

Screening Toolkit

An invitation to use the Human Dignity Trust's award-winning impact documentaries for screening and Q&A events.

In 2019 and 2020 we produced two impact documentaries to highlight the archaic colonial era laws that continue to blight the lives of millions of people across the Commonwealth. These films were made to show high-level decision makers how these laws mean that adult same-sex consensual intimacy is criminalised, while survivors of sexual violence are unable to seek justice and perpetrators go unpunished.

The films are designed as tools for everyone to use to engage their communities, media, civil society and people in positions of power. Through an international network of inspiring activists and advocates, we can use the law and powerful storytelling to push for systemic and cultural change.

Human
Dignity
Trust

The Sky Will Not Fall

Reform of colonial sexual offence laws in the Commonwealth



Across the Commonwealth, outdated sexual offences laws fail to protect, and actually discriminate against, women and girls, LGBT+ people and people with disabilities. More than 70 countries criminalise homosexuality, and many still deem rape within marriage to be legal.

Meet some of those people criminalised because of who they love, and the survivors of sexual violence who have no recourse to justice, as well as legislators, activists and parliamentarians working with the Human Dignity Trust to change these laws.

Winner of the IMPACT Doc Awards Season 2021:

The Sky Will Not Fall

Award of Excellence: Documentary Short

Award of Merit Special Mention: Use of Film / Video for Social Change

Content Warning: The following film contains mentions of physical and sexual violence and abuse which some viewers may find distressing and/or traumatic.

[Read more](#) about these laws and how the Human Dignity Trust is working with governments, activists and parliamentarians to change them.

The Films

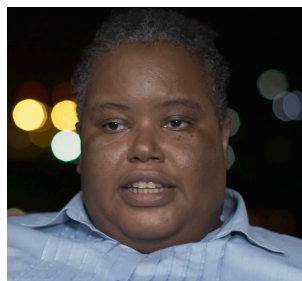
The Sky Will Not Fall

Reform of colonial sexual offence laws in the Commonwealth

Featuring:



Indira Rosenthal
International Human Rights
Law Expert



Fabianna Bonne
LGBTI Sey - Seychelles



Phillis Mbeke
Women Spaces Africa - Kenya



Kim Simplis Barrow
Special Envoy for Women and
Children, First Lady - Belize



Anjali Gopalan
The Naz Foundation Trust -
India



Ashif Shaikh
Jan Sahas - India



Kranti Kinode
Jan Sahas - India



Vikram Srivatava
Independent Thought - India



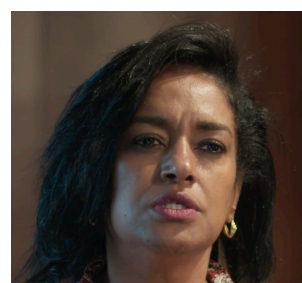
Arvind Narrain
Alternate Law Forum - India



Caleb Orozco
UNIBAM - Belize



Gaitho Maruguru
Human Rights Lawyer



Esther Passaris
Member of the National
Assembly - Kenya



Matilda Twomey
Chief Justice - Seychelles



Bernard Georges
Member of Parliament and
Lawyer - Seychelles



Ronny Arnephy
Co-founder of LGBTI Sey -
Seychelles

A Wake Up Call

Hate crime law to protect LGBT people in the Commonwealth



Across the Commonwealth, LGBT+ people face violence because of who they are and who they love. Meet the people living with the consequences of hate-fuelled violence, without access to justice. Meet the activists, legislators, lawyers and world leaders who are forging a path to safer and happier societies.

Very few Commonwealth countries have legislation to recognise, prevent and punish hate crimes, including those committed on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Legal reform through the provision of hate crime legislation is one tool to address hate-based violence, which impacts everyone in our societies.

Winner of the IMPACT Doc Awards Season 2021:

Award of Merit: Documentary Short

Award of Merit: LGBT

CW: The following film contains scenes of physical violence and mention of abuse and sexual violence against LGBT+ people which some viewers may find distressing and/or traumatic.

[Read more](#) about the Human Dignity Trust's research on how every year, millions of LGBT+ people across the Commonwealth suffer physical, sexual and psychological violence, as well as damage to their property, which is motivated by prejudice and hatred.

