



Bobbi's Story

We were blown away by the honesty of Bobbi Broome's film *Make Me Divine*, which shines a light on the "harsh and unrealistic expectations" that popular culture puts on girls, particularly Black girls. Bobbi says, "When I talk in the film about praying to have a new body every night, that's real."

As a panelist at our flagship Day of the Girl screening event, "Centering the Voices of Black Women," **Bobbi talked about how crucial media representation is for Black girls.** She shared how as a girl, she never saw anyone who looked like her in the media. "It wasn't until I turned 18 that I realized that my skin wasn't weird or ugly."

Now an MFA candidate in the Film and TV Production program at University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, Bobbi plans to continue to produce media for women and girls of color. "I want to give all the little brown and black girls out there hope," she says. "If I can inspire at least one little girl to follow her dreams, my life mission will be accomplished."

We're proud that the ConnectHER Film Festival provides a platform for young Black filmmakers. You can watch some of their films [here](#).

Muhammad's Story

Muhammad Waseem's film *The Chain Breaker* shined a much-needed light on the cause of women's inheritance rights in Pakistan. When Muhammad's film won the Standup Man Award at last year's ConnectHER Film Festival, nearly every media outlet in Pakistan covered the story of his win, along with four international outlets and a regional radio station. "Short film...takes on patriarchy, wins international prize," read the headline in *Arab News*. Now we're proud to share that **Muhammad has won the 2020 Agahi Award for reporting on women for *The Chain Breaker*.** The awards are given out by the Agahi Foundation, which works to improve investigative journalism in Pakistan.

The Chain Breaker tells the true story of a schoolteacher who broke with local tradition to pursue a legal case to gain inheritance rights for his mother. "Even though laws have been passed to protect women's property inheritance rights, the majority of women in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region are illiterate and therefore don't know their rights," explains Muhammad. "Women aren't



That is changing thanks to one student's 6-minute film--and some savvy media outreach. Women in Pakistan are learning about their inheritance rights and asking their brothers to share what is rightly theirs.

supposed to leave their homes unless they are accompanied by a male relative, so it is difficult for them to go to the courts or to visit relatives to advocate for their rights.”

Tapiwa’s Story



Our filmmakers are going places! In Tapiwa Gumbura’s case, quite literally. After two of her films won awards at the ConnectHER Film Festival 2020 (*Not Your Bride* and *BVUDZI*), Tapiwa moved from Harare, Zimbabwe, to New York City to attend Barnard College. We can proudly say that we helped her get there because she used her scholarship money to pay for the flight!

Tapiwa is a film ambassador who shares with other students across Africa the gospel of making films to create social impact. Last fall she hosted an International Day of the Girl screening event in Johannesburg, South Africa, featuring films and lively discussions about “Redefining Beauty.” More recently, she spoke at a youth filmmaking workshop in DR Congo. She told the students how she made *BVUDZI* with technical support but made *Not Your Bride* on her own with basic equipment, using her phone with a sock over it as a microphone. “I also spoke about how important it is to ask for help and seek out a community as a filmmaker,” she says. “That has really aided my journey.” We are proud to be part of Tapiwa’s community as she continues to go places.

All of the work that we do to elevate the status of women and girls around the world is dependent on the generosity of you, our incredible ConnectHER community.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for your unwavering dedication and commitment during such a tumultuous year. We are excited about what we can achieve together in the coming year!

Thank you for believing in us,

The ConnectHER Team