

FOLLOW A HERO

I don't think people are born as
human rights activist,
people walk into it because
you're left with no option

Benson Olugbuo, Nigeria



TRUEHEROESFILMS
DIGITAL HANDHOUT

MAKING FILMS ON AND WITH
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

True Heroes Films digital workshop developed with financial support of Ville de Genève

WHY A FILM WORKSHOP?

To raise **AWARENESS** and have an **IMPACT** in defending Human Rights

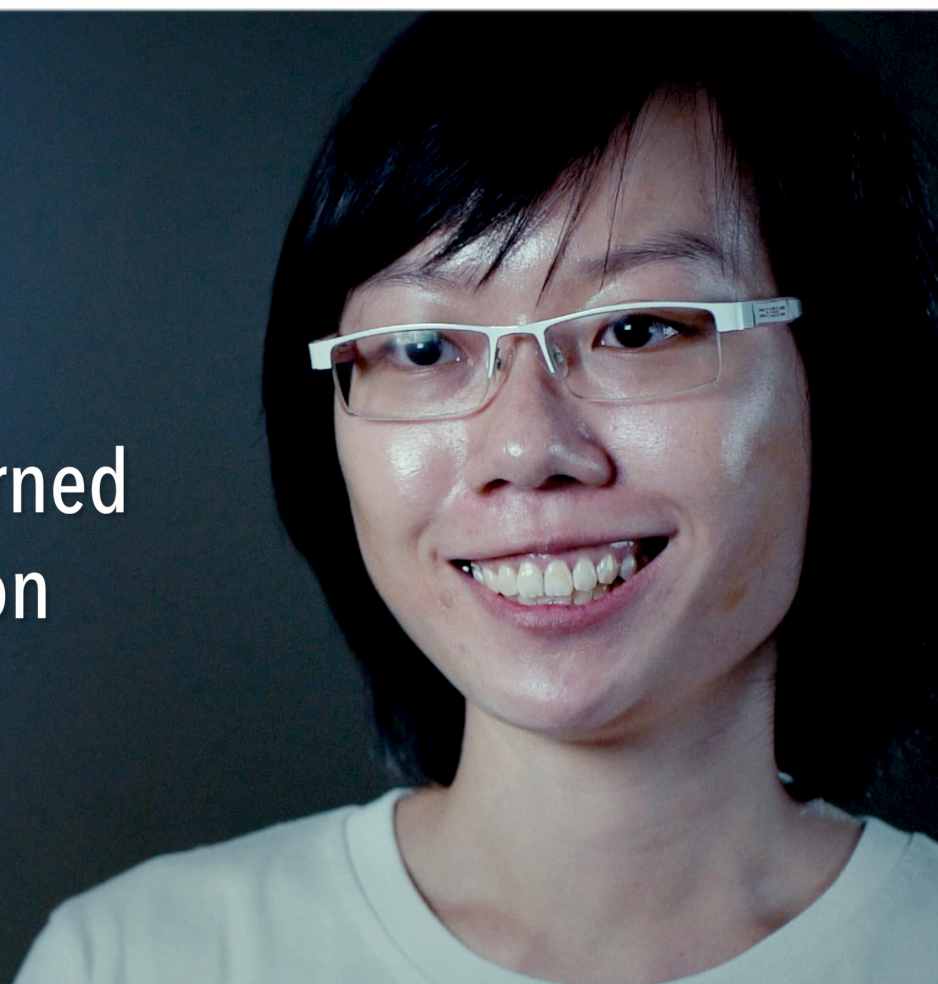
To make your voice **HEARD**

To learn professional **FILMMAKING** skills

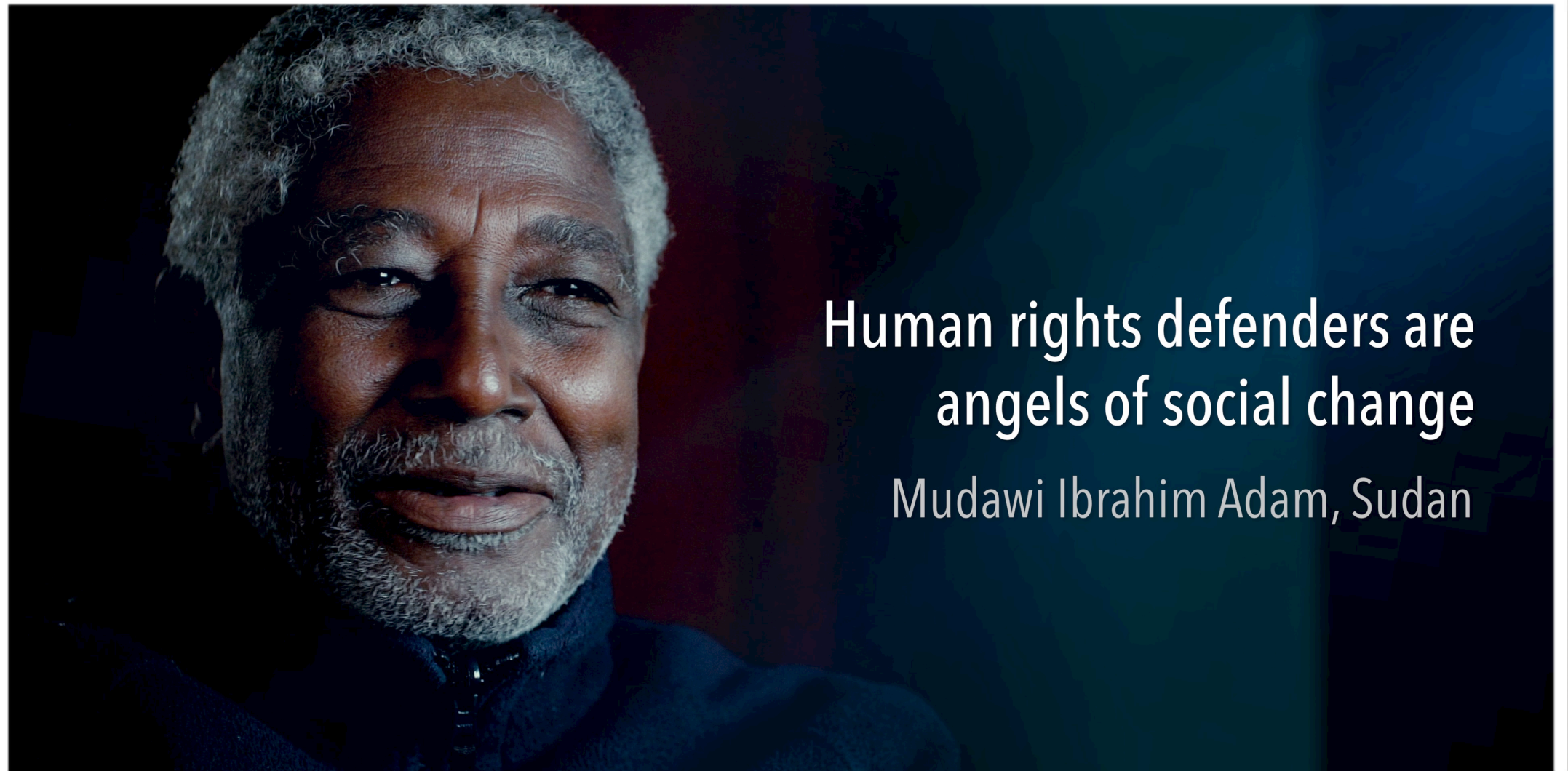
To meet people who are **TRUE HEROES**

I don't consider myself
a human rights defender,
just a citizen who is concerned
about the future generation