The Films

A Wake Up Call

Hate crime law to protect LGBT people in the Commonwealth

Featuring:



Eric Gitari
Human Rights Lawyer and
Activist - Kenya



Fabianna Bonne
LGBTI Sey - Seychelles



Khalinda Madeleine
Seychelles



Kim Simplis Barrow
Special Envoy for Women and
Children, First Lady - Belize



Anjali Gopalan
The Naz Foundation Trust -
India



Gigi Louisa
Queer feminist activist,
Programs Officer - Jinsiangu,
Kenya



Amber Fatmi
Lawyers Initiative Forum -
India



Kendale Trapp
Empower Yourself Belize
Movement



Ronny Arnephy
Co-founder of LGBTI Sey -
Seychelles



Caleb Orozco
UNIBAM - Belize

The Facts

Funded by The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
Commissioned by the Human Dignity Trust
Produced by The Good Side

Producer: James Lewis
Director: Jennifer Fearnley
Assistant Producer (Kenya): Lydia Matata
Assistant Producer (Seychelles): Nadia Ah-Kong
Assistant Producers (India): Hetal Patel and Pawan Kumar
Full crew can be found on the Human Dignity Trust YouTube page.

Filmed in Singapore, Kenya, Seychelles, India and Belize

Objectives of the films

- Harness the power of documentary film to aid and encourage high-level decision makers and legislators in Commonwealth countries to undertake legislative reform on sexual offences and SOGI-based hate crimes.
- Capture the progress and benefits of enacting human rights compliant legislation and the interplay between laws, education and campaigns.
- Focus on positive stories which inspire good practice.

Hosting a Film Screening and Discussion

Hosting a screening

Will your screening take place online or in person? Keeping a screening and discussion online can be a good option when considering safeguarding, as most digital platforms allow for anonymity and the ability to remove abusive or offensive people. However, hosting an event in the real world may help to build stronger relationships with high-level decision makers or other government officials, media representatives and civil society.

Budget is likely to be a deciding factor, so do whatever works with the resources, time and money you have available.

Venue and date

Ensure that the location of your film screening is easily accessible for the majority of guests. Look for places with great transport links or nearby parking, and access for people living with disabilities.

- Does your potential venue have a big screen? If so, can you stream to the screen from the internet? Is the internet connection strong enough to allow stable streaming?
- Does the room have speakers? If not, do you have portable speakers powerful enough so everyone can hear?
- When selecting a date and time, consider other events in the community, holidays, sports events, or social gatherings so people aren't asked to choose between priorities
- Can you plan the event around a poignant "international day of..." or an important local anniversary?
- Which film is most appropriate for you or your organisation? Can "The Sky Will Not Fall" provide an opportunity to link up with other civil society groups and promote awareness of intersectionality?

Prepare for your screening

- Print information about the laws so that people attending can learn about the issue and share the handouts with their friends, family, neighbours, etc. Reach out to the Human Dignity Trust if you need support
- Test equipment to make sure there aren't any last-minute hiccups in technology
- Make sure the room is set up for the event, for example by ensuring there is enough seating for guests and the room is accessible for people living with disabilities

Enjoy yourself!

- Greet each guest and create an inclusive environment
- Welcome the group, introduce yourself and why you're hosting the gathering, and explain a bit about the film. Don't overdo it: If you know a lot about the film it's easy to go into too much depth. Keep your introduction short and treat it as a teaser for what's about to follow. Warn the audience that some scenes may be upsetting
- After the film, engage attendees about what they just saw through a panelist discussion
- Invite attendees to use their voice to push for law reform, spread the word, share the films on social media. Encouraging people to pledge their support vocally, at a shared occasion, is a very powerful way to create commitment. Perhaps media representatives can write an op-ed, or government officials can raise the issue in their teams?

Hosting a Digital Screening

Digital events

Digital screenings have proven a successful way to engage decision makers, mainly because people can attend from their homes or offices. For you it can also make it easier to record and share the discussions afterwards, to gain a wider audience even once the event is over.

