

# Together First Activist Summit: The Details

## What is Together First?

Our global system is at breaking point. Many people think it does not work for them. The proceeds of endless reform cycles have fallen far short of the fundamental changes we need.

Together First is a rapidly growing network of global citizens, civil society organisations, practitioners, parliamentarians, business leaders and activists from all regions of the world committed to **fair, open and inclusive solutions to improve global governance**. UNA-UK provides the secretariat for Together First.

A major part of Together First is giving civil society a bigger voice at the global decision-making table. The Together First Activist Summit will provide a platform for UNA-UK members to share their solutions to improve global governance and strengthen global coordination on issues like climate change, emerging tech, weapons proliferation and pandemics.

The ideas put forward by members at the Together First Activist Summit will help us to identify feasible changes that can be made to our global system to improve our ability to manage global catastrophes, as well as creating a resilient, capable and “on alert” multilateral system of global governance institutions able and willing to act promptly and effectively.

## Why now?

Initially we are seeking proposals which can be fed into the process UN Member States have established for the UN’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, centred on a global conversation called “the world we want, the UN we need.” This provides a historic opportunity to take stock of our current global system – and demand action to improve it. Together First’s objective is to ensure we make the most of this historic moment.

Our efforts will be closely coordinated with the UN’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary initiative, which will stimulate dialogues around the world on the future we need, and the UN2020 civil society coalition lobbying for meaningful public engagement with the leaders’ summit.

## What does global governance mean?

In brief, global governance is the way in which global problems are managed by international institutions such as the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies. The aim of Together First is to reform global governance and improve the way global institutions address global catastrophic risks.

## What are global catastrophic risks?

Global catastrophic risks are the main global problems and risks that threaten the future survival of humanity. The Together First process considers all possible risks. In the interests of having a clear and focused discussion at the Activist Summit we are asking you to submit your proposal on **only one** of the following issues which has been identified as major global catastrophic risks by Together First:

- Climate change and eco-system collapse
- Pandemics and anti-microbial resistance
- Weapons of mass destruction
- The threat of new and emerging technology
- Unknown risks

In addition, the Together First Campaign looks at the issue of “risk multipliers”, these are issues which, while they may not themselves constitute catastrophic risks, do have a significant effect on our system’s ability to manage risks. Given its clear relevance to all our risk multipliers we will also accept submissions on the subject of:

- Disregard of equality and human rights

### **What is the purpose of the proposal?**

Your proposals will explore ideas to improve the way our global systems respond to and decrease the global catastrophic risks outlined above. The proposal can be a new idea for improving our global system or, better still, an approach to turning an existing an idea into reality.

Please submit **only one proposal before the conference** so that we can connect you with like-minded individuals on the day.

### **What is the difference between a submission for the Together First Activist Summit and the 'call for ideas' on the Together First website?**

A submission for the Together First Activist Summit offers a unique opportunity for only UNA-UK members and supporters to submit their ideas for global governance reform and discuss them in person with a community of like-minded individuals. It is a simplified version of the full Together First 'call for ideas' form which is part of a separate consultation process, open to all members of the public civil society. The Activists Summit therefore provides the opportunity for a deeper engagement with the subject.

Feel free to submit a proposal to both the Together First Activist Summit and the Together First consultation process, but please note that only proposals submitted to the Together First Activist Summit form will be discussed on the day. The outcomes of the Activists Summit will be fed in to the consultation process, and so your ideas will have the same final destination whichever route you choose, but the journey they take to get there may strengthen them and increase the likelihood of them leading to further campaigning actions.

### **Can I submit a resolution as my proposal?**

We are looking for solutions rather than resolutions. The humanitarian and political landscape is constantly evolving and we are looking for new approaches to influence the decision-making process and therefore make the greatest impact on world leaders.

## **The form**

Please note that there is no ability to save your form while in progress, so you may wish to familiarise yourself with the questions we ask, and then work on your answers offline before submitting a finalised version.

You can find the form [here](#).

### ***Full Name***

Please enter your name so we know which proposal you have submitted.

### ***Name of affiliated local UNA***

If you actively participate in a local UNA or university society affiliated with UNA-UK, please enter its name. If you are not affiliated with one, please put N/A.

### ***Email address***

Please enter the email address you wish to be contacted on regarding the Together First Activist Summit.

### ***Are you attending the Together First Activist Summit?***

If you have booked your place, or are intending to book a place through Eventbrite onto the Summit, please let us know. If you are unable to join us, you can still submit a proposal.

### ***Which global catastrophic risk would this proposal help to mitigate?***

Please choose the global catastrophic risk you are submitting your proposal on. You can only choose and submit a proposal on **one** of these options. This will also indicate which group you will be working with at the Together First Activist Summit.

### ***Please give a title to your proposal.***

Please briefly describe your proposal in 12 words.

### ***Describe your global governance proposal and how this proposal will mitigate your chosen global catastrophic risk?***

Here's your free space to further describe your proposal in detail in max 500 words. We look forward to hearing how your proposal will help create a more resilient global system which is willing to act promptly and effectively to your chosen global catastrophic risk.

## **On the day**

The Together First Activist Summit will give you the opportunity to discuss your proposals with like-minded individuals and UNA-UK staff. We'll be looking at which risks and risk multipliers your proposal seeks to address, and in what timeframe you feel your proposal can be implemented. The Summit will also provide the opportunity for you to discuss and debate which proposals are most relevant and could be taken forward to world leaders. Lunch will be provided.

### **Where is the conference taking place?**

The conference will be taking place at NCVO Headquarters, Society Building, 8 All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL.

**By train:** The offices are located just eight minutes' walk from King's Cross, St Pancras and Eurostar stations.

**By tube:** King's Cross St Pancras is the nearest station, and has access to the Victoria, Northern, Piccadilly, Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith and City lines.

**By bus:** The 17, 91 and 259 bus routes pass by NCVO. The 390 bus route passes down York Way, a short walk from NCVO.

Please find a map [here](#) and further [directions](#).

### **When is the conference taking place?**

It will take place between 9.30am and 4.30pm on Saturday 2 November.

### **How do I get tickets?**

Tickets are available via Eventbrite – [please secure your place here](#). If you are a member, discounted tickets are available, contact [events@una.org.uk](mailto:events@una.org.uk) for the promotional code.

## **Extra reading and resources**

- Want to learn more about Together First? Check out the website > <https://together1st.org/>
- Read the Together First commissioned report > [How to save the world: Ten lessons from the history of global governance reform](#)
- [A non-exhaustive online reference list of previous global governance reform recommendations](#)

If you have any questions, please contact [events@una.org.uk](mailto:events@una.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you in November!