Han Hui Hui, Singapore



THE POWER OF FILM



With a film you have the power to **EXPRESS** yourself with more impact

With film you give people **VISIBILITY** to **PROTECT** them

With film you can create **INSPIRING** role models

THE INTERVIEW SETTING

Create a safe space

Be sure the background is far away from the interviewee and not busy

Don't have many people around

Don't sit far away from interviewee and keep contact

CAMERA

Keep the camera horizontal and at the same height as the eyes of the interviewee

Put the camera on a tripod or something stable so it doesn't shake

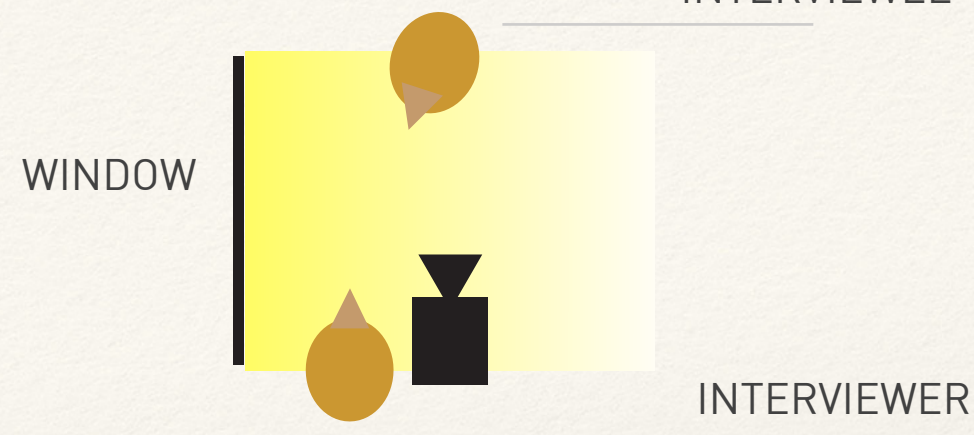
**You have to find the strength
not to buckle down to
intimidation and repression**

Joanna Cariño, Philippines



THE LIGHT AND 2/3 RULE

Don't place someone in front of a window but let some light shine on them from the side and try to create some shadow as it gives depth to a face



2/3 rule: if you divide horizontal and vertical an image in 3 parts then the main point of focus (the eyes) should be at 2/3 from the bottom and at 2/3 vertically

On which side of the 2/3 vertical (left or right) the main focus is depends to which side the interviewee is watching. In the example here the interviewer is on the left side of the camera so the interviewee should be on the right side.

No one can say: 'I'm not afraid'
But every time you feel a bit
stronger as well


Nedhal Al Salman, Bahrain



SOUND

Sound quality is often underestimated, but you better have a simple image with good sound than a great image with bad sound.

- Reduce all background noises like fans, refrigerators, open windows etc
- Be silent yourself, but nod your head to show you listen and understand
- If you can try for an interview to use a separate microphone or one of your phone headset
- Always listen to the sound recording through a headset



I attack corruption and impunity.
It's what my mother did before
she was assassinated last year.