Hosting a virtual film screening requires much of the same planning as the physical version of the event. It just requires a little thought around the point of view of someone watching the screening at home. How can you make it more exciting for them? How can you retain the magic?

Zoom webinars

Zoom is a good option for hosting digital screenings, and our experience tells us that sharing a link to the film, during the event, so that people can watch the film using their own internet connection, is much better. Sharing over the screen does not produce a great experience for the viewer. Zoom have improved their security features recently, and the platform is easy to use. There is budget required for the Zoom Video Webinar Feature, it does not come free with a Zoom account. You can find more information here:

[Zoom Video Webinar Pricing](#) (you can buy for one month and then remember to cancel)

[Zoom Security Features](#)

[Zoom Webinars, Part 1: Planning Your Webinar](#)

[Zoom Webinars, Part 2: Hosting Your Webinar](#)

Facebook Live events

Facebook is a good free option, and you can go live or host a watch party on your page, to the event or to a group. The benefit of using Facebook is that you can easily reach existing audiences and promote, including through allowing crossposts for other people and groups.

[Facebook Live Events Guide](#)

Zoho

One of the more affordable options for digital events, with pricing based on attendees.

[Zoho Pricing](#)

[Zoho Features](#)

FanForce

You could even campaign for the film to be shown in your cinema - using the amazing [FanForce website!](#)

Panellists, Attendees, Q&A

Panellists

Invite a panel of two or more people to talk about the issues raised in the film. Who in your circle or community can you invite to speak about the impact of these laws? Who is working to support reform/repeal? Who can amplify your event? Who will bring other people with them, including high level decision makers? Who has a large social media following? For example:

- Leaders in the LGBT+ civil society groups
- Lawyers working to support law reform
- Experts working with survivors of sexual violence
- Supportive voices in the media
- Elected officials and legislators who are supportive of LGBT + people, survivors, and law reform
- Local business leaders who are working to create diverse and inclusive workplaces
- Vocal LGBT+ parents

A good mix of people will bring a variety of audiences and increase the noise you make through the event. You can also reach out to the Human Dignity Trust or The Good Side to invite the funders, experts or producers to speak about the films, the issues raised, HDT's work and the impact they are having. See p14 for contact details.

Attendees

Think strategically about who you would like to attend. Again, think of people with power, large audiences and who are sympathetic. We know it can be very challenging when engaging the press, but if you can find sympathetic journalists, they can obviously play an important role in spreading the message, and can be part of sensitisation and education in your communities.

Inviting a diverse representation of the LGBT+ community will also send a message of defiance and visibility. This is a big ask for some people, so it is obviously always important to respect people's wishes. Anyone who is out and confident, and is happy to converse with attendees, will help to break down cultural barriers.

Panellists, Attendees, Q&A

Moderating discussions and Q&As

- The moderator should have a strong interest or connection with the film, it could be you as host
- Research your panellists
- Share the structure of the discussion before the event
- Have a list of discussion topics to kick-start a conversation
- Let panellists talk together
- Field questions from the audience

Questions and discussion suggestions

- What is your experience of the impact of discriminatory colonial laws?
- What has this meant for you personally and in your work?
- Which reforms have you seen take place, and how have those reforms affected your community?
- What more can be done to reform these laws, and what do you see as the main components in creating this change?
- Where do you get practical support and emotional strength?
- How do we persuade our governments to make these changes?
- What is the role of the international community in pushing for the introduction of hate crime legislation in Commonwealth countries and beyond?
- What is the situation for LGBT+ people where you are, in terms of discrimination?
- How does it feel to be part of a change in society?
- How useful are films like this for your work locally?
- Which stories still need to be told and how?
- How can we increase awareness of these crimes, while also encouraging people to come out?
- How did the story make you feel? Talk about why aspects of the narrative had such an impact.
- If you were friends with the survivors featured, how might you talk with them about their situation? What questions would you ask them?

Promotion

Before the event

Let everyone know you're having a fun, social, and educational get together! Tell people why attending your film screening event is better than watching a film at home. The more professional and organised you are, the more likely people will attend. The more interesting and well-known your panel is, the more people will come to hear them speak.

