

# OXFORD HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL

# THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE



**14TH - 21ST MARCH 2025**

EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL!  
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Center for Development and Emergency Practice



# Oxford Human Rights Festival 2025

## Friday 14th March

<b>Open Source Investigations for Human Rights</b>	Over the past decade, open source techniques have become a key investigative tool for human rights defenders and investigative journalists. These new methods have enabled research that would have been difficult, if not impossible before, at a faster pace and has allowed a wider group of people to participate in this work, including many who would have been shut out before.	John Henry Brookes Main Lecture Theatre, Oxford Brookes University, OX3 0BP
Annual Nabeel Hamdi Lecture delivered by Alison Killing	This lecture will focus around a years-long, Pulitzer prize winning series of investigations into the campaign of oppression that the Chinese government has pursued against Uyghurs and other Muslims in the Xinjiang region of north west China. It will look at how you can investigate and produce reliable evidence of human rights abuses in a place that investigators can't even go to, as well as ways of seeking accountability for human rights abuses and creating pressure for change.	
17:30 - 19:30		

## Saturday 15th March

<b>Crafting Change: What Does Home Mean to You?</b>	Join us for a Craftivist event as part of the Oxford Human Rights Festival. We will be bringing activism and creativity together to explore the question 'What does home mean to you?' Whether you're experienced with crafting or a complete beginner, come along to create something thoughtful and handmade that will inspire change and spark conversations. We will be creating a collaborative piece which will be exhibited for the Oxford public to see. All materials will be provided, and everyone is welcome to join in!	The Old Fire Station, Studio Space. 40 George Street, OX1 2AQ
12:00 - 16:00		

## Sunday 16th March

<b>Oxford's Past, Our Present: An Uncomfortable Oxford Walking Tour</b>	Embark with us for Uncomfortable Oxford's thought-provoking walking tour. This guided experience will uncover the hidden histories of empire, race, class, and gender, the tour will reveal how the struggles of the past continue to shape our society today. Led by expert researchers, this engaging and educational tour invites participants to reflect on the power of the people in challenging injustice and demanding change. Suitable for ages 12 and up.	Meeting Point: Carfax Tower, Queen Street, OX1 1ET
10:00 - 11:30		
<b>Palestine: Power in Culture</b>	Join us at the Pitt Rivers Museum for an afternoon exploring the power of culture in Palestinian identity, resilience, and resistance. Through film, talks, poetry, and a live link from Ramallah, we will hear personal stories, including a talk from residents of Al-Am'ari refugee camp. Experience Palestinian traditions hands-on with a Dabke dance workshop, collect a Tatzreez embroidery starter pack, and follow the family-friendly museum trail of Palestinian objects. With Oxford Ramallah Friendship Association.	Pitt Rivers Museum, Lecture Theatre (Enter via the Natural History Museum, OX1 3PW)
12:30 - 16:00		

## Monday 17th March

<b>Claiming Power: Decolonising Justice for People and Planet</b>	In collaboration with ActionAid, CENDEP, and Oxfam, join us to reimagine justice beyond colonial legacies. Hear from Cecilia Cordova, a Bolivian national with over 20 years of NGO experience focused on women's and Indigenous rights now working for ActionAid; Dr. Farah Mihar, Senior Lecturer in human rights at CENDEP and researching on decolonial justice; Clement Amponsah, a DPhil candidate at Oxford University and lead researcher on decolonising resilience; and Mateo Adarve Zuluaga from Oxfam, a climate justice researcher dedicated to feminist and decolonial action.	Room JHB202, John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford Brookes University, OX3 0BP
12:30 - 14:00		
<b>Beyond Buildings: Human Rights in Local Practice</b>	How can architecture shape a fairer and more inclusive society? This panel brings together architects using community-led design to drive social change. Speakers Liza Fior (MUF Architecture/Art), Beatrice De Carli (Architects Sans Frontières UK), and Scarlett Barclay (The Disordinary Architecture Project) will share their work on creating accessible, participatory spaces that challenge inequality. Facilitated by Maria Farone, the discussion will explore the role of design in advocating for human rights. Join us for an inspiring conversation, followed by drinks, snacks, and networking.	Room AB201, Abercrombie Building, Oxford Brookes University, OX3 0BP
18:00 - 20:00		

## Tuesday 18th March

**Rights in Rhyme: A Night of Human Rights Poetry** Join us for an evening of powerful poetry and shared voices at the Oxford Blue. The Oxford Blue, 32 Marston St, OX4 1JU

This event invites students, activists, and community members to come together and share original or favourite poems focused on human rights, justice, and social change. Whether you're performing or just listening, the night will be a celebration of creative expression, amplifying voices on issues like equality, freedom, and dignity. Bring your passion, your words, and join us in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere as we inspire one another toward a more just world.

19:00 - 21:00

## Wednesday 19th March

**Lyd Film Screening** Lyd is the story of a city that once connected Palestine to the world - what it once was, what it is now, and what it could have become. A sci-fi documentary that follows the rise and fall of Lyd - a 5,000 year old metropolis that was once a bustling Palestinian town until it was taken over when the State of Israel was established in 1948. As the film unfolds, a chorus of characters creates a tapestry of the Palestinian experience of this city and the trauma left by the violent expulsion. This screening will offer attendees the chance to take part in an exclusive Q&A session with the directors themselves, and all donations will go towards supporting the Oxford Brookes Gaza Scholarship.

