



STILL FROM "THE LIGHT IN HER EYES"  
(DIR. JULIA MELTZER & LAURA NIX | SYRIA | 2011).

## Venice Arts & Women's Voices Now Host Film Screening and Discussion for World Refugee Day

LOS ANGELES, CA – (JUNE 21, 2016)

### Syria's Courageous Women Screening & Discussion: Thursday, June 23, 7:30pm.

In recognition of the U.N.'s World Refugee Day, Venice Arts and Women's Voices Now will co-present Syria's Courageous Women, a free film screening and community discussion. The event is part of the monthly screening series Women's Voices on Screen.

The evening will include a screening of the Syrian film "The Light in Her Eyes," directed by Julia Meltzer and Laura Nix. The film focuses on the story of Houda al-Habash, a conservative Muslim preacher who founded a Qur'an school for girls 30 years ago. Filmed right before the uprising in Syria began, "The Light in Her Eyes" offers an extraordinary portrait of a leader who challenges the women of her community to live according to Islam, without giving up their dreams.

The screening will be followed by a community discussion to further understand and contextualize the crisis in Syria, featuring the Karam Foundation's Nada Hasem, artist Fadia Afashe, and actor Jay Abdo. Reception will begin at 7:30pm with coffee provided by Groundwork Coffee Co. and other refreshments. Screening begins at 8pm.

### About Venice Arts & Women's Voices Now

Established in 1993, Venice Arts ignites, expands, and transforms the lives of Los Angeles' low-income youth through photography and film education, and uses participatory storytelling practices to amplify the voices of underrepresented communities around the world.

*To find out more about Venice Arts, visit [www.venicearts.org](http://www.venicearts.org).*

**Women's Voices Now** amplifies the voices of all women by promoting the free expression of women's struggles for civil, economic, political, and gender rights worldwide. By providing free online platforms for film, art, writing, and social-media activism, we connect people and resources striving for global women's rights.

*To find out more about Women's Voices Now, visit [www.womensvoicesnow.org](http://www.womensvoicesnow.org)*

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