



Annual Report 2021

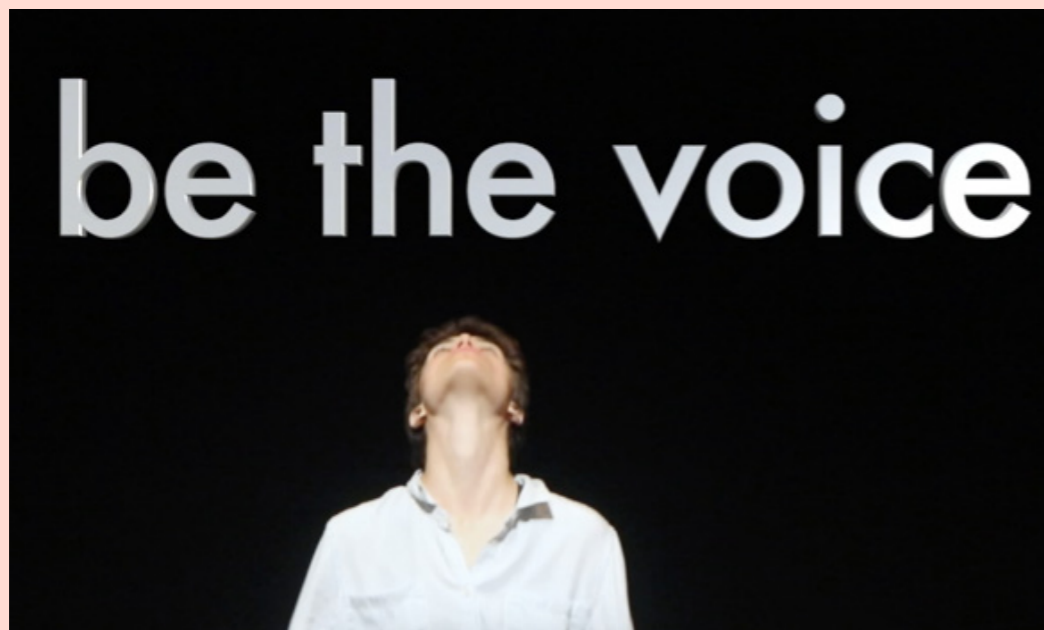
IHRAF
is giving voice to
the voiceless

IHRAF.ORG

**Beauty, Courage,
Integrity
and
Celebrating Diversity**

The *International Human Rights Art Festival* (IHRAF) gives voice to the voiceless; protects freedom of expression, and uses creativity to highlight human rights and social justice causes around the world. We bring together all members of society through our programming, from artists-in-exile and at risk; to activists on the front lines of the struggle for rights and justice in their own country; to artists working in all media, to national and international politicians, government agencies, social leaders and celebrities. We believe that creative engagement with all members of the society is the surest path toward social justice and positive change.





Executive Director's Statement:

We were thrilled to complete a year of strong programming, growth and audience enhancement, ending the year with a strong week-long performance Festival at the Wild Project Theater in New York City's East Village, where we presented 35 different performance events highlighting 150+ artists over the course of the week, December 6-12, 2021.

In 2021, we also produced the following events:

- [IHRAF Publishes: Books](#) — published our first five books.
- [IHRAF Publishes: Literary Magazine](#) — published 60 literary pieces.
- [IHRAF Publishes: Translations](#)— began our translation program.
- [IHRAF African Secretariat](#) — inaugurated our African Secretariat.
- [Youth Fellows](#) — our youth fellows presented an art exhibit and drama fest.
- [IHRAF Youth Film Festival](#) — held our first youth film festival.
- [IHRAF International Fellows](#) — fellows from India and Italy.
- [IHRAF Full-Week Festival](#) — presented 100+ performers from 24 countries.
- [IHRAF Art of Unity Award Creative Award](#) — received 300 entries from 62 countries and 16 US States, including more than 60 from creators under 21.
- [IHRAF Creators of Justice Award](#) — we received over 250 submissions, from 55 countries and 24 US States, including more than 30 from creators under 21.
- [IHRAF Magos Herrera Female Immigrant Musician Award](#) — created this new award to support an outstanding young female immigrant musician.

