

Series 2 Webinar

International Solidarity: Which paths to guarantee long lasting changes?

Concept note

1. BACKGROUND

The current pandemic crisis has been a strong reminder of how much inequalities are still deeply embedded in our global system. COVID-19 made clear that we are not all equally equipped to ensure our own safety and protection, and for those who are already suffering from other crises - famine and droughts, the harsh consequences of climate change, discrimination, conflict and wars - the stake is even higher.

In order to raise awareness on the importance of international solidarity and to contribute to a reflection that could provide answers, the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe – the North-South Centre – launched the public campaign [“One World, Our World: #SolidAction”](#) in April 2020.

#SolidAction is a global call for collective mobilisation for solidarity to fight against inequalities. The campaign aims to showcase solidarity initiatives around the world and to mobilise people to join a global debate, create a common platform on solidarity and to collectively build a roadmap to place solidarity at the core of global governance.

Concluding at the Lisbon Forum 2020, the campaign is bringing together different stakeholders to take a deeper look into solidarity in a context of globalisation and the conditions required for its development and sustainability, with the aim to reflect together about the necessary compromises to ensure a sustainable future for all.



Central to the #SolidAction campaign is the understanding that one powerful way to ensure international solidarity is to develop resilient and critical societies of self-motivated and well-informed citizens; reason why this second series' webinar will merge with another flagship initiative of the North-South Centre: the [Global Education Week](#). The webinar will be one of the multitude of activities that the North-South Centre and the [Global Education Network](#) promote from the 16 to the 22 of November to valorise global education and global citizenship education.

2. OBJECTIVES

The webinar will look into different vectors through which social movements for equality and environment protection are expressing themselves today, with particular attention to the role of global education, media and culture as amplifiers of the voices for international solidarity in the world.

The aim is to open a discussion about different vectors enhancing solidarity, from its local to global aspect.

- To raise awareness about the importance of international solidarity as a matter of long-term vision to provide solutions for current and future crisis.
- To mobilise people worldwide from all sectors to join a global debate and create a common platform on solidarity that considers the diversity of realities, needs and perspectives.
- To exchange good practices, inspiring examples and very practical gestures of solidarity.
- To collect ideas and proposals to feed the annual [Lisbon Forum](#) - tipping point of the #SolidAction campaign - to collectively build a roadmap to place solidarity at the core of global governance

3. FORMAT

The webinar will be an informal discussion, gathering the insights of three experts that will share live their responses to the following questions:

Guiding questions:

1. From local to global: the expression/impact of international solidarity
2. How can we strengthen and better support movements of citizens' global solidarity amidst populist, xenophobic and hate speech?
3. How can global citizenship education foster international solidarity?

4. DRAFT PROGRAMME

A moderated panel discussion accompanied by Q&A from the public with the following structure:

- Kick off by the moderator - 1'
- Introduction/contextualization #SolidAction and Global Education Week - 5'
- Round of presentations for the three speakers - 10'
- Open debate including some questions from the audience - 50'
- Closing of the session - 4'

Estimated time in total: 1h30

Moderator:

Ms Catherine Burton, Council of Europe Directorate of Communication

5. TARGETED PARTICIPANTS

The webinar aims at engaging a wide diversity of stakeholders around the world:

- **Decision Makers:** including but not limited to government representatives, as well as representatives of international organisations
- **Civil Society Organisations & Informal Groups/Movements** to help discover and unveil actions of solidarity as well as connecting the discussion with the grassroots
- **General Public:** seeking the active engagement of a wider audience and the active support of committed citizens.