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ETHIOPIAN HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION



Human  
RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL  
www.ehrc.org

# FILM FESTIVAL REPORT

4<sup>th</sup>  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 2024

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#16DAYSACTIVISM

#STOPVIOLENCEAGAINSTWOMEN



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ETHIOPIAN HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION

# Human Rights Day 2024

25th Anniversary of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

12th Anniversary of International Migrants Day to remind all states to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants.



ALL HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
FOR ALL  
AT ALL TIMES



Human  
RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL

#16DAYSOFACTIVISM

#STOPVIOLENCEAGAINSTWOMEN

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# MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHIEF COMMISSIONER

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The 4th edition of our now established Annual Human Rights Film Festival comes with yet new artistic categories with the introduction this year of essay and drawing competitions ahead of the festival and a short play performance as part of the festival screenings.

In our bid to expand the festival's reach progressively and in a resource-efficient manner, the festival will take place this year in three more regional cities and in cultural centres, schools and other similar venues. The geographical expansion and the choice of venues are also aimed at bringing the EHRC brand and the International Human Rights Day celebrations to yet more communities.

The Annual Human Rights Film Festival is, of course, also an opportunity to recall and raise awareness about critical human rights issues. As such, pre-festival competitions that ran between September and November 2024 invited high school students, young amateurs and the public at large to reflect on "Women's Right to Life" and "The Rights to Adequate Food and Adequate Water" through writing, photography and drawing competitions.

EHRC is pleased to report that it has received over 150 entries in all categories combined from Addis Ababa and 9 regional cities. It is a privilege to witness for the second year in a row the overall enthusiasm and participation these pre-festival human rights audiovisual arts competitions continue to generate.

It is therefore with great pleasure that, on behalf of all EHRC staff and my own, I invite all of you to mark the International Human Rights Day with us by taking part in the Annual Human Rights Film Festival, the Addis Ababa edition of which will be held at Yared School of Music (AAU) on December 13, 2024, from 1:00 pm onwards.

**Rakeb Messele**

# ABOUT EHRC

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Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an independent federal state body established as per the Federal Constitution and reporting to House of Peoples' Representatives as a national human rights institution with the mandate for promotion and protection of human rights.  
*(Article 55/14 of FDRE Constitution cum Proclamation No. 210/2000, as amended by Proclamation No. 1224/2020)*

## Key Functions

- ▶▶▶ Human Rights  
Education/Promotion
- ▶▶▶ Human Rights Monitoring  
and Investigation (Including  
Complaints Handling)
- ▶▶▶ Advocacy
- ▶▶▶ Engagement (National,  
Regional, International)



## ABOUT THE FILM FESTIVAL

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Promotion of human rights—information, knowledge and messages—is one of EHRC’s key responsibilities as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). The Commission’s establishment proclamation provides that “it shall use all available means, including the media, to promote human rights.” Art possesses a unique ability to unite individuals from diverse backgrounds and inspire them to positive actions and messages. With its annual human rights film festival, EHRC wishes to harness this potential. The festival also serves as a platform for filmmakers to showcase their work and to be deliberate about the linkages between the message of unity and humanity that art promotes and ongoing human rights concerns in the country.

Human Rights Day is an annual global celebration marked on 10th December in honor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). To mark this day, celebrated globally with various fairs, exhibitions and similar events, EHRC organizes every year a Human Rights Film Festival.

With three previous editions, the festival has already attracted the participation of 30 artists of varying fields and brought the Human Rights Day celebrations to 7 regional cities and more than 3000 participants who took part in the festival either through competitions or by attending the festivities.

4<sup>th</sup>  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

For the second year in a row, pre-festival competitions were organized across schools, arts centres and collectives and universities around the country. The thematic areas selected for 2024 were “Women’s Right to Life” and “Rights to adequate food and adequate water.” Winning entries of all categories (short essay, drawing, photography) from all 10 cities that took part this year will be exhibited and awarded during the festival.

Through the screening of a short play, exclusively written and produced for the festival, and two feature films, this 4th edition of the festival is dedicated to the issue of justice: its meaning, the expectations of justice, national legislations and their limitations and the value of traditional justice mechanisms. As Ethiopia embarks on the implementation of its Transitional Justice Policy, adopted in April 2024, the subject matter is timely and relevant.

