

# WOMEN'S VOICES NOW

## 2018 IMPACT REPORT

In 2018, WVN saw a 31 percent increase in films submitted to our global online film festival. For the first time, we attended the Commission on the Status of Women held at UN Headquarters in New York, as a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In addition to our ongoing programs, this summer we co-produced our first youth training program in partnership with GlobalGirl Media at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Online audiences from 195 countries, Top 5: USA, UK, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan



55 films added to our women's rights film archive



7 programs carried out



4 short social-impact documentaries produced in-house



15 new partner organizations



6 public screenings, gathering a total audience of 635 local community members

## FILM FESTIVAL



### EXPOSED AND UNCOVERED: THE WAR ON WOMEN

Attitudes toward women range from sanctified to desecrated. Women choose to perpetuate toxicity or to demand dignity. This dynamic is played out in relationships with one's self, with family, with community, and with the world. From Myanmar to Uganda, Bilbao to Los Angeles, the films selected to Exposed and Uncovered: The War on Women fix our gaze upon the globally acknowledged need to redefine and re-establish the relationships within and among women, and between men and women.

114 FILM SUBMISSIONS

FILMS FROM 29 COUNTRIES

41 FILMS SELECTED

### TESTIMONIALS

"WVN is a fantastic platform to showcase your work and discover bold and fearless female filmmakers. I strongly advise you to have a look at the feminist film archive as well as the The WVoice, their online publication. They are creating an important space for new voices to emerge!"

- Anouk Phéline, Filmmaker, France

"WVN has been a kickass platform and an icebreaker for many unheard voices and issues."

- Dr. Meena Longjam, Filmmaker, India

## WVN ON THE GROUND



In 2018 WVN facilitated 11 educational screening programs in 3 countries, as well as 3 creative workshops for 40 women experiencing homelessness, in partnership with local organizations in Santa Monica and Downtown Los Angeles.



We added 55 curated films to our women's rights film archive and managed 3 fiscal sponsorship projects in support of storytelling projects from 3 countries.



Over the year, we have worked with 21 partnering organizations, including 15 new ones, supporting and expanding upon our local and global programming.



In March 2018 we attended our first United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) in New York. There, we advocated for women's rights around the world and hosted a screening of the animated feature, The Breadwinner, followed by a panel discussion.

TESTIMONIAL AFTER THE EDUCATIONAL SCREENING OF THE TALE (DEC. 4), MARKING THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, WITH THE FILM'S DIRECTOR, JENNIFER FOX PRESENT FOR A SPECIAL Q&A.

"While I was moved and disturbed by the content of the film, I was able to process my emotions because of the excellent handling of the challenging material. The filmmaker was present to invite feedback and reactions as well as answer our questions. I had many more questions for the filmmaker, but the conversation gave generous voice to both her and the audience as we processed her work.

The film excellently captured the methodical processes that are part of the sexual abuse of children as well as the inconsistencies in how memory can come together for both survivors and other witnesses, and the emotional and social barriers to and consequences of recognizing that abuse, including the expectations of survivors to react in certain ways.

I really appreciated that a counselor was there to help anyone who needed to process emotions that came up in viewing the film".

- Natalie Bowers, Skid Row Community Activist

## YOUTH TRAINING

2018 marked another big first step for WVN: Co-producing a month-long intensive Summer Media Training program with GlobalGirl Media for teen girls from underrepresented communities in the Greater Los Angeles area. The program taught journalism, video production, documentary filmmaking, leadership, community building, and critical thinking skills. With no prior filmmaking experience, our 19 trainees, ages 14-22, produced four short social-impact documentaries over four weeks. Their films premiered to an audience of 300+ at the Los Angeles Film School in Hollywood, CA, on October 24, 2018.

By providing the trainees with tools to speak up for themselves and their communities on the long-term, the Summer Media Training works towards more equitable and representative media.



### TESTIMONIAL

"The Summer Media Training was a really empowering experience for me because it gave me important skills, connections and support and made me feel like the stories that matter to me and my community were worth sharing. The experience encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone to meet people I otherwise would never have known and showed me that I had so much potential. Being mentored and supported by so many strong and talented women reminded me that being a young woman of color didn't have to mean resignation because we all have the tools to resist and fight for our values.

- Phalaen Chang, GGM Los Angeles 2018 Alumna

HOW YOUR DONATIONS MADE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

For anyone interested in gender equality, it's been a fascinating year. For us, who have been working to promote and support women's voices for 8 years, it was exhilarating. We can feel the change in the air, but we know that backlash usually accompanies change. For that reason, we decided there was no better time to work harder.

YOUR SUPPORT MADE THAT POSSIBLE.

FUNDS RAISED FOR 2018: \$171,246

With our largest operating budget to date, we were able to co-produce our first month-long training program for teen girls and young women. YOU helped them gain the skills, the confidence, and the tools to share their stories, their perspectives and their voices, loud and clear, for decades to come. For that, we are so grateful. By investing in them now, we are ensuring more diverse and accurate representations of women in film and media, as well as more female role models in male-dominated industries in the future.

For 2019, Women's Voices Now has great plans to keep moving forward together in a post #MeToo era. From an activist summit in Los Angeles, to launching our online "Be A Male Ally" Course, we're shaping the conversation on gender equality and recruiting folks of all genders to participate.

ARE YOU IN? LET'S MAKE HISTORY!

CLICK TO DONATE TO WVN