

WORLD PREMIERE: *THE LEAST WE CAN DO*
ONE WORLD REFUGEE FILM FESTIVAL: ONLINE, CANADA-WIDE
FOLLOWED BY FEATURED GUESTS

THE LEAST WE CAN DO examines Canada's response to the **Yazidi genocide by ISIS** and the struggle of a small group of women to obtain comprehensive trauma care for the 1,200 Yazidi women and girls who were brought to Canada as refugees. The film features **Adiba, a Yazidi survivor, Reverend Majed El Shafie of One Free World International, Senator Mobina Jaffer and MP Jenny Kwan.**

WHEN: Film premiere December 12, 2020 3 pm PST, 6 pm EST | Canada-wide

Followed by discussion at 4pm PST/7pm EST featuring:

The Honourable Mobina Jaffer, QC, int'l advocate for protection of women and girls in war
The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Chair of the World Refugee & Migration Council
Rev. Majed El Shafie, founder One Free World International
Aveen, Yazidi survivor of a previous genocide, humanitarian activist
Dr. Leora Kuttner, Clinical Psychologist and expert on pediatric pain management
Dr. Jan Ilhan Kizilhan, Psychologist and leading world expert on Yazidi trauma care

TICKETS: \$10 available here:

<https://watch.eventive.org/owrff2020/play/5fb05b326232de0037d1f104>

VANCOUVER - *The Least We Can Do* will be screened online in Ottawa's One World Refugee Film Festival in the aptly named "Canadians speaking out for refugees" program. The screening will be followed by a discussion and Q&A: "The Clock is Ticking: The Urgent Situation Unfolding for the Yazidi". Panelists will bring forward news and insights on the state of the refugee camps and the crisis unfolding in Sinjar, the Yazidi homeland destroyed by ISIS.

Selected as the sole entry for the "Canadians speaking out for refugees" program, director Moira Simpson's labour of love follows the story of a small group of women fighting for comprehensive trauma care for Yazidi women and girls in Canada. They embark on a petition campaign to urge the Canadian government to follow through on their initial promise to the Yazidi refugees. *The Least We Can Do* is a story about genocide, religious persecution, misogyny and enslavement, and finding ways to speak the unspeakable.

For more information about *The Least We Can Do* and to view the trailer, visit:

www.womenrefugeesadvocacyproject.ca/documentary; includes downloadable press materials;
Distribution by Moving Images Distribution.

CONTACT:

Christine McDowell and Barbara Shuman
Women Refugees Advocacy Project
wrapforjustice@gmail.com
womenrefugeesadvocacyproject.ca/documentary/
604-974-1145 | cell: 604-374-5826

Background

On August 3, 2014, ISIS extremists began a campaign of genocide against the Yazidi, a religious minority in Northern Iraq. They murdered the men, forced the boys into ISIS military training camps, and enslaved the women and girls subjecting them to torture and rape in a fate that survivor and Nobel Laureate Nadia Murad described as “worse than death.”

Hundreds of thousands of Yazidi fled the attack by ISIS on Sinjar, eventually ending up in refugee camps in Northern Iraq and Kurdistan. The international community formed a coalition with Iraq to fight ISIS and succeeded in 2017/2018.

Fast forward to today

Under the pressure of the pandemic, the Yazidi are returning to Sinjar as the international money to support the refugee camps dries up. But Sinjar’s infrastructure is destroyed, the water is undrinkable, and hundreds of thousands of landmines exist, planted by ISIS in an unfathomable act of hatred and genocide.

What are Canada’s international moral obligations during the pandemic?

Must the terrible circumstances in Sinjar lead to yet another tragedy?

- End -