If you can leverage relationships for free food or drinks for attendees, then they are even more likely to attend! Perhaps you know a talented local musician who can also provide live music before and after the event? Think about what makes your screening event different to others. If you're serving food other than the conventional popcorn, shout about it. If you've got a discussion after the screening, you guessed it, shout about it.

Most people need a fair bit of notice before they can commit to an event, so promoting at least three weeks in advance is a good rule of thumb.

In the run up to your event create a buzz about your screening by:

- List the event for free on Eventbrite or your local equivalent
- Create a Facebook event - if you have budget, pay to boost to specific target audiences.
- Tag the Human Dignity Trust and The Good Side in your social media so we can share (p14)
- Create a hashtag for social media and use it on your posts
- Build anticipation by slowly revealing aspects of the event, such as guest speakers
- Target local papers
- Maintain an active social media presence
- Seek contacts who can get a radio interview slot
- Publish blog posts about the event
- Add the event to house of worship newsletters (where possible)
- Post flyers around town

Page 13 includes resources for sharing images online for promotion.

Naming and hashtags

Use popular search terms when naming your event, and hashtags that are popular but not so big you will get lost in them. Stick to hashtags that are under 500k. Some handy resources:

<https://hashtagify.me/hashtag/federer>

<https://trends.google.com/trends>

During the event

Throughout the event (but not the actual screening of course!):

- If you are filming the event or taking photos you must put up a large sign that tells people it is being filmed. If you have guest speakers they must sign a release form in advance
- Make sure you post photos, quotes and videos on social media throughout the event (with permission)
- Instagram and Twitter can also be used to document the set-up of your event and behind the scenes action which can make your audience feel included and involved in the whole process

To help the Human Dignity Trust with their work, it would be really useful to measure people's feedback and learnings from the watching the film (s) and taking part in discussions. We have designed a survey for this purpose and included it in the resources on p14. You can ask people to fill in survey forms that you collect, and then send photographs of completed forms to emmaeastwood@humandignitytrust.org.

After the event

- Follow up with any press that showed interest in the event
- Publicly thank your guest speakers
- Check your social media and reply and retweet where relevant. Engage with your audience – don't let the conversation be one-sided
- Use social channels to ask your audience what they thought of the event. This is a great way to get testimonials
- Edit any video footage as soon as possible and upload to your social channels and encourage your speakers and partners to share
- Transcribe speeches and write these up as a series of blog posts to promote your next event

Resources

The films

You can stream directly to a screen, or share the films online during an online screening, using the following links:

- The Sky Will Not Fall <https://youtu.be/H462Z0A3DHI>
- A Wake Up Call: <https://youtu.be/8CiZpyUjpUY>

Alternatively, if you need to download them for your screening, you can do so here:

- The Sky Will Not Fall: <https://vimeo.com/thegoodside/theskywilnotfall>
- A Wake Up Call: <https://vimeo.com/thegoodside/awakeupcall>

Promotion and feedback surveys

This folder contains a whole range of resources - you can view the folder, and request access to download:

- Example event running order for both films
- Twitter or Facebook image
- IGTV/story image
- Instagram post image
- High-res screen grab images for promotion
- Feedback forms for both films (please send to emmaeastwood@humandignitytrust.org)

Online screenings

The folder above also contains screen saver images to place on the screen when people are watching the films, ask them to return to the video webinar when they have finished watching.

Please message emmaeastwood@humandignitytrust.org for access to the online version of the survey. Emma will duplicate the version we have, and share the link with you. Please let Emma know when the event is complete so she can monitor responses and collect them to share with supporters.

HDT and TGS - Contacts and Tagging

The Human Dignity Trust

Contact details:

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London WC2A 1HP
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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HumanDignityT>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/humandignitytrust/>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/human-dignity-trust/>

The Good Side

Contact details:

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The Fisheries,
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Call. (+44) 07738 994269

LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/thisisthegoodside>
Website: <https://thisisthegoodside.com/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk7jAEw2aTsM-NQefm6eF3g>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thisisthegoodside/>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/thisisthegoodside/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thisisthegoodside>
Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/thegoodside>

Thank you!

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