

**Your Personal Invitation to the Mumbai Premiere of filmmaker Vibha Bakshi's  
powerful new film on gender rights**

**UN Women, HeForShe, Royal Opera House, Mumbai** and **Avid Learning** proudly present the Mumbai Premiere and exclusive screening of **SON RISE**, a powerful gender-rights documentary directed and produced by *National Award winning filmmaker Vibha Bakshi*.

Vibha is a filmmaker committed to using the persuasive power of film to educate, entertain & inspire change – leading to social transformation. She is best known for her previous release 'Daughters of Mother India', which won the National Film Award – awarded by the President of India, for turning the spotlight on the burning issue of gender violence and gender justice. The film also holds the distinction of being 'The most Awarded Social Campaign in the World' - Global Creative Index, 2017.

SON RISE is inspired by UN Women's HeForShe mandate for men and women to stand in solidarity - to make a bold, visible and united force for gender equality. It was recently unveiled to launch the UN World Activism week to a standing ovation in New Delhi.

SON RISE is set in Haryana, a strong Patriarchal society, with a highly skewed sex ratio due to rampant illegal sex determination and female foeticide. The sex ratio imbalance has led to unprecedented levels of gender crimes in Haryana, ranging from bride trafficking to the highest number of gang rapes reported in the country. It is in this land of the 'Khap' Panchayat, the filmmaker finds ordinary men taking on the 'extraordinary' fight to change the narrative on gender equality.

Features editor, Hindustan Times and veteran war journalist Harinder Baweja praised the film saying, "The film makes you cry and fills you with pride at the same time - which is no mean achievement by the filmmaker...One of the most important films for its messaging."

At the Opera House, we believe in the role of the arts in supporting social advocacy and feel humbly privileged to do our bit to support a wide range of social causes. Since 2016, we have lent our stage to help raise awareness for several important issues - Autism, Cancer, Education, Women's Empowerment, Children's Issues, and Wildlife conservation, to name a few. We are proud to join Vibha, UN Women and the United Nations to help the #HeForShe initiative and movement gain momentum globally.

The exclusive Film screening will be followed by a conversation between the filmmaker and *Under - Secretary General of United Nations Madam Phumzile Mlambo-Nguka* on the importance of boys and men to be part of the struggle for equality.