

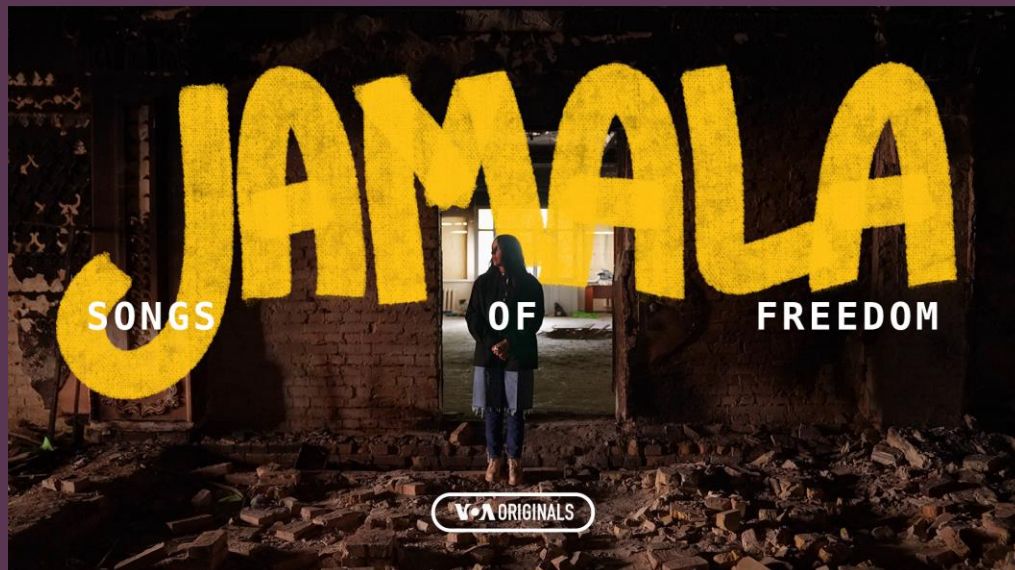
Films about Refugees and Migration 2022-2024



Welcome to 52 Documentary, an exceptional series that bridges the gap between you and global issues through captivating human-interest stories. Our goal is to empower you with fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to engaging with the world around us. Through these essential films, we invite you to expand your horizons, broaden your understanding, and become an active participant in shaping a better future for our planet.

2024 Films

Jamala: Songs of Freedom | VOA ORIGINAL



Singer-songwriter Jamala fled Ukraine with her family in the early hours of Russia's full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022. Jamala gained international fame after winning the 2016 Eurovision contest where she performed her politically charged song, "1944," about the year Russia deported Crimean Tatars to Central Asia, including her great-grandmother's family. Now Jamala is on another journey of activism as she raises money and awareness for her homeland while in exile.

Jamala: Songs of Freedom streams on VOA+ on 5/23/2024.

Year: 2024 | TRT (51:23)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

The Unseen Costs of TikTok Migration | VOA ORIGINAL



Social media has changed the way people migrate. In Senegal, many young people use TikTok to connect with those who've successfully arrived in Spain. But the route across the Atlantic is often much harder than portrayed online. This film follows two friends trying to make their European dream come true.

The Unseen Costs of TikTok Migration makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 06/06/2024.

Year: 2024 | TRT (18:50)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide

Expiration Date: N/A

Love in Transition | VOA ORIGINAL



Jane of Ukraine and Love of Thailand fell hard for each other, unaware of the twists and turns to come. Jane underwent a gender transition from a man to a woman, months into their relationship. Love supported the change and moved with Jane to Kyiv. When Russia invades the country, the couple must decide where to go next. Sharing their complicated journey on social media, they navigate marriage and a new life as refugees—future unknown.

