

Academy Award® winner **Maryann De Leo** presents

# DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA

a film by **Vibha Bakshi**



Awarded by the President of India

## BREAKING THE SILENCE

DIRECTOR **VIBHA BAKSHI**

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **ATTAR SINGH SAINI** | EDITOR **HEMANTI SARKAR**

SECOND UNIT CAMERA **KARAN TOLANI** | LOCATION SOUND **VIRAJ SELOT**

MUSIC **BAPI TUTUL** | SOUND DESIGN **BOBY JOHN** | PRODUCTION **ABHISHEK YAMSANWAR**

PRODUCED BY **VIBHA BAKSHI & VISHAL BAKSHI**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER **MARYANN DE LEO**



[www.daughtersofmotherindia.com](http://www.daughtersofmotherindia.com)



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THIRDWORLDNEWSREEL

# DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA

A FILM BY VIBHA BAKSHI

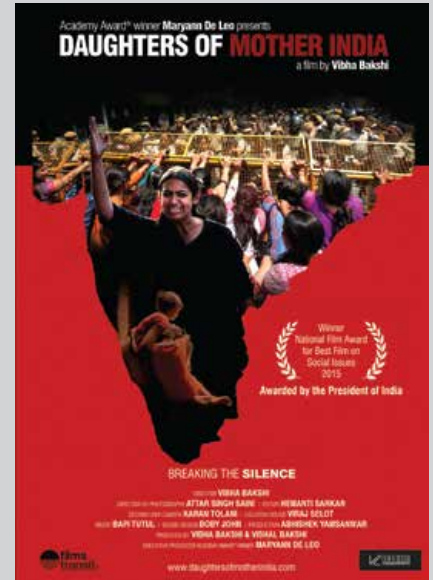


**Awarded by the President of India**  
**This is the highest honour for Indian films**

DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA reveals the aftermath of the horrific rape and murder of a 23-year-old medical student in Delhi in December 2012. For weeks, mass protests filled the streets of India and the country witnessed gender consciousness and extraordinary solidarity by ordinary citizens—like never before. The eyes of the world were on the country's rampant gender violence, and stories about violence against women in India were hitting the world's headlines almost on a daily basis.

This documentary—by Indian journalist and filmmaker Vibha Bakshi—questions how Indian society is changing after the 2012 events. Although an Anti-Rape Law was passed and radical changes were made within the police force and the judiciary, gender violence still persists. Did anything change?

Winner of the New York Indian Film Festival Best Documentary Film Award, DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA features exclusive interviews with Justice Leila Seth, Member of the Anti Rape Recommendation Committee; Indira Jaising, Additional Solicitor General Supreme Court; Dipankar Gupta, Sociologist; Neeraj Kumar, Delhi Police Commissioner; Suman Nalwa, Head of Delhi Police Unit for Women and Children; Kiran Bedi, Activist; Abha Sahgal, Principal of Sanskriti School; Syed Mubin Zehr, Social Analyst; Arvind Gaur, Activist and Founder of Asmita Theatre Group; and students, teachers and police officers in Delhi. (2014, 45 min, India, English subtitles)



“ I strongly recommend that the movie be screened for Police personnel in order to sensitize them to the increased need for a change in Society.”

**Director Ms Aruna Bahuguna,**  
**National Police Academy**  
**(Ministry of Home Affairs,**  
**Government of India)**

MORE THAN 200 SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ACROSS INDIA SHOWCASING THE FILM  
Schools and colleges screen film as part of their curriculum to gender sensitize the children from 8th grade onwards

### **BUSINESS STANDARD**

“...focuses on the national conversation generated by the case, and on reform in the police and court systems.”

### **THE GUARDIAN**

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Vibha Bakshi is a filmmaker and former business reporter for CNBC. Vibha studied Journalism and Broadcasting at Boston University and New York University, and her films have been aired on HBO and Lifetime TV. Vibha's passion lies in making films which change lives one story at a time.