18:00 - 20:00

John Henry Brookes Main Lecture Theatre, Oxford Brookes University, OX3 0BP

## Thursday 20th March

**Working and Studying from Extreme Environments** This discussion will explore the transformative impact of the Masters in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding (MA HAP). Co-developed and co-delivered by Oxford Brookes University and UNITAR, MA HAP reinforces the competencies of humanitarian workers and peacebuilders directly from their field operations, employing innovative pedagogical approaches and a commitment to critical thinking. Drawing on the insights of MA HAP alumni, the panel will explore the tangible impacts of the programme as it adapts to effectively address the evolving needs of affected communities in an ever-changing geo-political and economic landscape. This session also marks the launch of the alumni network, offering fresh perspectives on the future of the Masters degree.

14:00 - 16:00

Room JHB304, John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford Brookes University, OX3 0BP

**Are you Proud? Film Screening** Join us for a screening of Are You Proud?, a powerful documentary tracing the history of LGBTQIA+ activism in the UK. Through rare archive footage and interviews, the film highlights both past struggles and the ongoing fight for equality. As queer rights face increasing threats worldwide, this screening serves as a vital reminder of the progress made and the need for continued resistance. A discussion will follow, providing space for reflection and conversation.

18:00 - 20:00

Room JHB308, Kennedy Lecture Theatre, John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford Brookes University, OX3 0BP

## Friday 21st March

**Upholding the Right to Education in Palestine** This panel explores the challenges and resilience of Palestinian education under conflict. Hadil Louz shares her personal experience growing up in Jabalya Refugee Camp, highlighting the perseverance of students and teachers. Awatef Sheikh, CEO of Ajyal Foundation, discusses educide in Gaza and its impact on children's mental health and learning. Dr. Brigitte Piquard provides insights on resilience in conflict-affected regions. Chaired by Dr. Lili Schwoerer, expert in critical education pedagogies, the discussion examines education as resistance and the urgent need to uphold the right to learn.

13:00 - 14:30

Room CLC2.18, Clerici Building, Oxford Brookes University, OX3 0BP

**The Power of the People! Celebrating OxHRF 2025** Join us for a relaxed and inspiring gathering to mark the end of the Oxford Human Rights Festival. This closing event is an opportunity for allies, advocates, and those interested in human rights and the arts to connect, share ideas, and explore ways to take action. Whether you've attended events throughout the festival or are joining for the first time, come meet like-minded people, reflect on key themes, and be part of the ongoing conversation on justice and change. Refreshments will be provided in a welcoming space for discussion and networking.

18:00 - 20:00

Room CLC1.09, Clerici Building, Oxford Brookes University, OX3 0BP

## Exhibition: What Does Home Mean to You?

The Westgate Shopping Centre | 17th - 21st March 2025

This collaborative artwork, created as part of the Oxford Human Rights Festival, brings together voices from the community to explore the meaning of home and highlight the fundamental human right to shelter. Crafted through Saturday's participatory "Craftivist" event, the piece is a testament to the power of creativity in activism, sparking conversations about security, belonging, and displacement. Displayed at Westgate Shopping Centre, this exhibition invites the public to reflect on the challenges faced by those without a safe place to call home and to consider how we can work towards a more just and compassionate world.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to all who have contributed to the delivery of this festival. Firstly, a warm thank you to all collaborators, guest speakers and participants. Thank you to The Old Fire Station, Uncomfortable Oxford, Oxford Ramallah Friendship Association, Multaka, The Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxfam, ActionAid, MUF Architecture, Architects Sans Frontières UK, The Disordinary Architecture Project, The Oxford Blue, The Oxford Brookes Gaza Scholarship, Ajyal Foundation, and the Westgate Shopping Centre.

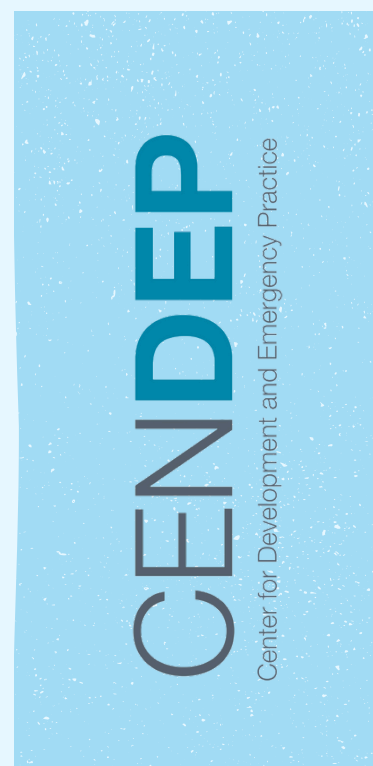
Thank you also to the staff and students of the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) at the School of Architecture, Oxford Brookes University, and the student organising committee, without whom this festival could not go forward each year.

## About CENDEP

Founded in 1985, the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice is a multidisciplinary centre that brings together academics, development practitioners and policy makers. Our work concentrates on:

- human rights and forced migration
- inclusive recovery and development
- conflict, humanitarian action and peacebuilding
- shelter, housing and home in crises.

CENDEP offer a range of postgraduate courses. Join CENDEP's MA in Global Development and Humanitarian Practice for an amazing career in International Development, Humanitarian Practice or Human Rights work. See <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/global-development-and-humanitarian-practice>



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For more information about each of the events and to register your attendance, please visit [oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net](http://oxfordhumanrightsfestival.net).

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