Matthew Caruana Galizia, Malta

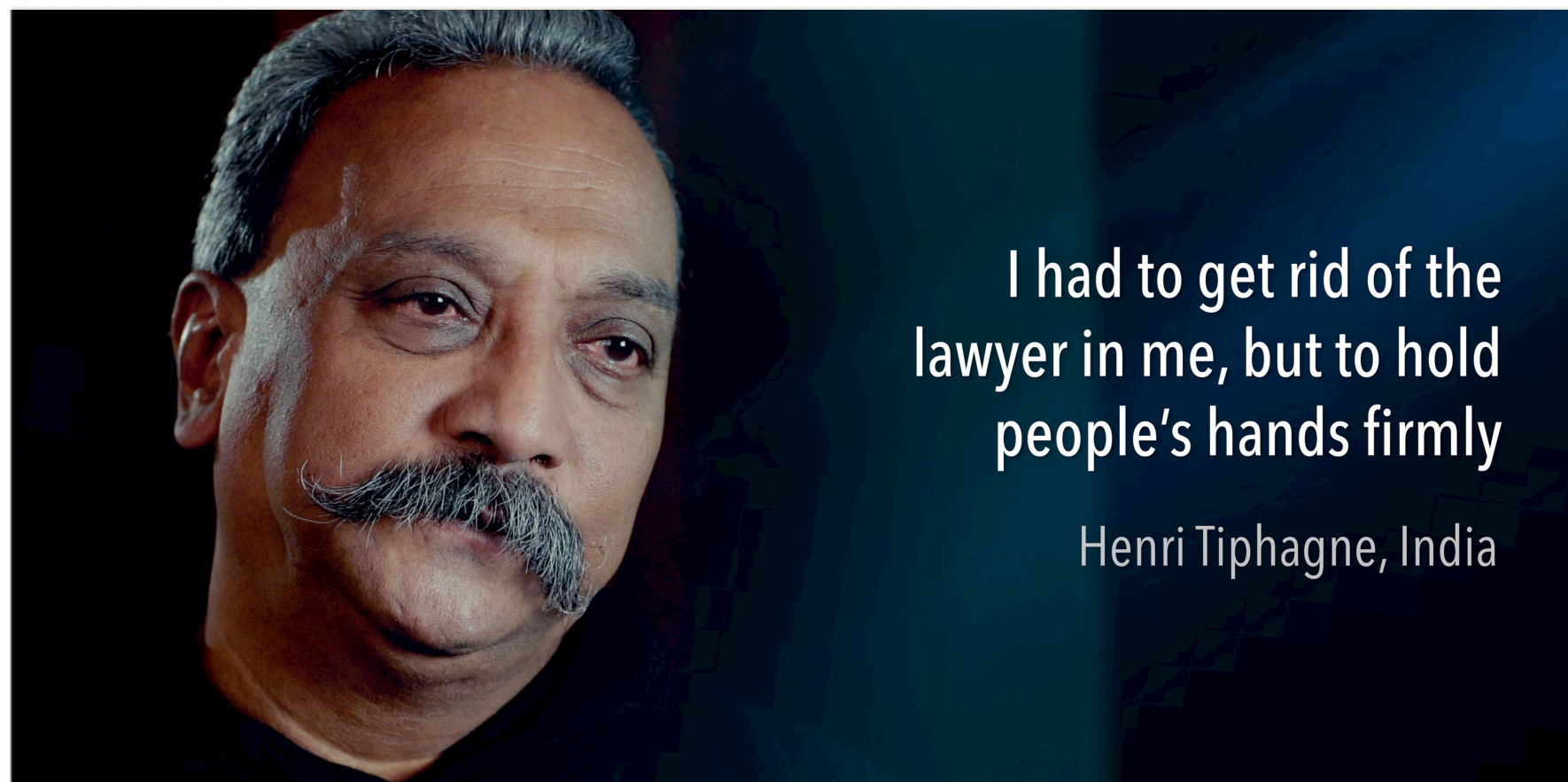
HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS

To stop doing this work would
mean turning my back on people
and to those without a voice
Pierre Claver Mbonimpa, Burundi

- Start with easy questions
- Be open minded: show people that you are interested, create a conversation and do not fire questions!
- Ask open ended questions: this way they can answer with more than yes or no, ask “how” and “why”
- Be a good listener: listen so you can understand them and ask more questions
- Show the human side of the human rights defender: they are not a threat, they want the best for their community and country
- Use encouraging body language: nod your head, smile etc.
- Do not rush: allow people to think and wait some times before asking the next question

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Can you tell a bit about yourself
- What does Human Rights mean to you?
- What drives you?
- What/Who helps you?
- Who inspires you?
- What keeps you going?
- Why is it important for youth to speak up?
- Is Geneva important in the struggle for human rights
- What mechanisms or laws help to protect you in your activities as defender?
- Have you faced any restrictions in your action as a human rights defender?
- What is an important lesson you learned you want to share with us?



FINALLY

Be respectful: the aim is to capture the human side of a human rights defender.

The most important is that someone feels empowered and inspired after an interview.

To learn more about technical elements from the great organisation WITNESS and video platform Vimeo:

INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW TECHNIQUE AND SETUP

INSIDE INTERVIEW LIGHT

CAMERA

ON CAMERA ANGLES

SHALLOW DEPTH OF FIELD

LENSES AND MOVEMENT

LIGHT SETTING

SOUND


SOUND RECORDING

SOUND AMBIENCE

EDITING AND STORYTELLING

EDITING WORKFLOW

STORYTELLING



We need to go to war with all
the weapons we have:
a pen, a voice, a piece of paper

Mariana Katzarova, Bulgaria

GENERAL:

WITNESS <https://library.witness.org/product-category/guide/>

VIMEO <https://vimeo.com/blog/category/video-school>