

# **Gaza International Women's Cinema Festival**

## **The Project**

### **The Palestinian Woman's Voice to the World**

#### **VISION**

The Gaza International Women's Cinema Festival aims to be a leading global platform to showcase women's creativity in cinema, with a special focus on highlighting the stories and experiences of Palestinian women. We aspire to create an artistic and cultural space that transcends borders and barriers, connects creative women from around the world, and contributes to changing the stereotypical image of Palestinian and Arab women.

The festival aims to present a distinctive artistic vision that reflects the reality of women in Palestine and their aspirations, highlighting their ability to create and influence despite difficult circumstances. We also seek to make the festival a bridge for cultural communication between Palestine and the world, and an opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas in the field of filmmaking.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

##### **1. Supporting and encouraging women's cinematic creativity**

The festival aims to provide a platform for showcasing films produced, directed, or written by women from Palestine, the Arab world, and internationally. We seek to discover new talents and provide them with the necessary support to launch into the world of cinema. Prizes will be allocated for the best works in various categories, which encourages positive competition and motivates the presentation of outstanding works.

##### **2. Highlighting Palestinian women's issues**

The festival seeks to present a realistic and comprehensive image of Palestinian women's lives, away from stereotypes. Films will be shown that address various aspects of women's lives in Palestine, from their daily struggles to their achievements in various fields, including their social, political, and economic challenges.

##### **3. Building bridges of cultural communication**

The festival aspires to be a window through which Palestine looks out to the world, and the world looks in on Palestine. Female directors, producers, and film critics from various countries around the world will be invited to participate in the festival, providing an opportunity for cultural exchange and the formation of future collaborative networks.

##### **4. Developing the film industry in Palestine**

The festival aims to contribute to the development of the film industry in Palestine by organizing specialized workshops and seminars in the fields of directing, cinematography, editing, and screenwriting. International experts will be hosted to present their expertise to emerging local talents.

## 5. Promoting awareness of the importance of cinema as a tool for social change

The festival seeks to establish the concept of cinema as a powerful means for social and cultural influence. Discussion sessions will be organized on the role of cinema in changing stereotypes and promoting women's rights and gender equality.

## **ASPIRATIONS**

### 1. Expansion and outreach

We aspire for the Gaza International Women's Cinema Festival to become a prominent annual event on the global cultural agenda. We seek to increase the number of participating films and diversify their geographical sources, while maintaining focus on Palestinian and Arab women's cinema.

### 2. Establishing a fund to support film production

We aspire to establish a special fund to support the production of Palestinian women's films, providing grants for promising projects and helping to finance films from the idea stage to screening.

### 3. Establishing international partnerships

We seek to build partnerships with prestigious global film institutions and festivals to exchange expertise and showcase winning films from the Gaza Festival on broader international platforms.

### 4. Expanding the scope of influence

We aim to make the festival a platform for dialogue on women's issues at the global level, not just in the Palestinian context. We aspire to host conferences and seminars discussing women's issues in global cinema.

## **CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS**

We recognize that establishing an international film festival in Gaza involves significant challenges, most importantly:

### 1. Political and security situation

To face this challenge, we will work on providing digital alternatives for screenings and events, so that remote participation is possible if physical attendance is not feasible. We will also seek to coordinate with relevant authorities to facilitate the entry of guests and participants.

### 2. Limited resources

We will work on building partnerships with international cultural and artistic institutions, and seeking sponsors and supporters for the festival. We will also utilize local resources and youth energies in organizing and managing festival events.

### 3. Stereotypical image of Gaza

We will work on presenting a different image of Gaza through the films shown and accompanying events, focusing on the creative and cultural aspects of Gaza society.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

1. Forming a preparatory committee for the festival that includes local and international expertise in cinema and culture.
2. Launching a wide media campaign to promote the festival at both local and international levels.
3. Opening the submission of films for participation in the festival six months before its date.
4. Organizing preparatory workshops for local talents in directing, cinematography, and editing.
5. Coordinating with official and civil authorities to provide logistical and security support for the festival.
6. Preparing a comprehensive program for the festival that includes film screenings, seminars, and workshops.
7. Inviting prominent film personalities to participate in judging panels and present workshops.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Gaza International Women's Cinema Festival is not just a cinematic event, but a cultural and humanitarian project that aims to change reality through art. We believe in cinema's ability to create bridges of communication, break down barriers, and change stereotypes. Through this festival, we seek to present the voice of Palestinian women to the world, and open a window to women's creativity in cinema from various parts of the world.

We aspire for this festival to be a cultural lighthouse shining from Gaza to the world, affirming human ability to create and influence regardless of circumstances. We are confident that this project will contribute to changing the stereotypical image of Gaza and Palestine, and present an inspiring model of art's ability to transcend borders and barriers.

With each edition of the festival, we hope to move one step closer to achieving our vision of making Gaza a global center for women's cinematic creativity, and a platform for global cultural dialogue that contributes to building a more understanding, tolerant, and just world.