# CREDITS

Director / Producer  
Vibha Bakshi

Executive Producer  
Academy Award® winner Maryann De Leo

Director of Photography  
Attar Singh Saini

Editor  
Hemanti Sarkar

Second Unit Camera  
Karan Tolani

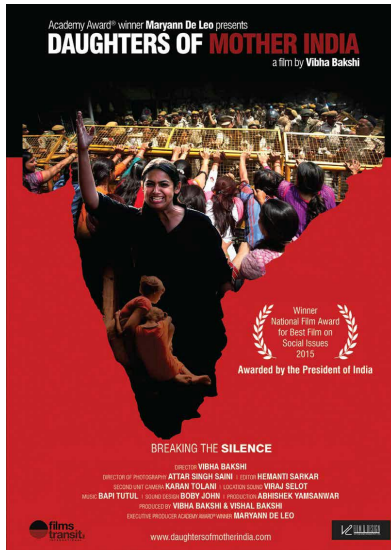
Location Sound  
Viraj Selot

Music  
Bapi Tutul

Sound Design  
Boby John

Promo Editor  
Aasif Pathan

**For Immediate Release**



## **DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA East Coast Tour Scheduled November 10-13, 2015**

### **Film Screenings and Conversations with Indian Filmmaker and Journalist Vibha Bakshi at Asia Society, Embassy of India, New York University and Columbia University**

In 2012, several incidents of sexual assault sparked rage and national debate in India. The rape and murder of a 23 year-old student from New Delhi by a group of men marked a turning point for public awareness. For weeks, mass protests filled the streets of India and the country witnessed gender consciousness and extraordinary solidarity by ordinary citizens—like never before. The eyes of the world were on the country’s rampant gender violence, and stories about violence against women in India were hitting the world’s headlines almost on a daily basis.

DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA, a 45-minute award winning documentary, questions how Indian society is changing after the 2012 events. Although an Anti-Rape Law was promptly passed and reforms were made within the police force and the judiciary, gender violence still persists. Has anything changed?

Indian journalist Vibha Bakshi probes local judges, police officers, teachers, activists and even street performers that are fighting against gender violence on a daily basis, while simultaneously showing the critical role that each one of these social actors must play to bring real change in India.

In May 2015, DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA premiered in the United States at the New York Indian Film Festival and it won the Best Documentary Award. During its first U.S. tour, the documentary will be shown at The Asia Society in New York City, the Embassy of India in D.C. and two higher education institutions, New York University and Columbia University. Filmmaker Vibha Bakshi will be present for Q&A sessions with the audience.

Vibha Bakshi is planning a new film tour for 2016. Educational institutions interested in arranging a film screening followed by a Q&A or master class, please contact [distribution@twon.org](mailto:distribution@twon.org). DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA is available for educational purchase and rentals from Third World Newsreel.

## **DAUGHTERS OF MOTHER INDIA East Coast Film Tour**

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015, 6:30pm**

#### **Asia Society Screening and Panel Presentation**

Josette Sheeran, President, Asia Society (Introduction)

Rachel Vogelstein, Director of the Women and Foreign Policy Program, Council on Foreign Relations (Panelist)

Noa Meyer, Global Head, 10,000 Women Goldman Sachs (Panelist)

Leigh Gallagher, Assistant Managing Editor, Fortune Magazine (Panelist)

Vibha Bakshi, Award-winning Film Director and Journalist (Panelist)

Where: Asia Society, 725 Park Ave, NY, NY 10021

[asiasociety.org](http://asiasociety.org)

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015, 6pm**

#### **New York University Screening and Conversation with director Vibha Bakshi by Professors Radha Hedge and Ritty Lakose**

Where: NYU Bobst Library, AFC Avery Room, 70 Washington Square S, NY, NY 10012

[southasianyu.org](http://southasianyu.org)

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015, 6:30pm**

#### **Embassy of India Screening and Conversation with director Vibha Bakshi by Dr. Maina Chawla Singh, American University.**

Where: Embassy of India, 2107 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008

[indianembassy.org](http://indianembassy.org)

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015, 3:00pm**

**Columbia University Screening and Q&A with director Vibha Bakshi**

Where: Columbia University, Davis Auditorium, New York, NY 10027

Read more: [twn.org/catalog/pages/cpage.aspx?rec=1430&card=price](http://twn.org/catalog/pages/cpage.aspx?rec=1430&card=price)

Press Kit: [twn.org/catalog/guides/DaughtersOfMotherIndia\\_PressKit.pdf](http://twn.org/catalog/guides/DaughtersOfMotherIndia_PressKit.pdf)

Film's Website: [www.daughtersofmotherindia.com](http://www.daughtersofmotherindia.com)

Trailer: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=em3cFAJotmY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=em3cFAJotmY)

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Third World Newsreel (TWN) is a media arts organization dedicated to fostering the creation, appreciation and dissemination of independent social issue media made by and about people of color. TWN is supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, as well as individual donors. Visit [www.twn.org](http://www.twn.org).