We also increased traffic to our Website (753%— due to a \$10k/month Google Ad Grant), Instagram followers (66%) Facebook followers (11%), inaugurated a membership component (26 members) and increased our budget year-over-year by 477%.

Solid now in the world of NYC live performance, as well as growing our international profile, we look forward to continue expanding our partnerships in 2022, increasing our digital outreach and our fundraising in the coming year, as we continue to use our work to open space for new voices to explore society's most pressing issues using the creative weapons of beauty, vulnerability and heartfelt conversation.



The Festival



The week-long *International Human Rights Art Festival* is the cornerstone of our organization. It took place from December 6-12, 2021, at the Wild Project Theater in NYC's East Village. It showcased the uncensored work of over 100 artists from around the world in 35 performances, in theatre, dance, music, circus, clowning, spoken word, visual art, film and performance art.

We believe this live celebration of diverse cultural voices is essential for keeping freedom of expression alive.

Festival Performers 2021





IHRAF Publishes: Literary Magazine

Our literary journal, IHRAF Publishes, showcases the power of storytelling.

We give voice to writers from around the world, many of whom are silenced by the repressive political structures in their home countries. In a number of cases, writers stated that the transparency and international reach we provide for their views safeguards them in their home countries.

Other writers have noted that by highlighting little-known social and political issues (political corruption in Uganda; Rohingyas' lack of Internet and healthcare access; caste and religious issues in India etc.), has raised the importance of these issues within their home communities and around the world.

Curated by our IHRAF Publishes editor, in 2021 we published 60 poems, essays and stories from around the world that express the values of truth, beauty, justice and vulnerability in the face of oppression.



JESSICA MEHTA



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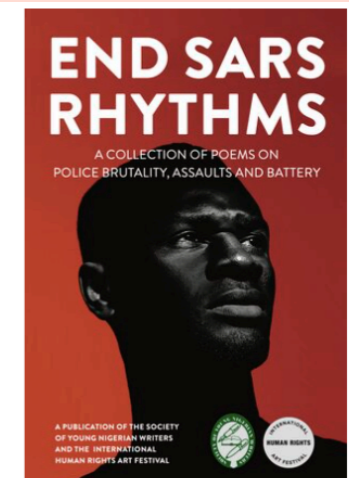
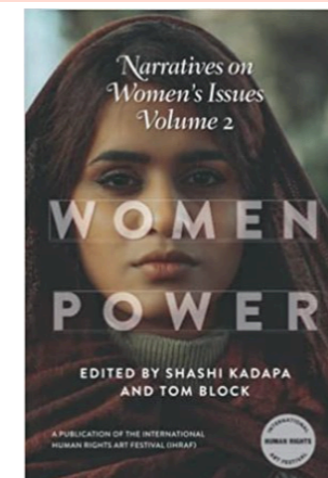


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IHRAF Publishes: Books, Translations and Awards

IHRAF expanded our literary work with a series of initiatives. We published our first five books, designed by Michele Chu; we began IHRAF Translates, publishing poetry translated from Arabic, Russian and Romanian, spearheaded by our IHRAF Translates Editor Kalpna Singh-Chitnis, and we received 550 submissions for our two literary awards, Art of Unity Creative Award (300 entries from 62 countries and 16 US States, including more than 60 from creators under 21) and the Creators of Justice Literary Award (250 submissions, from 55 countries and 24 US States).

Three of our books:



The Future

Our goal is to sustain and continue to grow our boundary-defying non profit organization dedicated to keeping the uncensored vision, passion and imaginations of artists alive. We will expand in order to continue supporting those whose creativity is unjustly threatened, as well as highlight the ideals that make for a more just, free and healthy society and world.



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