Love in Transition makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 2/15/2024

Year: 2024 | TRT (22:31)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English, Thai

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

From Fear to Freedom | VOA ORIGINAL



For decades, Kasim Kashgar has lived in fear: first as a Uyghur living in China's Xinjiang region under Beijing's repressive policies, and later as an exile, acutely aware that speaking out could put his family in China at risk. As a journalist covering Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities for VOA News, Kasim wrote under a pen name. In 2023, the year his asylum was granted, he decided to speak out. This is his story.

From Fear to Freedom streams on VOA+ on 2/8/2024.

Year: 2023 | TRT (24:35)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

In This Cage | VOA ORIGINAL



Fariba Balouch's own suffering drove her to empower fellow Iranian women and girls in their fight for equality. The human rights advocate hails from Sistan and Baluchistan, Iran's poorest province, where nearly half of its 1.3 million people live below the poverty line. As an ethnic minority relegated to the fringes of society, the Baluch are systematically targeted by state violence, with women suffering double-fold. After leaving Iran two years ago, Fariba joined the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement from London, more determined than ever to fight for a better life for Baluch women.

In This Cage makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 11/30/2023.

Year: 2023 | TRT (28:50)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English, Farsi

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

Afghan Cinema in Exile | VOA ORIGINAL



Acclaimed Afghan filmmakers Sahraa Karimi and Abdul Ahmadi, now living in exile in Europe, are striving to keep their national cinema alive. Karimi was the first woman to lead the state-owned film production company, Afghan Film, and continues to center strong Afghan women in her work, now more than ever. With a career spanning 50 years, Ahmadi witnessed first-hand how the industry transformed over a half-century of changing governments and is racing against time to preserve its history. Working from abroad in Slovakia and Germany, these directors share their challenges and their hopes for the future of cinema in Afghanistan.

Afghan Cinema in Exile makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 11/9/2023.

Year: 2023 | TRT (20:33)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English, Pashto

Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide

Expiration Date: N/A

I Do Care | VOA ORIGINAL



On the night of February 27, 2015, journalist Zhanna Nemtsova's life was forever changed. Her father, Boris Nemtsov, a Russian politician and vocal critic of Vladimir Putin, was fatally shot near the Kremlin. In the wake of his assassination, Zhanna left the country to continue his legacy of free speech and democracy. Relocating to Germany, she founded the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom to champion educational programs, including a journalism school for Russian-speaking students promoting critical thinking and a free press. As the Ukraine war began, her work to assist students from Ukraine became a lifeline, and this work is far from over.

I Do Care makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 11/2/2023.

Year: 2023 | TRT (35:16)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

2023 Films

From Jail to Snow | VOA ORIGINAL



Marlon Franklin is part of the group of 222 Nicaraguan political prisoners released and deported to the U.S. in February 2023. Stripped of his nationality without the opportunity to return to his country, Franklin assimilates to his newly regained freedom in frigid Minnesota, where little by little and far away from his family, he attempts to put his life in order.

From Jail to Snow makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 09/28/2023

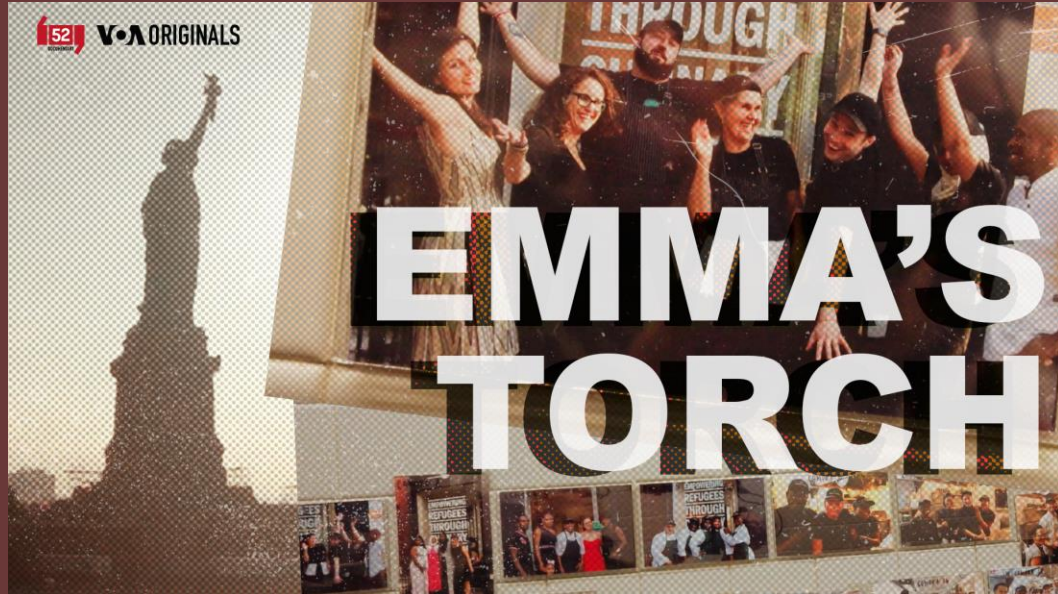
Year: 2023 | TRT (11:51)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English, Spanish

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A



What would you do if you had to find work in a new country, far from home? Emma's Torch, a New York-based non-profit, offers refugees and asylum seekers a chance to train in the culinary arts. Founder Kerrie Brodie, a daughter of Lithuanian immigrants, was inspired to provide those in need with a pathway to independence in America—through the restaurant industry. Meet Mazen and Rosette from Syria, Vanya from Ukraine, Jhack from Senegal and other graduates of the program who are building a future in food.

Emma's Torch makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 09/14/2023.

Year: 2023 | TRT (14:01)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

Ancona Respect | VOA ORIGINAL



Gladys, a young Nigerian woman, becomes a victim of human trafficking after she decides to flee her home country. She is smuggled into Italy, where she manages to escape the trafficker and starts a new life. Her life as a refugee is far from what she expected, but at least she has escaped a terrible fate. Keeping her alive is her dream to become a professional soccer player. She joins the Ancona Respect all-female soccer club, where she begins training and finds a new family.

Ancona Respect makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 6/22/2023.

Year: 2023 | TRT (17:31)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide

Expiration Date: N/A

The Failed Migration | VOA ORIGINAL



Javid Karezi belongs to the sixth generation of a famous family of singers in Afghanistan. He was a successful singer when the Taliban took control of Afghanistan on August 15, 2021. Immediately after coming to power, the Taliban banned all kinds of music in the country, and as a result, Javid was forced to migrate along with his family to Quetta, Pakistan, where he stayed for eight months. Due to the language barrier and limited opportunities to work as a singer, he could not support his family and returned to Kabul. Forced to live without music under the Taliban and in financial crisis, he suffers from depression.

The Failed Migration makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 06/08/2203

Year: 2023 | TRT (27:45)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite

Expiration Date: N/A

Dancing In Exile | VOA ORIGINAL



During the past decades, many Iranian LGBTQ+ refugees made Turkey their new home and found a community. Leo, a gender-fluid belly dancer, is one of these asylum seekers. She performs and teaches dancing by night and regularly attends protests in Istanbul in front of the Iranian Consulate. Despite the Islamic Republic's ban on women dancing publicly, Leo's made a thriving career out of her passion, in Turkey.

Dancing In Exile makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 06/01/2023.

Year: 2023 | TRT (11:45)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite

Restrictions:

Expiration Date: N/A

No Turning Back | VOA ORIGINAL



In the summer of 2022, Xu Chen left China with his wife and young daughter and embarked on a perilous journey through South America to reach the United States. The family is part of a growing share of middle-class Chinese choosing to leave the country over the government's zero-COVID policies, a crackdown on dissent, and economic uncertainty. We follow their first weeks in the United States, as they recount the risks they took to get here and their hopes for the future.

No Turning Back makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 05/25/23.

