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Newsroom

World NGO Day: [Statement](#) by Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs



STRASBOURG | 27 FEBRUARY 2020



February 27 is an important day for civil society. We mark World NGO Day during which we celebrate the various NGOs around the world, the people behind them, and the valuable contribution that they make to society.

During the third Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw, Member States committed themselves to preserving democracy and good governance at all levels, through the active involvement of citizens and civil society. However, genuine civil participation requires an enabling environment for NGOs and trust in democratic institutions. A strong mobilization of citizens and civil society across Europe shows that the world is going through an existential crises that needs the mobilization of all at the local and global level. New citizen movements are created to push forward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, defend climate and social justice, their values and their rights. NGOs must be appreciated and valued as an incubator of democratic innovation and as a transformative power. World NGO day serves all of us to reflect and take a good resolution for the future. Let's engage, let's connect to each other to build solidarity across the world, to stop polarization and to build a cohesive society and a cohesive Europe.

Anna Rurka

President of the Conference of INGOs

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To mark World NGO Day, the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe is holding a seminar "[From the Past to the Future: A Living Civic Space for a Living Democracy](#)" on 28 February 2020. The event, which will be [livestreamed on our webpage](#), will bring together official representatives of national and international public institutions, leaders of civic movements and NGOs that have marked citizen mobilization across Europe.

Join us & our panelists for a passionate discussion on activism, civil society & democracy.

Follow the discussion on Twitter: [@CoE_GoodGov](#) [@CoE_NGO](#)

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When: 28 February 2020 from 10.00am to 5.00pm

Where: [Watch LIVE ONLINE](#)

Language of the seminar: **English only** (No interpretation)

[Concept Note](#)

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