



The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit, international organisation committed to protecting and promoting human rights in Commonwealth nations. CHRI works towards strengthening access to justice (through prison and police reforms) and building a culture of transparent governance (through the Right to Information). Headquartered in New Delhi and with offices in Accra and London, CHRI also monitors human rights-related trends and developments across the Commonwealth and makes formal submissions to treaty bodies and inter-governmental agencies, including the United Nations Human Rights Council.

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MATTER OF RIGHT (S)

The Second Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Film Festival



Date : 13th and 14th March 2018

Time : 10.00 am onwards
Venue: Main Auditorium, India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi



Schedule

Day One (13th March, Tuesday)

10.00 am	Registration	
10.30 am	Inaugural film: Ajeyo by Jahnu Barua (1h 56m)	The movie highlights the struggles of an honest, ideal revolutionary youth, Gojen Keot. Set during the years of Mahatma Gandhi's freedom movement leading up to 1947, the film focuses on Gojen's defiance of social and religious disparities, stigmas and a resistance against the richest man in town, who sees India's partition as an opportunity for land grabbing. At heart, the film exposes the delicate issues of caste discrimination, child marriage, and religious pigeonholing in a small village in Assam. The film won the Best Feature Film in Assamese award in the 61st National Film Awards (2014).
12.30 pm	Q & A with the filmmaker	
1.00 pm	Break	
2.00 pm	Born Behind Bars by Malati Rao (52m)	Born Behind Bars takes us inside Chanchalguda prison, where children stay with their incarcerated mothers until they turn six, after which they are transferred either to a hostel or to a children's home. The film offers a passage into the lost world of children living inside prison walls for no fault of their own and their tentative journey to make sense of it despite the odds.
3.00 pm	Panel Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malati Rao, Filmmaker, Mumbai • Madhurima Dhanuka, Coordinator, Prison Reforms programme, CHRI • Monica Dhawan, Director, India Vision Foundation, New Delhi 	
4.00 pm	Commonwealth Writers: Pacific Shorts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Mother's Blood by Katherine Reki (Papua New Guinea) (06:50m) • The Black Pen by 'Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki (Tonga) (13:44m) • Koriva by Euralia Paine (Papua New Guinea) (6:29m) 	This collection of short films, directed by budding young filmmakers, looks at everyday life in the Pacific Island nations of Tonga and Papua New Guinea. The films, therefore, deal with topics such as loss, domestic abuse, the tussle between urban and traditional ways of life, and the coming of age of a young boy in light of his mother's death caused by the machinations of his uncle.

Day Two (14th March, Wednesday)

11.00 am	Nelson Mandela by Nadine Pequenean (Discovery Channel) (45m)	From terrorist to peacemaker, prisoner to president, Nelson Mandela dedicated his life to the struggle against South Africa's racist system of apartheid. Touted by the ruling National Party as a policy of separate development, apartheid was the most pervasive form of oppression ever practiced. This fuelled Mandela's lifelong quest for justice. In a series of candid interviews from the people who knew him best, Mandela's true legacy is revealed.
11.45 am	Panel Discussion on Discrimination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Joubert, Chargé d'Affaires, South African High Commission, New Delhi • Ananya Vajpei, Associate Professor, Centre for Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi • Prof. Vivek Kumar, Centre for Social Systems, JNU, New Delhi • Sanjoy Hazarika, International Director, CHRI, Moderator 	
1.00 pm	Break	
2.00 pm	Ishu by Utpal Borpujari (90m)	Set in the remote tribal Rabha village in Lower Assam area bordering Meghalaya's Garo Hills, this Assamese feature film examines the banned practice through the eyes of Ishu- the 10 year old protagonist, through a battle for his aunt, who is wrongly accused of being a witch by the villainous village quack. It is based on renowned Assamese writer Manikuntala Bhattacharjya's popular novel "Ishu", and marks the feature film debut of National Award-winning film critic and acclaimed documentary director Utpal Borpujari.
3.30 pm	The Eyes of Darkness by Amitabh Parashar (60m)	The film was inspired by the Bhagalpur blindings of 1980 and 1981, known as 'Operation Gangajal', where police officials poured acid into the eyes of 33 under-trials and convicts over a period of several months in a horrific show of extra-judicial punishment. The film won a special mention last year at the 64th National Film Awards (2017).