

International jury 2021

Festival menu

WHO is very grateful that acclaimed professionals from the film industry and humanitarian activism accepted our invitation to participate in the **Health for All Film Festival** jury. Along with WHO senior experts, the jury recommended winners to WHO's Director-General, who made the final decision.

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Universal Health Coverage (UHC)



Martin Fernando Jakobsen (Denmark)

Director of Turning Tables and activist for youth empowerment

Martin has more than 12 years of experience working in conflict-affected and crisis settings including living and working in Jordan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan, and Tunisia, promoting and advancing meaningful youth empowerment and engagement. In 2009, Martin founded the international social enterprise [Turning Tables](#) which has specialized in empowering marginalized youth for sustainable development and meaningful inclusion in peace processes and social inclusion. Martin works in close collaboration with an array of local, national, and international partners.



Dévora Kestel (Argentina)

Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Use

Dévora is a Senior global mental health policy expert with more than 25 years of international experience in Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America; implementing and advising governments on national policies related to mental health systems. She is a strong advocate for the rights of people with mental health issues.

After completing her university studies in Argentina, she worked

Health Emergencies



Dr. Leyla Hussein (Somalia)

Psychotherapist specializing in supporting survivors of sexual abuse and international activist on gender rights

Dr. Leyla Hussein is a leading international campaigner against all forms of violence against women and girls, and a lecturer on female genital mutilation (FGM). Leyla founded the [Dahlia Project](#), the UK's first specialist therapeutic service for FGM survivors, and co-founded [Safe Spaces for Black Women](#) to provide them with emotional support. In 2020, she was elected as Rector of the University of St Andrews and currently works as the Global Advocacy Director and Deputy Team Leader for the Africa-led Movement to end FGM.



Milica Momcilovic (Serbia)

Science Journalist - President of the World Federation of Science Journalists

Milica Momcilovic holds the position of Editor in the Science Program at the Radio/Television of Serbia (RTS) and writes for the daily newspaper POLITIKA and the popular science magazine ELEMENTI. Through her special coverage of international science

Better Health and Well-being



Eugenio Derbez (Mexico)

Actor, Writer, Director, and Producer

Eugenio Derbez collaborates closely with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on the annual public health campaign to promote equity and access to immunization. He has won a large number of recognitions and awards, most recently a *2020 Daytime Emmy* and the *Hispanic Heritage Award for Film* from the Hispanic Heritage Foundation. He wrote, directed, and acted in the Spanish language film *Instructions Not Included*, and later founded his own production company. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences where he participates in helping new creative voices be seen, heard, and recognized.



Sonia Lowman (USA)

Documentary Film Writer and Director

"After the immense honor of winning a Grand Prix in WHO's first Health for All Film Festival, I am thrilled to be serving on the jury for the 2021 competition. It is essential that we continue to encourage and share compelling visual storytelling that celebrates human health and progress around the world, and I am grateful to be part of WHO's

for 10 years in the development and supervision of community-based mental health services in Trieste, Italy. In 2000 she joined WHO as a mental health officer first in post-war Kosovo and then in Albania where she served as the WHO Representative to Albania. In both countries, she worked closely with the Ministries of Health to help establish comprehensive community-based mental health systems.



Dr Bente Mikkelsen (Norway)

Director, Non-Communicable Diseases in the division of UHC/Communicable and Noncommunicable diseases, WHO

In her current role, her focus is on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the reduction of premature deaths from Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), using innovation, implementation research, health literacy, and new technologies.

She was formerly Director of the Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course at WHO's Regional Office for Europe, Head of the Secretariat for the Global Coordination Mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases at the WHO Headquarters, as well as a former CEO of the Southern and Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority.

events and interviews. Milica has obtained a rich experience and strong knowledge of scientific issues and challenges internationally.

Milica is the President of the World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ), a multinational charity dedicated to advancing science journalism and communication through a wide variety of activities with universities, governments, and NGOs, to promote standards and the role of science journalists as key players in civil society and democracy.

efforts to do so."

Sonia Lowman is the Writer and Director of *"Black Boys"*, a feature-length documentary illuminating the humanity of black men and boys in America. Sonia's short film *"War & Grace"* about midwives fighting for the women of conflict-ridden South Sudan, won a *Grand Prix* in our inaugural edition of the Health for All Film Festival in 2020. Sonia also produced *"Teach Us All"*, a feature-length documentary on school segregation. She currently serves as a Senior Communications Specialist for the global humanitarian relief agency [International Medical Corps](#).



Dr. Michael Ryan (Ireland)

Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Dr. Mike Ryan has been at the forefront of managing acute risks to global health for nearly 25 years, including WHO's COVID-19 response since early 2020. He served as Assistant Director-General for Emergency Preparedness and Response in WHO's Health Emergencies Programme from 2017 to 2019.

Dr. Ryan has worked in conflict-affected countries and led many responses to high-impact epidemics. He is a founding member of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), which has aided the response to hundreds of disease outbreaks around the world.



Dr. Maria Neira (Spain)

Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO

Dr. Maria Neira leads and advises on policy and management in key areas of environmental health. She began her career as a medical coordinator working with refugees in El Salvador and Honduras for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). She then spent several years working in different African countries during armed conflicts.

She has been awarded the Médaille de l'Ordre national du Mérite by the Government of France and received an "Extraordinary Woman" award from HM Queen Letizia of Spain.



Vithika Yadav (India)

Human Rights Activist and Social Entrepreneur

Vithika Yadav is an anti-slavery, sexual rights, and gender rights activist. In 2016 she was recognized by the Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health which highlights young champions of family planning through [120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders](#).

Vithika is the Co-founder of *Love Matters India*, which is the first initiative in India to give complete, honest, and nonjudgmental information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights to young people. In 2013, *Love Matters* won the Award for Excellence & Innovation in Sexuality Education from the World Association for Sexual Health. She is also the Founder of [TeenBook](#) - India's first comprehensive life skills resource hub for adolescents, teenagers, parents and educators.

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