Year: 2023 | TRT (27:36)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

2022 Films

Kyiv-Sofia-Hollywood | VOA ORIGINAL



Fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, two mothers find themselves in an unusual place, Nu Boyana Film Studios, in Sofia, Bulgaria. Eastern Europe's largest film company, it has participated in the production of over 400 Hollywood films. This moving work, *Kyiv-Sofia-Hollywood*, follows these two women as they rebuild their lives in a new country and find their way in the film industry. On their journey, they overcome challenges and find success, begging the question of whether they will eventually ever return to their homeland, Ukraine.

Kyiv-Sofia-Hollywood makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 12/1/22

Year: 2022 | TRT (21:36)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

Homeland | VOA ORIGINAL



Afghanistan is her home and Zahara Nabi is staying. While many Afghans, both men and women, have fled the return of Taliban rule, Nabi is determined to fight for her rights. A rare glimpse into the life and dreams of a woman who has chosen to stand her ground, no matter the consequences.

Homeland makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on 10/13/22

Year: 2022 | TRT (10:15)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

The Migrant Priest | VOA ORIGINAL



Since 2003, Father Mussie Zerai has received thousands of emergency calls from distressed refugees and migrants stranded in the Mediterranean Sea. The Eritrean priest, head of the refugee rights organization Habeshia, travels to the Italian island of Lampedusa to commemorate October 3, 2013, when a fishing vessel caught fire and sank near the coast, killing 368 people. Leaning on his faith, Father Zerai helps survivors start anew. The 2015 Nobel Peace Prize nominee fields crisis calls as Europe struggles to accommodate the ongoing influx of migrants and refugees desperate to escape war, famine, and persecution.

The Migrant Priest makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on September 29, 2022

Year: 2022 | TRT (20:41)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

Afghanistan Symphony of Courage | VOA ORIGINAL



The Afghanistan National Institute of Music, the first of its kind, closed down in August 2021 as its members faced persecution from the Taliban who violently oppose all secular music. Dr. Ahmad Sarmast, the institute's founder and leader, teams up with famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma, working tirelessly to secure safe passage out of the country for the institute's students, including its all-female orchestra. *Afghanistan Symphony of Courage* follows the dramatic journey of two students and sisters, Farida and Zohra, as they navigate life in hiding under the Taliban rule, and eventually make their escape to Lisbon, Portugal where they are free to make music once again.

Afghanistan Symphony of Courage makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on August 25, 2022

Year: 2022 | TRT 30:00 (mm:ss)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite

Worldwide

Expiration Date: N/A

Journalists on the Run | VOA ORIGINAL



In the fall of 2021, Zafar Bamyani, Zabihullah Ghazi, and Maryam Khamosh were among hundreds of Afghan journalists fleeing Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover. As reporters for international broadcaster Voice of America, they were prime targets with a difficult decision to make. Using present-day interviews and video diaries filmed starting as early as 15 days before the Taliban seized control, the film tells their story of leaving their life's work and passions behind. Now relocated to different cities across the U.S., the journalists must start anew as their home country faces the fallout of a changing media landscape and diminished press freedoms.

Journalists on the Run makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on August 18, 2022

Year: 2022 | TRT 33:35 (mm:ss)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English, Dari and Pashto

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

Escape from Kabul | VOA ORIGINAL



In the chaos of a country on the brink of collapse, those tasked with defending and helping others soon found themselves in dire need of rescue. Khial Shinwari witnessed the horror of the American withdrawal from an Afghan military base. He never expected his country would fall into the Taliban's hands again. Amidst the evacuation, the 35-year-old Afghan air force pilot's mission was to fly other people to safety, 130 in all. But as the Taliban closed in, he found himself planning his own and his family's escape to the United States, leaving his life and career behind. Now, he grapples with a vastly different life but refuses to give up on his dreams of taking flight again.

