

Global Perspectives 2021

Let's Talk About Power!

25 Oct - 4 Nov 2021



International
Civil Society Centre





About Global Perspectives

Running as a hybrid experience, Global Perspectives 2021 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. In 2019, we said "Let's make Lemonade" in times of increased scrutiny, with leaders strengthening accountability and solidarity. 2020's edition, "A Passion for Inclusion" provided an inspiring setting and an open platform to discuss critical topics such as systemic discrimination and racism. We can't wait to see what this year's edition produces.

Concept

After more than a year of lockdowns, economic and psychological hardships, and financial and operational restrictions, CSOs and their partners are taking the path to recovery by adapting and creating new strategies to work in an increasingly whirly world with growing inequalities. **These challenges and opportunities come with the need to shift power and decolonise the aid system.**

In 2021, Global Perspectives will therefore focus on civil society sector approaches to create a more just and impactful way of fighting for social, political, and climate justice, and accelerate overdue power shifts in decision-making, financing, and operations. Civil society organisations (CSOs) are unlearning and deconstructing current cultural norms that benefit from hierarchical worldviews, and moving towards locally-led and globally connected operations.

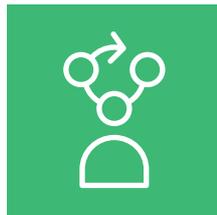
With our unique position, the Centre aims to support organisations in understanding and overcoming privilege and colonial legacies that influence how civil society operates.

Our hybrid experience will feature three pillars of exploration and discussion:



De-concentrating Data and Digitalisation:

How can CSOs work collectively, effectively, and ethically with citizen-generated and open data, to ensure self-determination and power for marginalised groups? How can CSOs build from and strengthen civic tech initiatives, or help disrupt the concentration and potential misuse of data and technology by powerful private companies, states and non-states actors?



Decolonising Aid and Organisational Structures:

Shifting power is about empowering different local and regional actors, community networks, and civic actors. What does it mean to decolonise the future of the sector and aid system in which we operate, and what is the role of established CSOs in that?



Embracing New Power:

How can we move from hierarchical structures into effective networking models? How can we engage New Power actors? What are the practical approaches, tools and models we can use to influence and advocate, combining established and New Power approaches?

For each pillar, we will share innovative and future-facing approaches on how we might best align with Shifting Power for sustained futures, better knowledge management, and community-led networks.

Three Pillars

Our Communities

We will focus on the “How” and “What can we do next” through mutual learning opportunities for CSOs, donors, foundations, and social businesses to share constructive dialogue. In this we will harness the power of the different project and learning communities we lead, including the Solidarity Action Network, Leave No One Behind, and Scanning the Horizon.

Global Perspectives 2021 will also incorporate an exciting new Digital Debate, and share emerging inspiration from our upcoming report on “Civil Society Innovation and Inclusive Digital Transformation”.

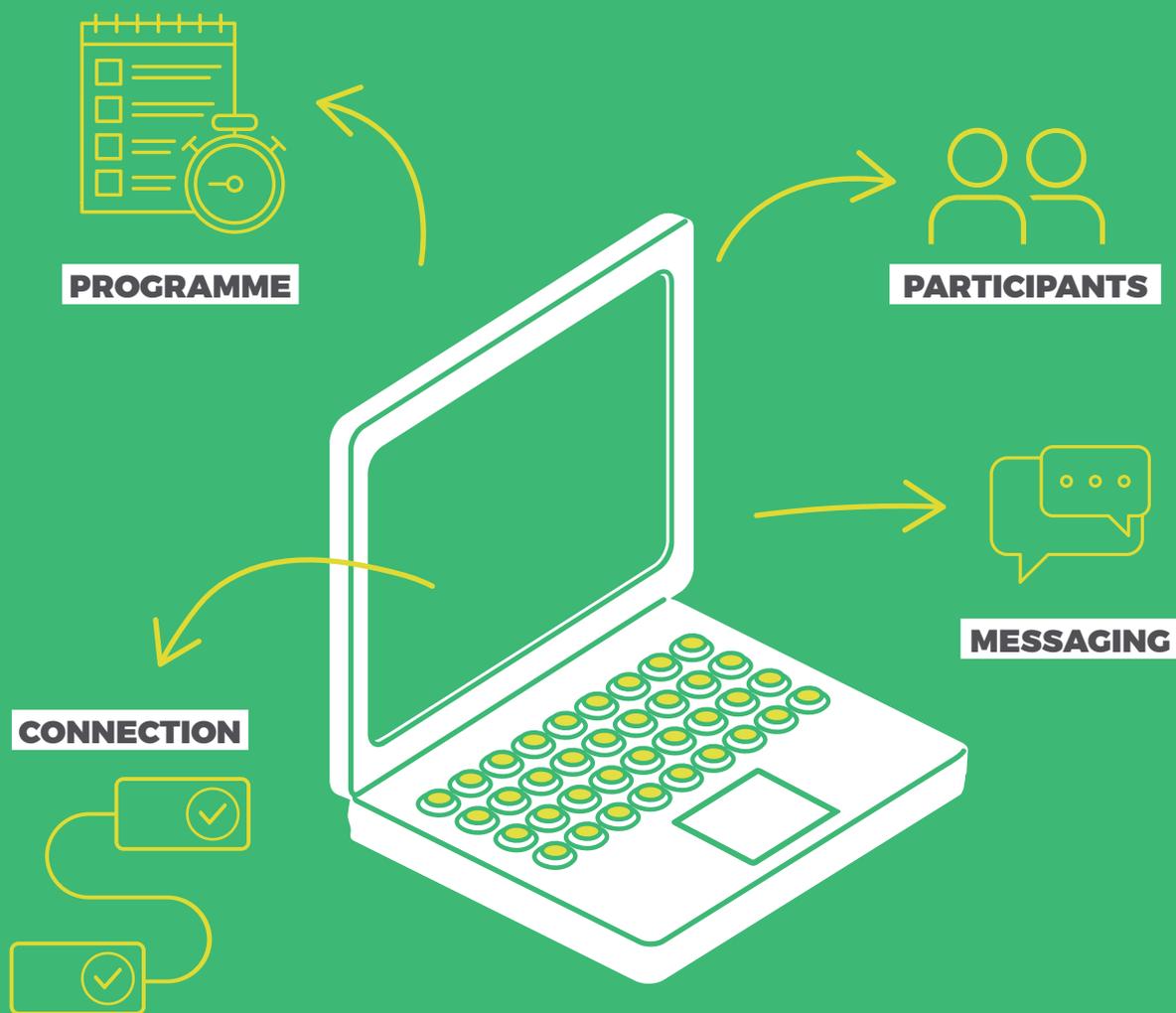


Hybrid Experience

Global Perspectives 2021 will run as a hybrid experience hosting up to 150 participants. Participants will again have the chance to immerse themselves in topics and workshops, devising common strategies to deal with major trends, challenges, and opportunities.

This year, we will be providing global and regional perspectives – holding in-person meetings in three hubs in **East Africa, South East Asia and Latin America**, and broadcasting their discussions online throughout the week to deliver insights and identify new connections.

Our online programme agenda will allow participants to take part in discussions, polls, small group-chats, and, of course, to enjoy those important networking opportunities.





International Civil Society Centre

We are a leading convener and collaborator for international civil society organisations and we work with international CSOs 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 international CSOs and the wider sector. The Centre is a non-profit organisation fully owned by the organisations we serve.

Our owners:



The Centre's work is also supported by international civil society organisations who are our Core Supporters:

