



HOSTILE

BAFTA 2022 Longlisted - Outstanding Debut By A British Writer, Director Or Producer

BIFA 2021 Longlisted – Best Debut Director, Best Documentary and Raindance Discovery Award

After decades of hostile immigration policies, Britain has reached a crisis point. With Brexit, the Points Based Immigration System and the Nationality and Borders Bill taking effect, the film asks: once the 'hostile environment' has targeted all migrants, who will it extend to next?



"An important and revealing film with critical questions and revelations about UK society in the 21st Century."

- Jon Snow, Former C4 News presenter

"Shows powerfully the pain inflicted on innocent people by a broken system"

- Amelia Gentleman, Journalist

"A powerful film... highlights the nastiness of UK immigration policy"

- Peter Bradshaw, Film Critic

"Hostile is more than just a film. It's a multimedia collage that calls for action, engaging the viewer, and encouraging them to change the world for the better."

- Mark Kermode, Film Critic



Synopsis

Hostile exposes the impact of the UK's 'Hostile Environment' — a term used by the government in 2012 to illustrate the atmosphere the government wanted to create for migrants in the country, with the intention of provoking migrants to leave the country of their own accord.

The documentary covers four personal stories which culminate in a rich and comprehensive exploration of the UK's approach to immigration, exploring the lives of international students, members of the Windrush generation and so called 'highly-skilled migrants' and community organisers.

The stakes are high. An NHS IT Engineer has spent tens of thousands of pounds on visa applications and is still waiting for settled status. A member of the Windrush generation has not recovered from detainment due to a lack of paperwork, in what became to be known as the Windrush Scandal. International students, now destitute, face deportation, and community organisers are struggling to feed these vulnerable communities without government support.

Archival footage is used to depict the history of the British Empire as well as charting the UK's immigration policies over recent years to illuminate how we arrived at the situation we're in today.

Hearing stories directly from those who are deeply affected by these issues, we open the doors to show what the real-life consequences are for those trying to navigate their everyday lives in a hostile environment.

What does it mean to be British? How does it feel to be told you don't belong? With Brexit and the new points-based immigration system already taking effect, this is an incredibly timely film as we enter a new era of stricter immigration regulation.

Director's Biography

Sonita Gale is a British Asian writer, producer and director. Elevating the stories of migrants and marginalised communities is at the forefront of her work.

Sonita's debut feature documentary as director, HOSTILE, is an award-winning and BAFTA and BIFA-longlisted film exposing the 'hostile environment' for migrants living in the UK. Hostile has screened across the country at Picturehouse and independent cinemas, and has been selected for a number of international film festivals.

In 2021, the film debuted at Raindance Film Festival. Since then, Hostile was a finalist at the Catalina Film Festival, the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival (in the 'Supreme Award' and 'Best Director – International' categories), nominated for Best Documentary at the British Urban Film Festival, and won the awards for Best Documentary Feature at the South London Film Festival 2021, Filmocracy Fest 2022, and the Roxbury International Film Festival 2022.

The film has an impact campaign that challenges the No Recourse to Public Funds policy, which has included screenings at music festivals such as WOMAD and Glastonbury and the Houses of Parliament.

Sonita continues her work on producing projects, and also her second feature documentary as a director which is currently in development.



OFFICIAL WEBSITE: www.hostiledocumentary.com

DIRECTOR: Sonita Gale

PRODUCER: Sonita Gale

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Gale Force Films Ltd

SOCIAL TAGS: @hostiledoc @galeforcefilms

RUNTIME: 97 mins

COMPLETION: 2022

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: United Kingdom

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