Thursday 26 March 2015

# Documentary about gang rape wins Indian national film award

The director of the award-winning *Daughters of Mother India* contrasts her film with the banned *India's Daughter* documentary, calling the latter 'sensationalist'



Asha Devi, mother of Jyoti Singh, at her house in New Delhi. Photograph: Arkaprava Ghosh / Barcroft India

A documentary about the gang rape and killing of medical student Jyoti Singh has won a prize at the National film awards in India – but not the controversial film *India's Daughter*, made by British film-maker Leslee Udwin.

Instead it was *Daughters of Mother India*, directed by Vibha Bakshi, that was recognised at the ceremony in the best film on social issues category. She said she was “overwhelmed and thrilled at this highest level of appreciation” from the judging panel, headed by director Kamal Swaroop and approved by India’s ministry of information and broadcasting. They described the 45-minute film as “explicitly and determinedly turning the spotlight on the burning issue of rape in the country and the brutal mentality that drives it.”

Like *India's Daughter*, her film looks at the horrific incident and its aftermath, but Bakshi criticised Udwin’s film: “My idea was to sensitise audiences towards crimes against women as opposed to Udwin’s film that sensationalised the issue by giving one of the rapists a chance to express his views.”

*Daughters of Mother India* doesn’t feature interviews with Singh’s family or the attackers, but instead focuses on the national conversation generated by the case, and on reform in the police and court systems. Bakshi said: “Like millions of others, I too felt outraged by the gruesome incident that triggered massive protests and put India in the spotlight worldwide. So I thought of exploring the Indian psyche from various angles and how it was

impacted by the horrific crime.” It was executive produced by Maryann De Leo, who won an Oscar in 2004 for her short documentary *Chernobyl Heart*.

*India’s Daughter* meanwhile includes an interview with the driver of the bus on which the assault happened, who claimed that Singh herself was to blame for the attack for being out at night and that she should not have resisted. The inclusion of the interview caused controversy, with even some women’s rights activists opposed to it, saying, like Bakshi, that he should never have been given a platform for his views.

The film was banned in India, with a parliamentary minister describing it as “an international conspiracy to defame India”; Udwin appealed to prime minister Narendra Modi, arguing that “India should be embracing this film – not blocking it with a kneejerk hysteria without even seeing it.”

Bakshi shared her award with Vinod Kapri, whose film *I Can’t Take This Shit Anymore* explores the shortage of sanitation in rural India. Other winners at the awards included Venice film festival prizewinner *Court*, which won best feature film; Srijit Mukherji for best director; and Vijay and Kangana Ranaut picking up the top acting prizes. Boxing biopic *Mary Kom*, meanwhile, won the prestigious best popular film providing wholesome entertainment category.



27 May 2015

# THE HUFFINGTON POST

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE TIMES OF INDIA GROUP



**Jim Luce**

James Jay Dudley Luce Foundation

## Indian Award-Winning Documentary 'Daughters of Mother India' -- Jarring Wake-Up Call for Men Like Me

Posted: 27/05/2015 00:06 IST Updated: 27/05/2015 01:29 IST

With Jitin Hingorani.

While living and working in my comfortable American cocoon in December of 2012, I vaguely remember hearing about an Indian girl named Jyoti Singh Pandey, who was brutally gang-raped on a Delhi bus. My immediate reaction was: "Poor girl... what is happening to my country of birth!" But I did not give it another thought.

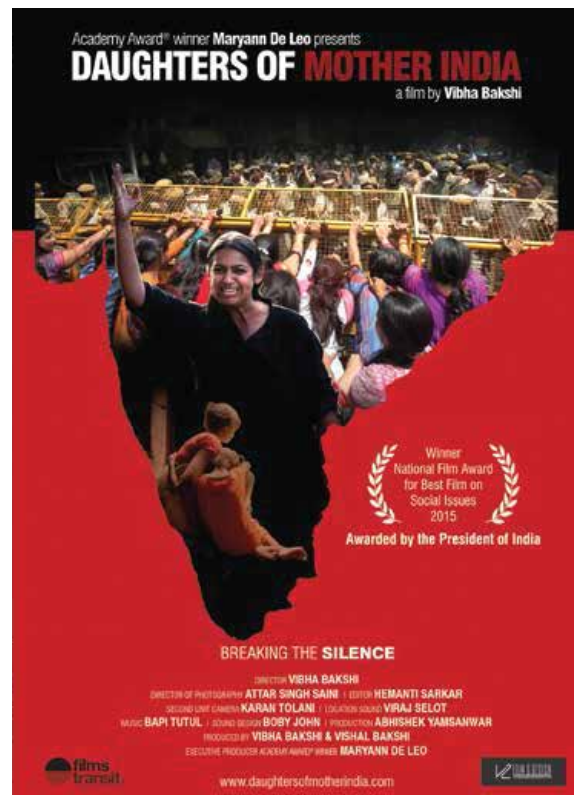
I vaguely remember seeing images of Delhiites being water-hosed by police while rioting for "Nirbhaya," an assignation that means "Fearless One," given to Pandey by the media as authorities would not release her name. Again, mild sympathy followed by... not another thought.

