

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY: SCREENING OF REFUGEE DOCUMENTARY  
WITH LOCAL ADVOCATES**

*Film screening and discussion in partnership with  
Rutland Welcomes, Rutland Chapter of Amnesty International,  
and former Mayor Christopher Louras*

Rutland, V.T. -- An event on June 20, World Refugee Day, will encourage and empower Rutland residents to make our city a welcoming place for our new neighbors during a time of fear and uncertainty for refugees across the country. The event will focus on how to move past the political divide and focus on welcoming and supporting the refugee families expected to arrive in Rutland in the coming months.

Please join us for a screening of the 60-minute documentary film [8 Borders, 8 Days](#) at 7:00pm on June 20, 2017 at the Paramount Theatre. The screening will be followed by an interactive discussion with local leaders and refugee resettlement experts at 8:00pm.

This event is held in partnership with [Rutland Welcomes](#) and the Rutland Chapter of [Amnesty International](#). Former Rutland Mayor Christopher Louras will give introductory remarks. Local advocates and refugees will join the panel discussion with film director Amanda Bailly.

For the last year and a half, documentary filmmaker Amanda Bailly has been following a Syrian family - a single mother and her two children - who were not accepted for resettlement to the US and instead traveled with smugglers in a raft to Europe. She traveled with them on their journey and has been filming with them in Berlin since they arrived. The resulting film, *8 Borders, 8 Days*, is both a celebration of a strong mother and a close look at what happens when we close our doors to the people most in need.

"The majority of people in the United States who want to close our doors to refugees have never actually heard the voices of the people affected. This film tells the story of three of them, and they're three of the strongest, most resilient human beings I've ever met," said Bailly.

Bailly is originally from Albany, N.Y., and has been living in Beirut, Lebanon for the last two years. She has been working almost exclusively on the refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe.

"We are very excited to welcome Amanda Bailly and help her share her documentary with the Rutland community," said Hunter Berryhill, a Rutland Welcomes spokesperson. "It is important to realize that resettled families in Rutland are good, everyday people who have overcome extraordinary tragedy and obstacles in order to rebuild their lives. Amanda's film is a unique opportunity for local Vermonters to gain a deeper understanding and compassion for their new neighbors' refugee experience."

Rutland will be home to eight new refugee families expected to arrive in the coming months, and is already home to two families. Rutland Welcomes is a volunteer-run organization that assists refugee families as they begin their new lives in Rutland. Rutland Welcomes was founded in 2016 once Rutland City was selected to be a refugee resettlement site.

*8 Borders, 8 Days* premiered to sold-out screenings at the Florida Film Festival and Seattle International Film Festival, where it was also awarded a \$50,000 impact filmmaking grant as the single film contributing most to the conversation on immigration in the US. It has been called "raw, emotional," and "unblinking" and has already inspired communities across Florida, New York State, and Washington State to welcome refugees.

**EVENT INFO:**

**Tuesday, June 20, 2017**

**The Paramount Theatre**

30 Center St, Rutland, VT 05701

7:00            Opening remarks by former Rutland Mayor Christopher Louras  
7:15            *8 Borders, 8 Days* screening (60 minutes, Arabic with English subtitles)  
8:15            Interactive discussion with Amanda Bailly, Director of *8 Borders, 8 Days*;  
                  and representatives from Rutland Welcomes

For more information, or to arrange interviews, please contact:

Amanda Bailly, Director, *8 Borders, 8 Days*: +518 526 0430; [info@8borders8days.com](mailto:info@8borders8days.com)

Hunter Berryhill, Spokesperson, Rutland Welcomes; [rutlandwelcomes@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandwelcomes@gmail.com)

Please find the Facebook event page [here](#).

For more information about the film, see [this CNN article](#).

A high-resolution image is attached. Copyright should read "Courtesy of *8 Borders, 8 Days*."

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