

The Global Perspectives Conference

Every year leaders of national and international civil society organisations (CSOs) gather over three days with people passionate about social good, to exchange ideas and experiences, make connections, and address the world's most pressing challenges. In a unique, interactive format, up to 150 participants propose topics and workshops, devising common strategies to deal with the major trends, challenges and opportunities of civil society today.

Theme: Engaging a #NewGeneration

More than half the world's population is under 30 - this is the largest youth generation of all time. These are people who have grown up in a digital, globalised world. They are using ever changing ways to connect, get involved with and contribute to social causes.

Young people today are passionate about creating a better, more inclusive world. But in many parts of the world there's less reliance on traditional institutions like political parties and CSOs. The emphasis is on self-education, sharing your beliefs on social media and conscious consumerism.

Most of this new generation lives in the Global South, where the situation is different. In many regions, unemployment and social unrest have led to mass disenfranchisement. Yet there are new opportunities for CSOs to engage in young people's struggle for more participation and for developing a better life.

Generation Now secretariat, currently supported by UNICEF, advises that fresh ways of connecting with young people are paramount to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The imperative is clear: to make an impact, achieve their missions and stay relevant, CSOs will have to adapt to a new generation.



Global Perspectives 2018 will:

<u>Provide an understanding</u> of how the new generation through different values and preferences pushes for change in the way CSOs work for a just and sustainable world.

<u>Showcase innovative initiatives</u> by and for young organisations as well as established CSOs aiming to explore new ways of unleashing the new generation's potential.

Offer cross-sector networking by bringing together civil society leaders with other stakeholders to share ideas and develop initiatives.

<u>Explore concrete steps</u> so CSOs can adapt their organisations to better fit the new generation.

Experience

Global Perspectives 2018 will bring generations together in a unique framework. Established civil-society leaders can glean from the creativity and energy of young innovators, while younger actors can gain experience and useful networking opportunities.



The conference emphasises mutual learning with a blend of workshops, panel discussions and interactive peer-to-peer exchange. Participants are invited to contribute in various ways, such as by hosting a workshop, planning side meetings or showcasing their initiatives. The event's reach will not be confined to participants, with social-media support bringing others into the conversation through live streaming, video summaries and interviews, and a Twitter wall.

The programme will focus on three tracks:

Communities
The people we work for and with

Supporters
The people who support us, financially or with their time

Talent
The people who work in our organisations

International Civil Society Centre

The global action platform for ICSOs, the Centre helps international civil society organisations maximise their impact for a sustainable and more equitable world.

Venue: Festsaal Kreuzberg

In Berlin's most famous neighbourhood, perched on the River Spree, Festsaal Kreuzberg offers heritage-protected industrial charm with open spaces and plenty of natural light. Close to many creative hubs, co-working spaces and media institutions, this is the perfect setting for inspired discussions.



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Berlin

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