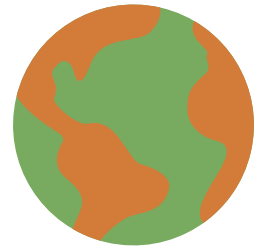




A UNESCO ONLINE FORUM



IMAGINING

THE WORLD



TO COME



GOVERNANCE & SOLIDARITY: COVID-19 & BEYOND

FROM MAY 2020

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UNESCO is calling on inspiring voices from across the globe to take part in a series of online discussions to help us imagine the world taking shape as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

The series will kick off in May with a unique event featuring leading women experts and thinkers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has, in a matter of months, transformed the daily lives of billions around the world. Aside from causing the tragic deaths of hundreds of thousands so far, it has confined more than half the planet to their homes for the foreseeable future. Almost 1.5 billion students are affected by school closures.

To help fight the pandemic, UNESCO quickly took action to promote international scientific cooperation and support the sharing of research. It is working with partners to ensure that all students can continue their education, that professional journalism, reliable information, tolerance and respect for human rights triumph over rumours, falsehoods and hatred, and that cultural life can continue online despite the confinement.

And yet life may never be the same again.

Out of crises and disasters can often come great societal change. UNESCO itself was built, along with the entire United Nations system, on the bloody ruins of World War II, to promote international dialogue and peace, and to prevent the world from once again heading down the road of tyranny.

Today, in the face of what some are calling the gravest global crisis since that terrible conflict more than seven decades ago, UNESCO will lead the world in reflecting on what the future should look like. Through a series of online discussions and interviews, held with its media partners across the globe, the initiative will encourage a frank and honest debate on questions such as:

- *Will our new online lives translate into long-term change?*
- *How will we interact with each other?*
- *How will we work, learn and inform ourselves about the world?*
- *How will those on the other side of the digital divide be included?*
- *What will be the impact on human rights, inclusion and the values we hold dear? What values do we need to take into the new world?*
- *How can we better anticipate and manage risks, particularly those that society itself produces?*
- *What will be the role of multilateralism, at a time when climate change, wealth inequality and technological transformations were already testing the resilience of democracy and international cooperation?*

The first discussion in this series will focus on women experts and thinkers, bringing much needed diversity to a conversation that has, in many places, been dominated by men.

As with every major test that humanity faces, this crisis can either bring out our best selves or our worst instincts. The world that emerges in the future will largely depend on the decisions we make today.



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