

To the Members of the Texas Sunset Commission,

Working with the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission has been one of the best and most fruitful collaborations in my professional career. Together, we produced the documentary film, “Narratives of Modern Genocide” which tells the story of genocide survivors who have found Texas to be their home. Our project piggybacked on the Baylor Oral History Project by selecting 2 of the Baylor stories, Ambassador Sichan Siv and Gilbert Tuhabonye, respectively, and fleshing them out into a documentary film. This strategy, adapting these story into a film, was a non-academic way of helping tell the important story on a bigger canvas with the potential to reach a much larger audience.

To date, the film has been selected by 4 international film festivals which, due to COVID were virtual this year, but boasted over 50,000 views combined worldwide. The film was recently picked up by distributor, Passion River Films, who will be bringing the film to Amazon Prime and Kanopy streaming services, and distributing the DVD to Wal-Mart, Turner Classic Movies Shop, and other retailers. We are also distributing the film to every PBS station in the country who will decide to air it independently. Film festivals, TV broadcast, streaming, and physical DVDs potentially create a possibility for millions to see and hear these incredibly important stories of survival, freedom and resilience.

This film not only explains the historical and present importance of understanding the history of genocide, it celebrates Texas as a home of independent and free citizens, immigrants, and refugees who choose this state for its beauty, empathy and compassion. After 20 years as an independent film director and public media executive this is the most important story I’ve ever had the honor of telling and it wouldn’t have happened without the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission. When you think about the excess of government waste, a minimal investment to make this documentary film has the potential to reach millions! That’s the type of government and fiscal responsibility that our citizens deserve and the THGC delivers.

I hope you consider this incredible work and our film as you analyze the importance of the THGC and what it does for our state and our citizens. It has been an honor to work with the board to see this small dream and these important stories come to life in such impactful and significant ways.

Regards,



Paul Allen Hunton
CEO/General Manager
Texas Tech Public Media