.
 - 4 The following reports came out in the media:

Post-Courier, "Film Festival celebrates 10th anniversary," 7 May 2019,

https://postcourier.com.pg/fil m-festival-c elebrates-10th-anniversary/

The National, "Festival into its tenth year," 2 October 2019, www.thenational. com.pg/festival-into-its-tenth-year/

Post-Courier, "UOG to host Human Rights Film Fest," 23 October 2019, https://postcourier.com.pg/uog-to-host-human-rights-film-fest/

Post-Courier, "Human Rights Festival attracts hundreds in EHP," 25 October 2019, https://postcourier.com.pg/human-rights-festival-attracts-hundreds-in-ehp/

Post-Courier, "Music can be used as a tool for change, says Masani," 28 October 2019, https://postcourier.com.pg/music-can-be-used-as-a-tool-for-change-says-masani/

Post-Courier, "Alotau to host 10th PNG Human Rights Film Festival," 6 November 2019, https://postcourier.com.pg/alotau-to-host-10th-png-human-rights-film-festiva/

Radio New Zealand, "Thousands attend PNG Human Rights Film Festival," 8 November 2019, www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/402825/thousands-attend-png-human-rights-film-festival.

Annex A

Film Selection Criteria

| Name of Film: | Director: | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|---------|--|
| When viewing the film, ensure to take into consideration the following points; Tick the following boxes | 1 Disagree | 2 Maybe | 3 Agree | |
| The film conveys a message about Human Rights in Papua New Guinea. | | | | |
| The film relays information about emerging issue around Human Rights in the country. | | | | |
| The film does not contain extreme violence. | | | | |
| The film promotes the human rights concept and reflects a positive image. | | | | |
| The film clearly states the type of audience that is eligible to view the film. | | | | |
| The language in the film can be easily understood by the general public. | | | | |
| TOTAL SCORE | | | | |
| What human rights issues are addressed in this film? | | | | |
| ☐ Rights in the digital age | ☐ Child rights | | | |
| ☐ Business & human rights, human trafficking | ☐ Women's rights | | | |
| ☐ Freedom of expression and media | ☐ Rights in humanitarian disasters | | | |
| ☐ Environment & Climate Change | ☐ Right to h | nealth & educ | ation | |
| □ Other | | | | |
| Comments for consideration: | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Would you recommend this film to be included the PNG Human Right Festival? | □ Yes [| □ No | | |

Annex B

Films Shown in the HRFF - 2010-2019

Films shown in 2010 HRFF:

- Once Were Warriors (1994), Lee Tamahori
- Leila (2007), sixteen youth filmmakers of Camera-etc, from Burkina Faso
- Mozambique (2008), Alcides Soares. Alcides.
- Just a Normal Day (2008), Fiona Whelan, Samantha Williams, and Arran Walker
- See, listen, speak: ngarrindjeri's being heard (nukkan.kungun.yunnan) (2009), Edie Carter, and others
- Who is Little Red Riding Hood? (2008), Eva Ciuk.
- Trech's Nest (2009), IOM Cambodia.
- Crude: The Real Price of Oil (2009), Joe Berlinger
- Standing Tall (2010)
- Slum Survivors (2007).
- Stolen Generation, IOM

Papua New Guinean Films in 2010 HRFF:

 The One Minutes Jr (2009), UNICEF/Sandberg Institute/The One Minutes Foundation.

Films shown in 2011 HRFF:

- Tu Mai Takatapui (2008), Robyn Paterson
- Path to Justice (2004), Penal Reform International
- The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo (2007), Lisa F. Jackson
- The Pacific Solution (2005), James Frankham
- The Pacific School of Medicine Cuban health cooperation in Asia-Pacific (2009), Tim Anderson
- Our Generation (2011), Sinen Saban & Damien Curtis
- Kamambo (Butterfly) (2010), Victoria Goodyear

Papua New Guinean Films in 2011 HRFF

- Killing the witches Papua New Guinea (2005), Journeyman Pictures Ltd.
- The Voice of Change (2011), Niugini Film Ltd PNG
- Yumi Piksa: Stories from the Papua New Guinea Highlands. (2009), Yumi Piksa Workshop

- Gold's Costly Dividend. The Porgera Joint Venture (2011). Brent Stirton
- Tanim (2002), James Frankham & the Faraway team

Films Shown in 2012 HRFF:

- The Girl effect: The clock is ticking (2010), CARF
- Celebrating Achievements (2006), UNIFEM.
- The Lady (2011), Luc Besson
- A Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education (2012), HREA, OHCHR and Soka Gakkai
- Dear Mandela (2011), Dara Kell & Christopher Nizz
- Mining The Last Frontier (2012), Al Jazeera
- Strange Birds in Paradise: A West Papuan Story (2009), Charlie Hill-Smith
- Emergency Shelter (2010), He Yang

Papua New Guinean Films in 2012 HRFF

- Eli Na Pita, PNG National Department of Health, Papua New Guinea
- Why Me Survivors Stories (2012), Raka Gamini
- Safe Cities Port Moresby (2012), UN Women
- Komuniti Tok Piksa, series on HIV/AIDS (2012), National Aids Council PNG
- Mama Betty
- Wanem Rot Nau? (Which Way Now?)
- Paul's Big Heart
- · One More Chance
- Canning Paradise (2012), Olivier Pollet
- Laukautim Pasin Tumbuna: Safeguard our Cultural Heritage (2011), John Faunt

Films shown in 2013 HRFF:

- Schindler's List (1993), Steven Spielberg
- Sophie's Choice (1982), Alan J. Pakula
- The Pianist (2002), Roman Polanski
- Arna's Children (2003), Juliano Mer Khamis and Danniel Danniel
- Moolaadé (2005), Ousmane Sembene

- Burma VJ (2008), Anders Ostergaard
- Hotel Rwanda (2004) Terry George
- Dead Man Walking (1995) by Tim Robbins
- Road to Guantanamo (2005), Michael Winterbottom
- Standard Operating Procedure (2008), Errol Morris
- Iraq in Fragments (2006), James Longley
- Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea (2012)
- · Pray the Devil Back to Hell (2008), Gini Retlicker
- Call Me Kuchu (2012), Katherine Fairfax Wright, Malika Zouhali-Worrall

Films shown in 2014 HRFF:

- The Orator (2011), Tusi Tamasese. Sali
- Next Goal Wins (2014), Stevie Jamieson & Mike Brett

Papua New Guinean Films shown in 2014 HRFF

- Never Give Up (2014), Ruth Ketau
- · Lapan (2014), Renagi Taukarai
- Guavas and bananas: Living Gay in PNG (2014) by Vlad Sokhin and Roman Kalyakin
- Save Meri Skulim Meri (2014), Joys Eggins
- Betelnut Bisnis (2005), Chris Owen.
- Meri Markham (2014), Klinit Barry.
- When We Were Hela (2014), Olivier Pollet
- Humanitarian Resettlement in PNG (2014), Julius Miller
- Voice of Change (2014), Liane Munau

Films shown in 2015 HRFF:

- The Road Home (2015), Dominic Brown
- The First Grader (2010), Justin Chadwick

Papua New Guinean Films in 2015 HRFF

- Singaut Bilong Pikinini (The Children's calls) (2015), Kasimir Burgess
- Senisim Pasin (2015), Tribal Foundation
- Naomi (2015), Centre for Creative & Social Media – University of Goroka, Papua New Guinea
- Harim Mi: Stori blo bagarap, stori blo kamapim gutpla (Hear Me: Stories that hurt, Stories that heal) (2015), fhi360
- I'm Proud of Who I AM: Sexuality Gender Identity and the Law in PNG (2014), Vlad Sokhin & UNAIDS

- Taxi Boys: One Bag Too Heavy (2013), Fidelis Sope
- A Girl's Life (2008), Stephen Rae
- Uprooted (2011), Scott Waide
- Profit and Loss (2010), Christopher McLeod

Films shown in 2016 HRFF:

- Keepers of the Game (2016), Judd Ehrlich
- At Home in the World (2015), Andreas Koefoed
- A River Changes Course (2013), Kalyanee Mam
- · River of Eden (2014), Pete McBride

Papua New Guinean Films in 2016 HRFF

- Ileksen (1978), Dennis O'Rourke
- Sting Coins, AusAid/ UNDP
- Mi Sanap Strong (I Stand Strong) (2015), Yumi Kirapim Senis, Ausaid & UNDP
- Closing the Gap, Yumi Kirapim Senis, AusAid & UNDP
- Countering Sorcery and Witchcraft-Related Violence (2016), Stop Sorcery
- · Positive Strokes, Yumi Kirapim Senis
- Our Life, Our Future, Our Country; SDG's: Leaving no one behind, UNDP

Films shown in 2017 HRFF:

- · Chasing Asylum (2016), Eva Orner
- Tickling Giants (2016), Sara Taksler
- The Sons of Tennessee Williams (2011), Tim Wolff

Papua New Guinean Films in 2017 HRFF

- Driving the Change (2017), Marco Venditti
- Manam 12 Years Later (2017), Maria Sagrista and Philip Gibb
- NKW Fresh: A Fresh Approach for PNG Farmers (2017), Sarah Wiles
- From Spears to Semi-Automatics: The Human Cost of Tribal Conflict in PNG (2017), ICRC-PNG
- River Villages Adapting to Climate Change (2017), LairdTran Studio & Lucas Kou

Films shown in 2018 HRFF:

- Step (2017), Amanda Lipitz
- Wan Dei
- Ai Wei Wei: Never Sorry
- The Black Pen
- Anote's Ark
- Silas

Papua New Guinea Films in 2018 HRFF

- One Too Many Students (2017), Divine Ward University
- · My Mother's Blood
- Koriva
- Bougainville: Long Han Bilong Yumi
- · Paul's Story
- · Gwala Rising
- Aliko and Ambai (2017), CSCM University of Goroka
- · PNG Life Care
- Maria
- I'm Moshanty. Do you love me?
- The Opposition. Everybody's business
- Young & Positive. A series of short films Full of Life, Igat Hailivin I Stap, I create My Future
- Mobail Goroka (2018), Jackie Kauli

Films shown in 2019 HRFF:

- Leitis in Waiting (2018), Dean Hamer
- Vai (2019), Nicole Whippy, 'Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Matasila Freshwater, Amberley Jo Aumua, Miria George, Marina Alofagia McCartney, Dianna Fuemana, and Becs Arahanga
- 2040 (2019), Damon Gameau
- SASA! (2013), Chanda Chevannes
- Papua New Guinean Films in 2019 HRFF
- The Last Frontier (2017), Pacific Network on Globalisation
- Vala North (2019), Stephanie Gordon/UNDP
- Kagalo (2019), Kainake Project
- Champions Tell Their Stories (2019)