



Adolf Grimme Award
Winner



Arte-Documentary Award
Best German Documentary



Moldovan Women's League
Special Award

The Peacekeepers and the Women

a film by Karin Jurschick



“...A chilling insight into human trafficking.”
Sheffield International Documentary Film Festival



A WOMEN MAKE MOVIES RELEASE

Women Make Movies • 462 Broadway, 5th Floor • New York, NY 10013
Tel: 212.925.0606 • e-mail: webinfo@wmm.com • www.wmm.com

Synopsis

International troops set up a free trade zone in Bosnia in 1995, thinking it would help bring peace to the troubled region. Instead it brought pimps and punters, as the hottest commodities on this free trade market are women, who are sold by the hundreds into prostitution. More disturbing still, the affluent peacekeeping forces have been some of the most solvent customers, allowing the sex trade to get a foothold in the region and paving the way for local clientele. As business booms, more and more women under forty from villages in Moldova, the Ukraine and Romania are disappearing, lured into slavery for a chance to escape lives of poverty. In this hard-hitting documentary, Karin Jurschick confronts UN officials and aid workers, goes on a raid with international police, and reveals the tragic stories of the trafficked women themselves to provide chilling insight into this complicated crime scene. This important film puts a face on what is becoming one of the most troubling human rights issues of our time.



Festivals and Awards

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Arte-Documentary Award for Best German Documentary

Adolf Grimme Award (Highest Television Award in Germany)

Award of the Moldovian Women's League

Sheffield International Documentary Festival

Nyon Visions Du Réel

One World Int'l Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, Prague

München Dokfilmfest

European Documentary Film Festival

Amnesty International Film Festival

Director Biography

Born on October 17, 1959 in Essen; Karin Jurschick studied theater, film and television at the University of Cologne. Co-founder of the international women's film festival Feminal in Cologne, she also worked for five years as editor for culture for the Stadtrevue Cologne monthly magazine; since then, she has been a writer for radio and television.



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Director's Statement



"Trafficking" or the trade in women and girls for forced prostitution has become a booming industry in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Members of international armed forces and (aid) agencies posted there are among their solvent customers. Avoiding the usual victim/perpetrator perspectives, the film concentrates on the way the interviewees present themselves before the camera: How is one to talk about it?

A film about how military formations and political organizations try to solve problems for which they are partly responsible. The problem: Trafficking of women for forced sexual exploitation.

The military formations: NATO respectively SFOR und KFOR. The political organizations: The United Nations (UN), the International Police Task Force (IPTF) under the direction of the UN, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and others.

The locations: Moldova as one of the countries of origin of the women, Bosnia and Kosovo as countries of destination, where at first military forces, and afterwards the UN and international aid agencies tried to regulate things. The structure: circular.

Credits

2003 · 80 minutes · Video · Color

Director/Producer
Karin Jurschick

Editor/Assistant Director
Anke Schäfer

Cinematography
Rainer Komers
Karin Jurschick

Commissioned by ZDF/3SAT

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THE SLOVAK SPECTATOR

One World Film Festival brings human rights violations to the silver screen

The right to know

By Zuzana Habšudová
Spectator staff

THEY are poor and they have to care for their families. They are the women from former communist countries of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine. To make a living, they reply to ads they find in local newspapers that promise well-paid jobs as housekeepers or waitresses in rich western-European countries like Germany and Italy.

But after finding themselves in a different country and with no chance to leave, the illusions change to shock. Often unable to speak the language and robbed of their documents, their "saviors" thrust them into bars and brothels, forcing them to become prostitutes.

So far, so familiar. But it gets worse when we learn that among the paying customers visiting brothels in Bosnia and Kosovo are those who actually came to help - members of international peacekeeping units.

German filmmaker Karin Jurschick investigated this disturbing matter for two years. The result, an 80-minute documentary *The Peacekeepers and the Women* that uncovers the significant influence the armed forces have had in forming the local prostitution business. It is currently available to Slovak viewers.

At the annual One World Bratislava festival, which puts the spotlight on human-rights violations, the film will be screened within the section, To Learn More. The section goes behind the issues dealt with only superficially by the media and looks at them in depth.

"When we arrived I wondered why there were so many destroyed houses in Germany. I realized that we were in Bosnia," says one of the women in Jurschick's documentary. Another explained that the first real trafficking in Bosnia of foreign girls involved an "Arizona-market". This followed a pattern of standing some 40 girls in a row, all naked, and letting the "traders" choose. The girls had numbers. not names...

...One World is a festival for those "who would like to know that they have the right to know", about the twists and turns the people endangered by wars or living in ethnic and social conflicts meet. The films transform the picture and word leaving the viewer to make the necessary connections and, what is more important, in many cases, to think of helping.

Jurschick, who cooperated on *The Peacekeepers and the Women* with co-director and editor Anke Schäfer, says of her work: "As you can see, the film is based on interviews with the 'responsible people' - from a bar owner to a high UN representative, combined with pictures following the circle the trafficked women are going through from the market to the bar and the police-station. And with the help of the International Community the circle gets completed - they are brought back to the starting point in their home countries, the situation they tried to escape."

Many of the movies are in English, others will be accompanied by English subtitles. Discussions will be held in, or translated into, English. In Bratislava, the One World festival runs at the IC.SK filmclub, Czech Centre, and A4 - Zero Space. For more information go to www.jedensvet.sk.



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