No outrage, no outburst, no outpouring... not until May 2015, exactly two-and-a-half years after Pandey's death.

I had the privilege of watching the New York premiere of the critically-acclaimed play Nirbhaya, written and directed by Yael Farber and produced by Poorna Jagannathan and Culture Project. So moved was I by the true stories of gender-based violence, set against the backdrop of Pandey's horrific gang-rape and re-enacted on stage by the survivors themselves, that I left the theater in complete silence, with a mild headache and bloodshot eyes from the sheer force of my tears. I had never in my adult life, been more cognizant of my good fortune, my male privilege, my American cocoon.

When I heard about the screening of a documentary film

titled Daughters of Mother India (DOMI), already sold out at the upcoming New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF), I was somewhat intrigued, having just had a strong dose of Nirbhaya's story. As soon as I read that the movie had won the National Award, the country's highest film honor bestowed by the President of India, for "Best Film on Social Issues," I squirmed my way into the second screening, still wary that a documentary about this subject matter could not possibly affect me the way a live performance did. I was grossly mistaken.





*Former Indian TV personality turned filmmaker Vibha Bakshi, Director of "Daughters of Mother India." Photo Credit: NYIFF.*

Former CNBC business reporter turned documentary filmmaker, Vibha Bakshi, sets out on a quest in which she is "searching for answers to so many questions." On the surface, the narrative revolves around a series of sound bites from sociologists, victims' advocates and senior law enforcement officials ALL reacting to Pandey's rape and pontificating on how it might have been prevented. If you dig much deeper, though, this documentary is representative of India's side of Nirbhaya's story: a story filled with resolve, activism and hope.

In a sit-down interview with Bakshi after her film, she talks candidly about DOMI being a small documentary that has started a revolution of sorts.

I never expected when I was making this film that it would receive the kind of praise and recognition that it has received thus far. My goal was to make a responsible movie that did not sensationalize the issue of gender violence, and the fact that people are connecting to it from all walks of life is very heartening.

MY connection to the film formed when Bakshi gives us uncensored access into the Dehli Police control room, where all emergency calls are taken, and we learn that women police officers are now taking calls specifically from victims of rape, sexual assault and domestic violence because of the drastic increase in the number of women coming forward in the wake of the Nirbhaya tragedy. Trained law enforcement officers are

metaphorically wearing the hats of gender violence advocates.

These scenes, masterfully edited by Hemanti Sarkar, brought back vivid memories of when I worked at the National Domestic Violence Hotline in Austin, Texas. Those brave domestic violence advocates went through months of training before they were allowed to take a victim's call on their own, but these women police officers were forced to cope with life-threatening situations during call after frantic call, all in an attempt to prevent one more woman from being called "Nirbhaya."

The toll that similar tragedies have taken on the police has been skillfully captured by Bakshi in a trio of three-minute public service announcements (PSAs) featuring a dozen or so policemen and women, all of whom investigated some of the most brutal incidents of sexual assault in Mumbai over the past two years. These PSAs will start broadcasting in movie theaters all over India before feature films. "I created the police campaign to bridge the gap between the public and the police," responds Bakshi via email. "These men and women are also human beings, and one of the policemen who watched the PSA said he wants to 'live up to the people's expectations.' It is about time that the Indian janata (public) give our law enforcement the respect they deserve." To watch one of the PSAs (in Hindi only) from Bakshi's police campaign, please click here.

However, as this actress screams from the top of her lungs at a public performance in a busy Delhi market, "Change cannot happen in a day!" When will Delhi no longer be referred to as the "Rape Capital of the World?" That is yet to be determined. But, in just 45 engrossing minutes, Bakshi manages to weave in how gender violence laws are stricter, police are more vigilant and activist groups are more vocal... all because the "fearless one" sacrificed her life.

As a feminist male, a victims' advocate and a survivor of childhood domestic violence, my thoughts are consumed by the fate of that Indian girl on a Delhi bus. Daughters of Mother India has helped open my eyes, which now glisten with hope.

Daughters of Mother India is a 2015 Indian documentary film, which won the National Award. It is directed and produced by Vibha Bakshi and executive produced by Academy Award-Winner MaryAnn De Leo.

New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF)