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Filmmaker & National Interfaith Leader to Speak

Sept. 5, 2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Award-winning filmmaker, civil rights advocate and interfaith leader **Valarie Kaur** will present a public lecture on her experiences with storytelling for social change on Thursday, Sept. 11 at Illinois Wesleyan University.

A regular opinion contributor to *CNN*, *NPR*, *PBS*, *The Washington Post* and *Huffington Post*, Kaur is the founder of **Groundswell Movement** at Auburn Seminary, a nonprofit initiative with more than 80,000 members that equips people of faith to mobilize for social change. A prolific public speaker on college and university campuses, Kaur leads multimedia campaigns on civil rights issues including hate crimes, racial profiling, gun violence, immigration detention and solitary confinement. She is a graduate of Yale Law School and earned a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School.



Valarie Kaur

She founded the Yale Visual Law Project to train future lawyers to use film and media to change public policy. Her own film career includes the award-winning documentary *Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath*. Produced with her partner and husband Sharat Raju, the film examines the roots of intolerance for Muslims, Sikhs and many people of faith.

At Illinois Wesleyan, she will discuss and screen *Oak Creek: In Memoriam*, a short film on the 2012 mass shooting at the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis. Her address is entitled “Storytelling for Social Change: Seeking Justice in a Multifaith America.” The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. at the Hansen Student Center. Kaur’s address is free and open to the public. Her appearance is sponsored by Student Senate and Evelyn Chapel, and is a **Walls and Bridges** event and a part of the University’s **3D series of events** encompassing “Diversity, Dignity, and Dialogue.”