

SAFE HAVENS

**SAFE HAVENS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES  
THE FIRST EVENT OF GLOBAL STREAM  
(Workshops | 11-13 November 2020  
Round table | 3 December 2020  
Freedom Talks | ongoing)**

**Safe Havens** is a once-a-year conference opportunity where arts and human rights activists share and use their experience. It continues virtually this year under the title of **Safe Havens Global Stream**. Prioritising artists, smaller organisations and individuals working on the ground to support artists, journalists and writers at risk, **phase one** of the conference takes place between **11 and 13 November 2020**. Starting on **Wednesday, November 11**, three afternoons of international discussion and exchange follow, using a partially open space type format that we are calling 'Hives'.

This year, the conference is based on two foundational principles as elaborated in 2018 by Safe Havens participants and Karima Bennoune, UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights. First, it was a call to this 'emerging sector' combining arts and free expression, from international NGOs to local initiatives, to collaborate strategically and effectively. At the same time, the sector should prioritise people and initiatives working on the ground, wherever they are, to ensure they have greater voice and visibility.



Shakrokh Moskin Ghalame, *photo: Ava Hanning*

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Safe Havens Global Stream 2020 includes five, one-hour long 'Main Hives' animated by inspirational activists discussing a broad, currently crucial theme. Participants will be invited to propose 'Sub Hives' that follow in smaller break-out groups, on specific themes, languages or issues, linked to the main topic. Main Hives will be accessible to the conference participants. Details of the **updated programme** are given below.

A report of the November conference will be discussed in a **one-day webinar** including the artistic interventions curated by **Safemuse** on **Thursday, December 3** for international NGOs, institutions, policy-makers and funders. Reacting to the recommendations from Safe Havens in November, they will respond regarding their collective vision for the way forward. Details of this event will be announced soon.

Started in 2013, the Safe Havens conference has been a place for the many different artists and practitioners in the cultural and free expression sectors, as well as international NGOs, agencies, policy makers and funders. Aiming to view the full landscape of global protection, promotion and advocacy of censored and threatened artists, writers, journalists and academics, as well as to assess the risks and the challenges for cultural workers globally - and to find where and how their initiatives can best be of use, the Safe Havens conference will remain an open forum to discuss questions such as: "How can we, as representatives of global or regional networks, come together? How can we use our knowledge and expertise in defending those comrades who are in precarious situations because of war and unrest? What more can be done? Can we mobilise and reach further to have a stronger impact globally?" and find solutions together.

Fredrik Elg, initiator of the conference, said: *"We are artists, writers, musicians, activists and administrators from all over the world. We are in this together. And, the Safe Havens conference is the place where we come together. The conference is not a step towards establishing a new formal network, it is an open forum for all of us who see a point in meeting, interacting and sharing with new and old friends in order to learn from each other. It is a cosmopolitan space - a platform - where new collaborations take shape."*

You may also want to check the ongoing Freedom Talks series which take place monthly in addition to Safe Havens. One and a half hours of moderated conversations on artistic and/or academic freedom globally, Freedom Talks gathers key artists, producers, editors, lawyers and activists from around the world. The focus is on the artist and their work in its specific regional context, with perspectives from the guest panelists.

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## **The Programme**

### **Tuesday, November 10**

**Virtual social event, come and mingle with the other participants!**

### **Workshops/hives:**

#### **Wednesday, November 11**

13.00 - 13.20 – Welcome and Introduction

13.30 - 14.30 – Who is at Risk/What is at Risk? – Animated by Pelin Başaran, curator and producer, Contact, UK

13.30 - 14.30 – Artistic Choices in the Time of... – Animated by Abdullah Alkafri, Director, Ettijahat-Independent Culture, playwright and theatre director with Nayse Lopez, journalist, festival director, producer, curator, Panorama Festival Brazil

14.45 - 16.15 – Sub-hives proposed by participants

16.20 - 17.00 – Wrap up, questions and feedback

#### **Thursday, November 12**

13.00 - 13.20 – Introduction

13.30 - 14.30 – To Unify, Strategize and Support – animated by Daniel Gorman, Director, English PEN

13.30 - 14.30 – Current Covid Relocation – challenges and solutions – Animated by Marie LeSourd, Secretary General, [www.on-the-move.org](http://www.on-the-move.org)

14.45 - 16.15 – Sub-hives proposed by participants

16.20 - 17.00 – Wrap up, questions and feedback

#### **Friday, November 13**

12.30 - 12.45 – Introduction

12.45 - 13.45 – Specific Perspectives (or, From my point of view) – Animated by Bisi Alimi, LGBTIQ+rights activists, public speaker, Executive Director Bisi Alimi Foundation; and Faris Cuchi Gezahegn, performance artist and LGBTIQ+ advocate

14.00 - 15.00 – Sub-hives proposed by participants

15.15 - 16.15 – Closing Hive: Going Forward – with all Main Hive animators, moderated by Ole Reitov, UN and UNESCO consultant and trainer, founder and former Executive Director of Freemuse

16.15 - Thanks and Wrap up

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### **Round Table webinar:**

#### **Thursday, December 3**

We will present 3 x 45 minutes round table discussions with key organisations in the network, along with a number of artistic interventions. This will be open to the public. Updates will come with time and further details.

### **Notes:**

#### **About Safe Havens**

The annual Safe Havens conference is a global network meeting between artists, activists, NGO:s, lawyers and intergovernmental organizations - sometimes referred to as the Arts Rights Justice sector, on topics related to artistic freedom and the support to artists, writers and other culture producers who face threats, persecution and censorship. The conference has its starting point in a human rights perspective and aims to be a meeting place for human rights defenders within the arts and academia as a way to make visible cultural operators. The conference is organized in a process of collaboration between different cultural operators and organizations, where focus is directed on the connection between culture and human rights. Furthermore, the conference is a way of visualizing the significant position of culture and academia in human rights advocacy and moving towards sharing and using knowledge between cultural operators, scholars and major human rights and cultural organizations.

#### **About The Freedom Talks**

Our new programming series **Safe Havens - Freedom Talks** series is closely connected to the annual global Safe Havens conference which we have organized in Malmö since 2013, and in Cape Town, South Africa in 2019. The monthly Freedom Talks series will focus on issues regarding threats towards artistic freedom, free press and intangible heritage. Guests in the Freedom Talks series are highly knowledgeable and prolific actors in the global Arts Rights Justice sector – fighting for artistic freedom.

You will be able to watch live-streamed versions of the talks through our website and social media channels, and step by step we will open for an audience and on-site participants when the Covid -19 risks and restrictions are over. You can follow our channels for updates. The talks will be in- or translated to English. <http://rorelsernasmuseum.se/en/publikationer/safe-havens-2/>

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## **Biographies**

**Abdullah Alkafri** is the Executive Director of Ettijahat – Independent Culture. Ettijahat is dedicated to supporting Syrian artists and cultural practitioners and their peers across the Arab region and Europe, providing capacity-building, educational opportunities, financial and legal support to artists, cultural practitioners and academics. As an award-winning playwright and theatre director, he has collaborated with LIFT (UK), the Royal Court Theatre (UK), IEVP (Norway) and Lark (USA) and others. He works as a trainer, strategic planner, fundraiser and designer for arts initiatives. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Arab Council for Social Sciences, the Artistic Committee of Sundance Institute’s MENA Theater Lab and the board of the 10<sup>th</sup> Summit on Arts and Culture. He also teaches the MA in Theatre at l’Université Saint-Joseph, Beirut, where he is also currently undertaking a PhD.

**Bisi Alimi** is the founder and Executive Director of the Bisi Alimi Foundation, an organisation set to accelerate social acceptance of LGBT people in Nigeria. He is also the Executive Director of Safe Place Greece, a refugee organisation that works with Double Marginalized Refugees (LGBT+ and single mothers and their children) across Europe. He has over 15 years’ experience in International development, starting as an LGBT/HIV activist in Nigeria before moving to the UK. He is a specialist in incubating and managing start-up charities and programs and has set up and managed over 5 start up development initiatives. His professional expertise ranges from Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity to Race and Race Relations, Feminism, Education and Poverty Alleviation. He was a visiting lecturer at both Freie and Humboldt University both in Berlin, lecturing in “Pre and Post-Colonial Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity”. An actor and public speaker, His TEDx talk, “There should never be another Ibrahim” has been listed as one of the 14 most inspiring queer TEDtalks of all time.

**Daniel Gorman** is director of English PEN, one of the world’s oldest human rights organisations, championing the freedom to write and the freedom to read around the world. English PEN is the founding centre of PEN International, a worldwide writers’ association with 145 centres in more than 100 countries.. Prior to English PEN Daniel was Executive Director of Shubbak, Europe’s largest festival of contemporary Arab culture. Daniel is also a co-founder of Highlight Arts, who have organised UK-based international arts festivals, events and projects since 2007. Daniel has written for the *Guardian*, *Irish Times*, *N+1* and many others. Daniel is a National Arts Strategies ‘CEO Community and Culture’ 2015 fellow and a British Council Cultural Leadership International fellow.

