



Van Leer  
FOUNDATION

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PRESS RELEASE

## ***Lights! Camera! Impact!***

**On the occasion of the Venice Film Festival, The Human Safety Net's project dedicated to cinema for social impact returns**

**Parenthood as a transformative human experience in film is the central theme of this year's edition, explored through the perspectives of a wide range of international guests**

**Saturday 5 September 2026, 5:00–7:00 p.m.**

The Home of The Human Safety Net | Piazza San Marco 105, Venice

Free entry, subject to availability – [registration link](#)

On the occasion of the 83rd Venice International Film Festival, **The Human Safety Net** – Generali's global Foundation, whose mission is to unlock the potential of people living in vulnerable circumstances through its *For Families* and *For Refugees* programmes – presents the **fourth edition of *Lights! Camera! Impact!***, its annual event dedicated to **cinema as a driver of social change**. The initiative will be held on **Saturday, 5 September 2026**, at **The Home of The Human Safety Net** in Piazza San Marco.

Film storytelling has the unique ability to resonate with audiences on a profound emotional level, fostering **greater awareness and understanding of themes of inclusion**. As a powerful medium, **cinema can create tangible social impact** by amplifying important narratives and supporting the efforts of individuals and organisations working on some of the world's most pressing social innovation challenges.

The 2026 edition is co-created by **The Human Safety Net** and **Van Leer Foundation**, a global foundation working on early childhood development and parent wellbeing. This year's focus is **parenthood as a transformative human experience**, a theme fully aligned with The Human Safety Net's mission and with its **For Families programme**, which is active in 23 countries alongside 65 NGO partners. The programme is designed to accompany families at risk of social exclusion with children aged 0–6 by pursuing a dual objective: improving parenting experiences and providing early learning opportunities, in order to give children the best possible start in life.

The **partnership with the Van Leer Foundation** marks a significant evolution for the project: **from an annual event to a structured platform supporting cinema for social impact**, further strengthening The Human Safety Net's comprehensive commitment in this field.

The program of ***Lights! Camera! Impact!*** is **curated by Anadil Hossain**, an internationally recognised producer known for her award-winning work in cinema and for telling stories that champion diverse perspectives and challenge cultural norms.

**On Saturday, 5 September**, the public will have the opportunity to attend a series of talks featuring some of the most influential voices in the international film, media and impact entertainment sectors, including **Franklin Leonard** (The Black List), **Estella Renner** (Maria Farinha Filmes), **Reshma Saujani** (Mom's First), **Scott Cameron** (Sesame Workshop) and **Kiran Rao** (Kindling Pictures).

This year the initiative is further enriched by two industry partnerships: the **co-funding of an international fellowship** for screenwriters telling incredible stories on becoming a parent with **The Black List**, an international platform dedicated to discovering and developing unproduced screenplays and supporting new talent in film and television writing and a **partnership** with **The Ankler**, the independent, multi-platform media

company covering the business of Hollywood and the evolving intersection of entertainment, media, and technology.

The Black List programme includes four grants, funded by **The Human Safety Net**, the **Van Leer Foundation**, **Equimundo** and the **American Institute for Boys and Men**, each worth USD 15,000. It also provides mentoring opportunities with industry professionals and access to dedicated expertise and resources for project development, with workshops taking place at The Home of The Human Safety Net.

With this new edition, *Lights! Camera! Impact!* strengthens its role as an international space for dialogue and for the incubation of content capable of **generating social awareness**, reaffirming the belief that **cinema can be a powerful engine of cultural change and inclusion**.

The event is part of the broader “**Art for Social Impact**” journey, through which The Human Safety Net promotes social change also by harnessing the transformative power of art.

[The Home of The Human Safety Net](#) is open every day except Tuesday, from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. during winter hours and from 10.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. during summer hours. Admission is free.

### **Lights! Camera! Impact! | PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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The Home of The Human Safety Net | Piazza San Marco 105, Venice

Free admission, subject to availability.

**Registration is required via the following [link](#).**

#### **THE HUMAN SAFETY NET**

The Human Safety Net is a global movement of people helping people, whose mission is to unlock the potential of those living in vulnerable circumstances, so that they can transform the lives of their families and communities. The Human Safety Net's programmes support vulnerable families with young children (aged 0–6) and contribute to the inclusion of refugees in society through work and entrepreneurship. To do this, we bring together non-governmental organisations and the private sector in Europe, Asia and South America. The motor of The Human Safety Net is a foundation established by Generali in 2017 and active in 25 countries with a network of 98 social enterprises as partners. The programmes contribute to five of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Families programme supports indicators relating to early childhood (SDGs 3 and 4); the Refugees programme helps to create jobs and sustainable communities (SDGs 8 and 11); finally, both programmes are based on the principle that significant impact can only be achieved through collaboration between different countries and stakeholders (SDG 17). The Home of The Human Safety Net is located in the heart of Venice, in St Mark's Square, at the Procuratie.

#### **THE VAN LEER FOUNDATION**

The Van Leer Foundation an independent Dutch organisation working globally to foster inclusive societies where all children and communities can flourish. We bring together people with different perspectives and support them to achieve large-scale impact. Our support involves a unique combination of funding, networks, storytelling, executive education, technical assistance and knowledge.



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