Escape from Kabul makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on August 11, 2022

Publish Year: 2022 | TRT 18:57 (mm:ss)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

Fatema | VOA ORIGINAL



She escaped one war only to face another. Fatema Hosseini, then 27, was living with her family in Kabul in August 2021 when the Taliban took over the country. As a journalist who worked for the American media, Fatema had to find a way out. It was a Ukrainian colonel, Iryna, who came to her rescue, working out a plan with the help of Ukrainian soldiers on the ground in Kabul. Iryna brought Fatema to her own home in Ukraine, with Fatema's family following a short time later. But another war would soon confront them, this time in Ukraine.

Fatema streams on VOA+ on August 4, 2022

Publish Year: 2022 | TRT 23:30 (mm:ss)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

School Away From Home | VOA ORIGINAL



Oksana Matviishyna is a 43-year-old, highly qualified, and determined Ukrainian teacher from Kyiv. She is a single mother who was on a short holiday with her children in Hungary when Russia invaded her homeland. Oksana felt a duty to return home and help with the war effort, but when she saw the incoming flood of refugees—most of them women and children—she realized she was needed elsewhere. Leveraging her experience, Oksana created a “school within a school” at the American International School of Budapest where more than 200 Ukrainian children, including her own, can receive education in their native language, and the social and emotional support they need to survive the war.

School Away From Home makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on July 21, 2022

Year: 2022 | TRT 16:35 (mm:ss)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: Ukrainian, English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

Waiting in Greece | VOA ORIGINAL



Oksana Poltorak and her three children are amongst more than 50,000 Ukrainian refugees in Greece. While living in a house with two other families, Oksana tries to create a sense of normalcy for herself and her children. Though she tries hard, her days are never normal until her entire family is reunited. Her husband and oldest son remain in Ukraine to defend their home.

Waiting in Greece makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on July 14, 2022

Year: 2022 | TRT 17:27 (mm:ss)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: Ukrainian, English

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

Dreaming in Exile | VOA ORIGINAL



Rustam Khair Khwa is an 18-year-old boy who, like many teen boys, dreams of being a professional athlete. His sport of choice is soccer and his dedication to 'The Beautiful Game' is matched only by his loyalty to his family. But for Rustam and his family – living as refugees in India after fleeing Kabul, Afghanistan – each day is a challenge. With his mom as the sole parent at home and four kids to care for with little support, Rustam must figure out how to balance helping at home and pursuing his dreams.

Year: 2022 | TRT : (12:16)

Format: Documentary
Available Languages: English

Dreaming In Exile makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on June 16, 2022
Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide

Expiration Date: N/A

Master Huang: The Road Taken | VOA ORIGINAL



Fang Hui Huang, a black belt in Taekwondo, inspects a banner proclaiming the 32nd anniversary of his school where he teaches the martial art. An immigrant from Taiwan, Master Huang has devoted his life to Taekwondo since opening his studio in Flushing, New York, in 1987. For Master Huang, Taekwondo wasn't just a way to learn physical fighting skills. The practice taught him perseverance, integrity, and the Taekwondo spirit.

For years Master Huang dreamt of having his students complete at the international level, but today he faces the dilemma of continuing to teach the Taekwondo spirit while looking for a successor who will keep the studio open.

Master Huang: The Road Taken makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on March 3, 2022

Year: 2022 | TRT 21:26 (mm:ss)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: TBA

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A

Afghan Refugees, Neither Here Nor There | VOA ORIGINAL



Noda Sofa fled her war-ravaged home in Afghanistan, hoping that she could wait it out in Islamabad for a peaceful return to her country. But Noda has faced great difficulties living an uprooted life in Pakistan: red tape, an inability to get a proper education, and an identity crisis that has left her and many other refugees very much on their own.

Afghan Refugees makes its streaming debut on VOA+ on December 16, 2021

Year: 2021 | TRT 09:09 (mm:ss)

Format: Documentary

Available Languages: TBA

**Rights: YT + OTT + TV + Satellite
Worldwide**

Expiration Date: N/A