

Wednesday 13 November - 5:00pm

Room SG2 - Ground Floor, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT

Film screening / Q&A:

Documentary Film - The Migrant Crisis: "WHERE CAN WE LIVE IN PEACE?"

Judy Jackson

Synopsis:

The migrant crisis through the eyes of Pastor Ignacio Martinez, the founder of ABBA safehouse in Celaya, Mexico.

"They are people like us, with rights and dreams of a better life, and hopes for their children to go to school and have decent lives".

It started when Ignacio and his family took food to migrants jumping freight trains. Some were sick, there was nowhere to wash or sleep. So he founded ABBA, where they can rest, receive food and medical and psychological help.

The film shows the gap between President Trump calling migrants "rapists and criminals" - and the sad reality. Most are escaping abject poverty and gang violence in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Their governments - backed by the US for decades, - are enmeshed in endemic corruption the migrants' dreams of a better life in the USA have been shattered. President Trump, citing COVID-19 has completely shut the border. Now the migrants are desperately asking "Where Can We Live in Peace?" In this world of nationalism and xenophobia, Ignacio's work is vitally important.

"It's not about us - it's about the dignity of our brother 'travellers'".

The migrants are part of a worldwide crisis. 70 million migrants and refugees are on the move or living in displaced people's camps. The ravages of climate change and pandemics of hunger and poverty created by COVID-19 will create many more. Yet nations refuse them.

Britain's Brexit aims to restrict them. Many Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis languish in sordid camps in Greece, or are beaten back from the borders of Croatia, Hungary and Poland. Many drown in the Mediterranean. The irony is that many countries have aging populations and declining birthrates. So immigrants – who often do the work that no one wants – are needed.



Judy Jackson (Filmmaker)

Judy Jackson has won many awards for her documentaries about Human Rights. Early in her career, at CBC's 'the fifth estate', she documented the abuses of Dictators in Chile, Argentina and Guatemala. Then, working from England, (BBC, ITV and C4), she made films including 'The Hidden Holocaust' (Guatemala), 'In Search of the Assassin' (Central America). Her film 'They Shoot Children, Don't They?' (Guatemala),

about street children murdered by the police, resulted in irate viewers writing in such numbers to the BBC, Amnesty International and the Guatemalan Government that policemen were finally convicted.

Returning to Canada, she made films such as 'The Toughest Job in The World', following Louise Arbour, then Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for the Former Yugoslavia as she indicted Slobodan Milosevic for barbarity in the Balkans.

Her most recent film, 'The Ungrateful Dead: In Search of International Justice' documents the establishment of the International Criminal Court and the rebirth of International Justice. Made for History Television, it is narrated by Peter Gabriel who says:

"I believe this new move is, for the first time, responding to the cries of the victims by bringing the bodies of the dead back to their loved ones and seeking justice for them"

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