The Global Perspectives Experience is going virtual! We will gather an exciting range of civil society actors to engage in interactive formats and discussions.

At Global Perspectives, people co-create and develop ideas to help address the world’s most pressing problems. 2018’s edition, “Engaging a #NewGeneration” led to the creation of Yes! For Humanity, a youth-led response to the climate crisis. In 2019, we said “Let’s Make Lemonade” in these times of scrutiny, with leaders strengthening accountability and solidarity. We can’t wait to see what this year’s edition produces.

**Theme**

Inclusion – the process by which all voices are heard, everyone can take action and fundamental rights are protected – is key to civil society organisations’ work, and pertinent as the COVID-19 crisis is likely to exacerbate marginalisation in the long run. We must put inclusion at the heart of our processes to ensure effective programming and advocacy to the crisis.

Meanwhile, wider civil society – academia, activists, journalists, social businesses and many more - continue to play a significant role in informing and influencing political and social change. The challenge remains for diverse and marginalised voices to be prominent in political discussions and decision-making. Without grassroots inclusion, the chances of achieving key shared aims of poverty reduction and a more equal society diminish.

The 2020 Global Perspectives Experience will provide a space to reflect on what inclusion should look like, how we can continually improve our inclusion practices and continue to engage a range of actors. These are many of the discussions we want to share, so join us!
Three Pillars of Exploration & Discussion

Including CSOs in political processes:

The pandemic presents CSOs with an opportunity to do things differently, and above all together. Networking with all actors: How can CSOs engage with governments and power holders in meaningful partnerships? How to ensure inclusion of grassroots voices in the political decision-making process?

Inclusive programmes:

How to guarantee consistent and meaningful inclusion? What changes do we need to make to better include communities, especially during a pandemic? How can we include and empower people in our work and political fora to improve lives?

CSOs as diverse and inclusive organisations:

How inclusive of stakeholders are CSOs in their work (and under current restrictions)? What are the political parts of inclusion in an organisations’ operations? To be inclusive, most organisations will have to change, and this is difficult, painful and political. What needs to happen?

Cross-Cutting Dimensions

The following cross-cutting dimensions will focus our discussions:

Digitalisation:

During the pandemic, digital technology use has been fast-tracked, we must look at how it will affect relationships between marginalised communities and CSOs. How can we ensure to include and protect those we serve in a digitalised world? In 2021, the Centre’s Innovation Report will focus on the topic of digital rights and inclusion.

Diversity:

How can CSOs ensure diversity within their organisations while facing an uncertain future? How can CSOs ensure they have an inclusive approach in their programmes?

Futures:

What are the major futures perspectives on inclusion? What are the trends that will affect how we can or need to be inclusive? What are the intersections with other global trends, and relating to the outbreak of COVID-19?
COVID-19
The COVID-19 pandemic is changing the way we interact and relationships between individuals and institutions. In most countries, CSOs have been pushed aside which added a pressure on CSOs to stay engaged which their partners and local communities.

However, a crisis can produce new opportunities. During the Global Perspectives Experience, we will aim to draw out the key lessons from different inclusion strategies and find new ways of connecting with various communities and adapt to a new operational reality.

Innovation Report 2020
Urban Inclusion
With the theme of ‘Civil Society Innovation and Urban Inclusion’, the Centre’s Innovation Report 2020 will highlight successful innovations in complex urban contexts to deliver inclusive solutions for marginalised communities in cities. It will showcase inspiring examples of inclusion and innovation from our sector and facilitate exchange and mutual learning on this topic.

An Online Event
The Global Perspectives Experience will be virtual. Our aim is to keep you inspired and engaged.

Our online agenda will include moments for you to take part in discussions, polls, small group-chats and, of course, keep those important networking opportunities.

This year, we have extended the number of days of the Experience so you can take optional breaks away from your screen. Our hope is that this immersive and engaging experience is as rewarding and inclusive, if not more so than being there in person.

The International Civil Society Centre
As the global action platform for civil society, we work with ICSOs to develop strategies for successfully navigating change. We scan the horizon for exciting opportunities, enable learning and cooperation among such organisations and their stakeholders, assist in developing effective leadership, and promote robust accountability to strengthen legitimacy. We strive to set high standards in management, governance and strategy for ICSOs and the wider sector. The Centre is a non-profit organisation fully owned by the organisations it serves.

Monday 2 - Thursday 5 November, 2020
Online
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