The Human Rights Film Festival constitutes for EHRC one of its flagship projects and a valued opportunity to convene, acknowledge, recognize and publicly award all the voices and organizations that support the message of peace, dialogue and human rights in Ethiopia. The festival also serves as a reminder that cultural rights are also rights that must be promoted, protected, respected and fulfilled.



# SCREENINGS

## Featured Short Play



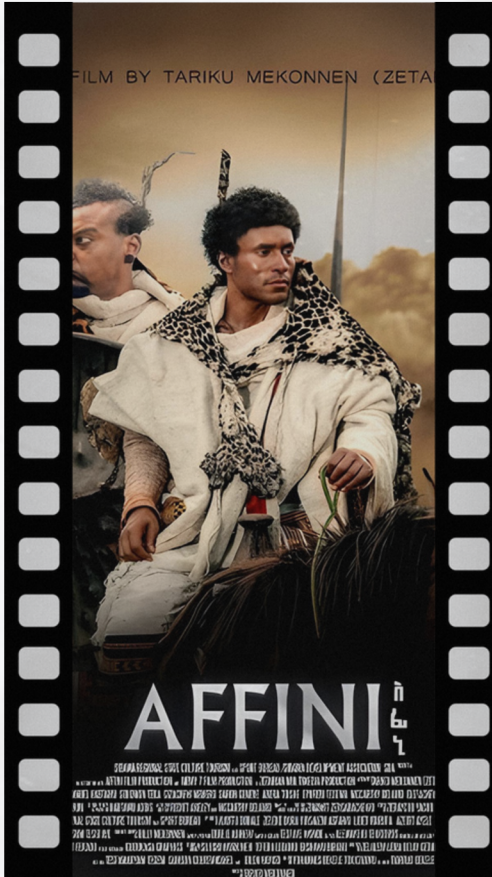
### ተመለሽ (Come Back)

Four women recall an incident that took place in their Addis Ababa neighborhood over seven years ago. As the story unravels through their narrations, the effect the incident had on each of them and the hopes and tragedies they each carry are slowly revealed. The women also give us a peek into their anxiety over an upcoming demolition of their neighborhood and relocation. The play, written and performed exclusively for this edition of the festival, is an innovative look at the impact of sexual violence on families and communities and explores other issues such as the root causes of migration. Designed as a multimedia performance, the play is also a nod at the transitional justice process as it reminds us that justice has a different meaning to different people.

Written by: Tarikua Getachew

Directed and Performed by: Theatrical Arts Department, Addis Ababa University

# Feature Film



## አፊኒ (Affini)

The film, which follows two feuding families as they each seek vengeance and resolution for wrongs suffered, puts the spotlight on Sidama traditional dispute resolution mechanisms. Despite their limitations, traditional conflict resolution mechanisms still play an important role in the day-to-day lives of many communities in Ethiopia and the film, while reflecting on the value of these mechanisms, is also an invitation to evaluate these mechanisms from a human rights perspective.

Written by: Tariku Mekonnen (Zetarian)  
Produced by: Zetarian Multimedia Production

# Feature Film



## ፻ስተሺዮ (Justitia)

In Justitia, we follow a lawyer through her attempts to obtain justice for a domestic worker accused of attempted murder. Produced as a collaboration with the Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association (EWLA) and first premiered in July 2024, the film examines some of the loopholes in national labour laws and is a powerful advocacy for stronger legislation to protect domestic workers.

Written by: Azeb Workou

Directed by: Kidist Yilma

Producer: Memekia Lemma

# EHRC SHORT FILMS

## Opening Opportunities in Human Rights Work for the Youth



This short documentary follows around a few of the international and national interns at the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) as they tell us about their experiences and their reasons for joining the internship programme. Between 2021 and 2024, EHRC has hosted close to 60 national and international interns and fellows. It also collaborates with law faculties across the country to provide useful resources upon request to graduating students who do a thesis on human rights-related topics. For EHRC, its internships and collaborative work with law faculties are one of the ways of promoting human rights. Through this short film, the Commission also calls upon other government and civil society organizations to design and operationalize such programmes for the youth.

## Climate Change and Human Rights

Asrar Adem, a human rights officer at the Socio-Economic Rights Department of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, tells us about his paper titled “African Approaches to Climate and Disaster Displacement as Loss and Damage: Gaps and Prospects,” co-authored with doctoral researcher Mansha Mohee and published in September 2024 in the African Journal of Climate Law and Justice. The paper calls for a human rights-based approach to climate and related disaster response mechanism and Asrar Adem explains what this implies for human rights work as well as the role National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) can play in this regard.



# PRE-FESTIVAL COMPETITIONS

## Themes

- Women's Right to Life
- Rights to Adequate Food and to Adequate Water

## Categories

Short Essay  
Photography  
Drawing

150+  
ENTRIES

## Awards

1<sup>st</sup> place: 25,000 ETB  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: 20,000 ETB  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: 15,000 ETB

- Various types of recognition awards have been prepared for all participants across all competition categories.

# SELECTION OF ENTRIES

Selected Photos from Entries in Various Categories of the  
Audiovisual Art Competitions

*Adama*



Yonas Kefyalew



Melat Tewodros Shibiru

*Addis Ababa*



Getayawkal Mehari



Surafel Dejene



Eyob Ashebir

# WOMEN'S LIFE

Addis Ababa

## Writing Entries

- Abraham Hailu (አብርሃም ሀይሉ) | ተሸንፏል
- Andualem Kindu (አንዲአለም ክንዲ) | ልገንባሽ ብዬ
- Eden Ayalew (ኤደን አያሌው መብራቱ) | መንደሬ ናፈቀኝ
- Helina Girma (ህለና ግርማ) | ከገደል ወደ እሳት
- Natty Asrat Bekurat (ናቲ አስራት) | ለምን ሞትኩ?
- Tesfaye Mamo (ተስፋዬ ማሞ) | መንገዳችን
- Tilahun Demeke (ጥላቱን ደመቀ ታሪኩ) | ለኛ ይብሳል
- Wendimu Hailu (ወንድሙ ሃይሉ) | ኤብጃ
- Wendu Gudissa (ወንዱ ጉዲሳ) | ሠላማዊ ትግል
- Yemareshet Dereje (የማርአሽት ደረጃ ታደሰ) | የመኖር መብት ካለመሞት ያልፋል!
- Yidnekachew Abate (ይድነቃችው አባተ አባይ) | በማን ነው የሚያበቃው?
- Zelalem Gizaw (ዘላለም ግዛው) | «ንንታናሞ ቤይን» የበጣጠሰ ዐይን

# Arbaminch



Muluken Shafi



Bethelhem Abera



Bereket Kebede

# Assosa



Zinash Mengistu



ሙሉዓለም አጋዥ ተረፈ



Paulos Tafa Mergessa

# Bahir Dar



Amanuel Gedef



Ambelu Belay



Soliyana Almar

# Gambella



Eden Kebede



Frewoini Gebremedhin



Raji Teshome

# Hawassa



Agegnehu Mulugeta



Aweke Abebe



Israel Gersam

# Jigjiga and Samara



Mohammed Ahmed



Dawit Zekarias

## Jimma



Monica Melaku



Yared Kebede



Frewoini G/Mariyam

## Mekelle



Ikram Isa



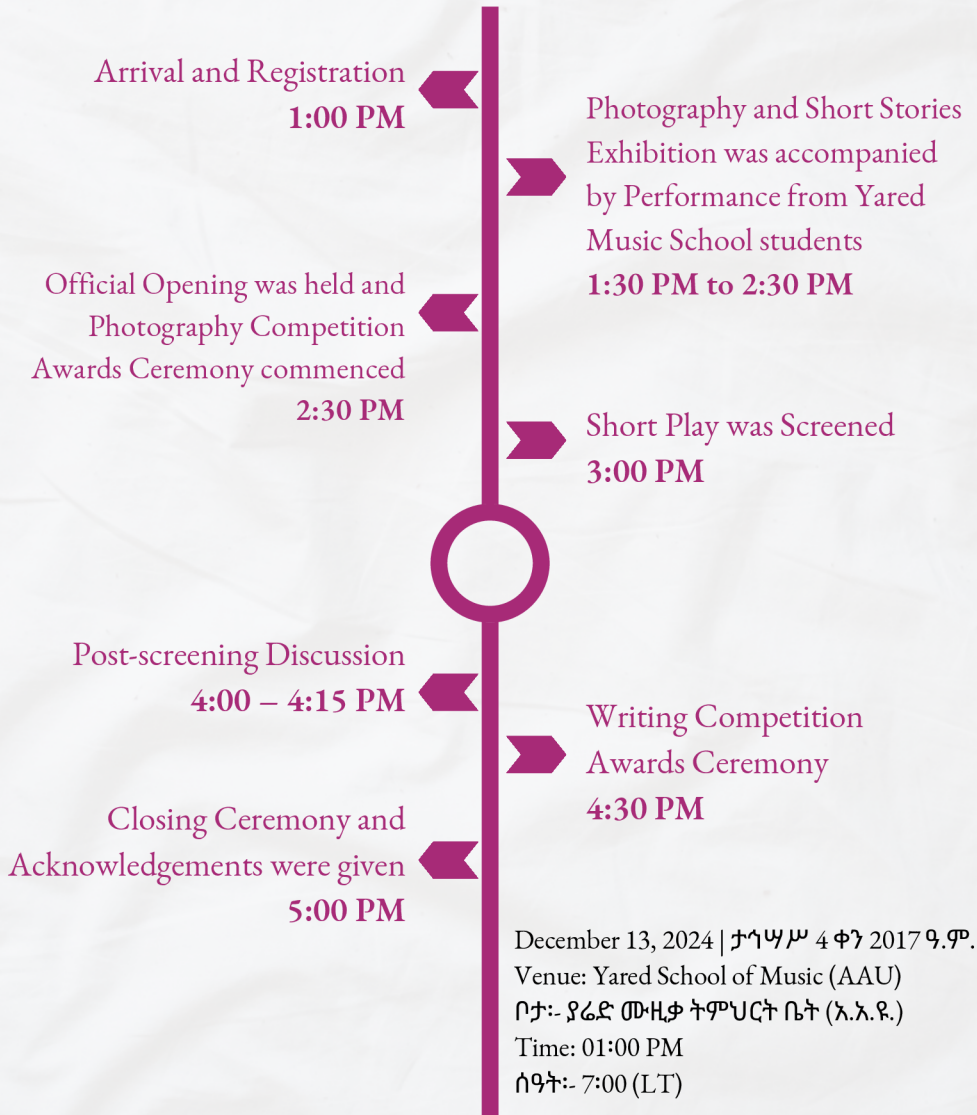
Hlina Seyum



Soliyana Temesgen

# FOURTH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL ADDIS ABABA SCHEDULE

*December 13, 2024*



# FOURTH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL RECAP

## *Celebrating Cities*

### ADDIS ABABA

*a d d i s   a b a b a*



# ADAMA

a d a m a



# ARBAMINCH

a r b a m i n c h



# ASSOSA

*a s s o s a*



# BAHIR DAR

*b a h i r d a r*



# GAMBELLA

*g a m b e l l a*



# HAWASSA

*h a w a s s a*



# JIMMA

j i m m a



# SAMARA

s a m a r a



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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EHRC's Annual Human Rights Film Festival is made possible thanks to the support of several national, regional and international partners.  
Thank you!

## Human Rights Day 2024 *“Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now”*

### Recognition

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Every year, EHRC uses the festival to recognize one individual, organization or work of relevance to human rights and the promotion of the vision of seeing “A Human Rights Culture Instilled in Ethiopia”.

This year EHRC recognizes the work and achievements of its **Former Chief Commissioner: Dr. Daniel Bekele.**



# FOURTH EDITION ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL PARTNERS



## EHRC PARTNERS

Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) recognizes the power of collaboration in advancing its mission to promote and protect human rights. We take great pride in working alongside a diverse range of national, regional and international partners who share our unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of human rights. The below are just some of them.



ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY



Norway in Ethiopia  
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Addis Ababa



And many other national and international organizations!



## Celebrating Cities

➤ Adama  
➤ Addis Ababa  
➤ Arbaminch  
➤ Assossa

➤ Bahir Dar  
➤ Gambella  
➤ Hawassa  
➤ Jimma

➤ Samara

## Address

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