**Faris Cuchi Gezahegn** is a performance artist, PCCC standup comedian and an intersectional LGBTIQA\* advocate. They use mediums such as style activism, video and audio to bring social and conversation change on issues they face while navigating day-to-day life as a non-binary Ethiopian/African LGBTIQA\* advocate/refugee in central Europe and their homeland, Ethiopia. They are a fellow at the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum. They are a co-founder and former Executive Director of DANA Social group, the first self-organized LGBTIQA\* grass-roots organization aiming to improve health access and advocate visibility for the Ethiopian queer community. They co-founded House of Guramayle, a platform that advocates for LGBTIQA+

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Ethiopians in Ethiopia and globally by focusing on societal attitude change and forcing the Ethiopian government to have queer inclusive policies and legislation starting from changing the law that criminalizes queer bodies. They are an active member of Afro Rainbow Austria, the first organization established by and for Africans (from the continent and in diaspora) of LGBTIQA\* persons in Austria.

Through their artistic practice they were received a 2019 Kùltùr Gemma art scholarship from the City of Vienna; performed in Wienwoche art & activism festival in “ Goddess in Diaspora” and participated in 0 days exhibition under the Kùltùren in Bewegung cultural institute in “Queering Ethiopian Coffee ceremony”. With a degree in computer science, they worked in Ethiopia as an IT expert, and have lived in Austria since 2017, granted asylum after their security in Ethiopia was compromised.

**Jude Dibia** is a Nigerian novelist. He is the author of three well received novels: *Walking with Shadows* (BlackSands Books, 2005), *Unbridled* (2007), and *Blackbird* (2011). His novels have been described as daring and controversial by readers and critics in and out of Africa. *Walking with Shadows* is said to be the first Nigerian novel that has a gay man as its central character and that treats his experience with great insight, inviting a positive response to his situation. *Unbridled*, too, stirred some controversy on its publication; it is a story that tackles the emancipation of its female protagonist, who had suffered incest and various abuse from men. *Unbridled* went on to win the 2007 Ken Saro-Wiwa Prize for Prose and was a finalist in the 2007 Nigeria Prize for Literature. Dibia's short stories have appeared on various online literary sites, including AfricanWriter.com and Halftribe.com. One of his short stories is included in the anthology *One World: A global anthology of short stories*, alongside stories by such critically acclaimed writers as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Jhumpa Lahiri.

**Marie Le Sourd** is since 2012 the Secretary General of On the Move, the cultural mobility information network active in Europe and worldwide. Prior to this, she worked in Singapore for the Asia-Europe Foundation (Cultural Department) from 1999 till 2006 and directed the French Cultural Centre in Yogyakarta-Indonesia from 2006 till 2011. Marie Le Sourd has nurtured a knowledge pool on international cultural cooperation, funding schemes for the mobility of artists and cultural professionals, networks and web-resources. She is interested in the multiple impacts of mobility on artists and cultural professionals and the evaluation process linked to these.

**Mary Ann DeVlieg** is an independent consultant, project and policy evaluator, facilitator and speaker. Co-founder of IARA, International Arts Rights Advisors, since 2010 she protects and defends human rights of artists-at-risk as case worker and researcher. She founded the EU working group, Arts-Rights-Justice; was freeDimensional 's Director of Strategic Development (2013-2015) and is a co-founder of the Arts-Rights-Justice Academy, University of Hildesheim. Former Secretary General of IETM (1994-2013), the largest international network for contemporary performing arts. She founded/co-founded [www.on-the-move.org](http://www.on-the-move.org) and Roberto Cimetta Fund for Mobility in the Mediterranean and is currently undertaking a PhD on the rights of relocated artists.

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**Nayse Lopez** is a journalist and curator based in Rio de Janeiro. Since 2001 she has been curator of Festival Panorama and since 2005 she is also its artistic director. She created and directed the project [www.idanca.net](http://www.idanca.net), the educational project *Entrando na Dança* and the residence programme *coLABoratorio*. She is a guest curator and speaker at several festivals and theaters in Brazil and abroad.

**Ole Reitov** is a global human rights defender, speaker, moderator, journalist and independent consultant. In 1999, he co-founded Freemuse, and acted as Freemuse Executive Director 2013-2017. In this period, he was the Freemuse representative to the UN Human Rights Council and even served as expert consultant to the UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights, Ms. Farida Shaheed. He was the first person to be appointed a 2005 UNESCO Convention Expert on artistic freedom in 2015. His mandate has been renewed from 2019-2022.

**Pelin Basaran** is a performing arts curator and producer. She is currently working as programme manager at Contact, Manchester, UK. She was part of the founding team and senior producer at *garajistanbul* contemporary performing arts venue in Istanbul. She founded and worked as director of PARC which supported artistic research, production and the presentation of contemporary performance in Turkey. She also founded and has been working as the researcher and co-director of the project “*Siyah Bant-Freedom of Expression in the Arts*” in Turkey.

*Welcome to the 2020 Global Stream Safe Havens conference!*

-The organizing committee

**The 2020 Safe Havens conference is sponsored by:**

The Museum of Movements (MoM)

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