



For Immediate Release

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WORLD Channel Commemorates Human Rights Day With US Premiere of Doc World's *WHY SLAVERY?*

*Digital Streaming Begins December 10
National Broadcast Starts December 12*

Boston, MA (December 1, 2021) - An estimated 40.3 million people are living as slaves, a number more than at any other time in history – including during the transatlantic slave trade. On December 10, WORLD Channel, public media's premiere conveyor of human stories, will mark Human Rights Day with the US premiere of the Doc World series [WHY SLAVERY?](#)

In five compelling, groundbreaking documentaries, *WHY SLAVERY?* exposes governments, organizations, agencies and individuals continuing the cycle of human and sex trafficking. As told through intimate portraits of people living in the shadows, modern slavery is not only acknowledged – it is brought to the forefront of global political and economic conversation.

"Slavery in America was abolished in the 19th century, but millions of people globally are currently being held captive as modern slaves," said Mette Hoffmann Meyer, executive producer of the films and chief executive of The Why Foundation, a Danish nonprofit whose main purpose is to produce and donate documentaries about human rights to underserved and fragile countries. "The most shocking thing is the systemic nature of slavery – how widespread it is and how accepted it has become. Once you've seen these films, you can't not think about these people."

[WHY SLAVERY?](#) has been shown worldwide in multiple languages, with about 80 million viewers per film on local television, in government agencies, in the countries involved and even in the Vatican. Beginning Friday, Dec. 10, on Human Rights Day, the series will be premiere in the US, on [YouTube](#) and the [PBS app](#). The series will also broadcast on WORLD Channel, starting Dec. 12 on Sundays at 10/9c.

"Sharing *WHY SLAVERY?* with the WORLD Channel audience allows us to surface and humanize a very complex issue that is often ignored," said Chris Hastings, executive producer of WORLD Channel at GBH in Boston. "With its US premiere broadcast on WORLD Channel, *WHY SLAVERY* will bring millions more viewers up close to harrowing realities of modern-day slavery. We are proud to show this film as we commemorate Human Rights Day, in the hopes that these human rights violations are not only acknowledged but brought to a global conversation."

In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This milestone document proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10th.

Doc World: *WHY SLAVERY?* is a five part series. The documentary films include

- **I was a Yazidi Slave**
 Sunday, December 12 10 PM ET (Check local listings)
 Director / David Evans
 Producer / Nicolas Kent
 In 2014, Islamic State fighters invaded Yazidi settlements in Iraq. Men were massacred while young women were kidnapped to be enslaved, tortured, and systematically raped. Two Yazidi women tell their story of escape to Germany with the assistance of a renowned trauma expert. Their journeys to recovery ask how a survivor of unthinkable sexual violence can find justice and a path to rehabilitation.
- **A Woman Captured**
 Sunday, December 19 10 PM ET (Check local listings)
 Director / Bernadett Tuza-Ritter
 Producer / Julianna Ugrin & Viki Rekaiss
 For 10 years, Marish has been kept as a housekeeper by Eta, a Hungarian woman. She toils unpaid 7 days a week in exchange for meals, cigarettes and a couch to sleep on. Even money earned from an extra job must be handed over. Over two and a half years, filmmaker Bernadett Tuza-Ritter witnesses first-hand the relentless torrent of abuse - her presence also inspires Marish to live as a free person.
- **Selling Children**
 Sunday, December 26 10 PM ET (Check local listings)
 Director / Pankaj Johar
 Producer / Mette Hoffmann Meyer
 In India, millions of vulnerable children are bought and sold. Far removed from the issue of child slavery until a family maid suffers a devastating loss, filmmaker Pankaj Johar travels the country to understand and expose the ways in which poverty, illiteracy and corruption conspire to provide a breeding ground for child trafficking in the world's largest democracy.
- **North Korea's Secret Slaves: Dollar Heroes**
 Sunday, January 2 10 PM ET (Check local listings)
 Directors / Carl Gierstorfer, Sebastian Weis, Wonjung Bae, and Jonghun Yu
 Producer / Tristan Chytroschek
 With the promise of payment and honor, thousands of North Koreans are sent abroad, only to find themselves under constant surveillance and working in harsh conditions - with wages transferred to the government. The film shows how the country and globalization have made a pact: underpaid workers toil for the dictator's nuclear program while the United Nations and the European Union look away.
- **Maid in Hell**
 Sunday, January 9 10 PM ET (Check local listings)
 Director / Søren Klovborg
 Producer / Mette Heide
 In 2016, Mary Kibwana, who worked as a maid in Jordan, returned to Kenya with 70% of her body burned. Kibwana is one of many women in Africa and Asia trapped in the Middle East's Kafala System, a set of laws governing migrant labor binding them to their employers. The film gives unprecedented access to the inner workings of the system, and the horrific reality faced by thousands of women each day.

For more information and films, please visit www.WORLDchannel.org/ or follow @worldchannel on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

About WORLD Channel

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multicast 24/7 channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 191 member stations in markets representing over 73% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts and Artworks. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at WORLDChannel.org.