

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION 2026

TERMS AND RULES

11-18 OCTOBER 2026

The Human Rights Film Festival Lugano (FFDUL) has been held in Lugano, Switzerland, since 2014. The film selection consists of films based on existing realities that, through their artistic quality, become a tool for denunciation and reflection.

Each year the FFDUL is a space for dialogue between authors, experts, activists and the public, to allow in-depth study and reflection on human rights. The International Feature Film Competition allows the audience to insight even more cinema and human rights.

The FFDUL is supported by the Swiss Confederation, the Canton of Ticino, the City of Lugano and numerous private entities.

The entry call to the 13th FFDUL International Feature Film Competition is open until June 7, 2026.

1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Films of any genre (documentary, fiction, animation, etc.) with a running time of 60 minutes or longer, produced in 2025 or 2026, are eligible
- All those who want to submit a film must fill out the form in its entirety at festivaldirittiumani.ch/en/film-submission
- The submission involves sending a private screener link of the film (downloadable for the selection committee). Screener must be subtitled in English
- **Applications must be completed before June 7, 2026 (midnight)**
- No application fee is required
- The selection committee chooses, from the properly submitted films, the 8 films that will participate in the Human Rights Film Festival Lugano Competition
- **Preference is given to Swiss Premieres.** Any selection to other festivals on Swiss territory should be notified promptly to entries@festivaldirittiumani.ch

2. AWARDS

- **All selected films participate in the competition, which includes The Jury Award for Best Film and the Audience Award**
- The Jury Award provides a cash compensation worth 6.000.– Swiss Francs
- The Audience Award provides a cash compensation worth 4.000.– Swiss Francs
- Any prizes presented by FFDUL partner organizations may be added
- **The prize money is awarded to the film's director.** The FFDUL does not intervene in any other negotiations with potential rights holder

3. SELECTED FILMS

- **The list of selected films will be published on the FFDUL website and announced in the press (date TBC). The author and/or production and/or distribution is contacted prior to publication.**
- The author and/or production and/or distribution authorize the publication of their details on www.festivaldirittiumani.ch and all related digital or printed products.
- Admission to the festival implies the assignment, without compensation, of the rights to reproduce stills or excerpts from the film (maximum 3 minutes) intended for promotion of FFDUL in print, television, web, and other promotional materials
- The right holders authorize the physical screening (3 screenings) of the selected works **without compensation. All additional screening requests will be subject to mutual agreement and separate terms**
- Selected films must be delivered in DCP (with KDM, if any) or ProRes file format already subtitled in Italian and accompanied by English subtitle .srt files (other formats will need to be discussed)
- Delivery of physical and digital materials (copy of the film, trailer and/or excerpts, min, 3 photos of the film, photo of the director/s) must be submitted by August 15, 2026. **Shipping (physical or digital) costs are the responsibility of the participant, as well as liability for any damage in transit**
- **Selected films may not be withdrawn from the competition after the selection has been confirmed and may not be shown anywhere in Switzerland (except in the case of discussed exceptions) before 19 October 2026**

4. HOSPITALITY

- **One of the main objectives of the Human Rights Lugano Film Festival is to promote exchange and encounters between professionals and the public in a space of authentic confrontation**
- Film delegations must make themselves available, in the spirit of the festival, to come to FFDUL for the film premiere and, if awarded, for the awards ceremony
- FFDUL will cover travel and hotel expenses for selected film delegations (1 person, maximum 2 nights).

5. FILM SUBMISSION AND PARTICIPATION IMPLIES ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND RULES

More information: entries@festivaldirittiumani.ch

Lugano, March 8, 2026