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Upholding the values and principles of the Charter

818 - APR 2022

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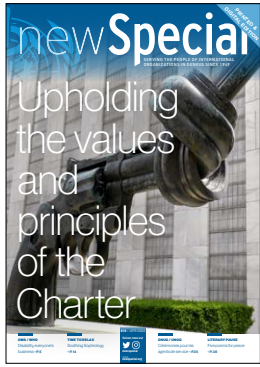
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Upholding the values and principles of the Charter

No matter which organization you work with in Geneva, the recent events are affecting us all.

In this issue, we brought you a wide range of articles that underline the interconnectedness of our world. From the recent refugee crisis in Europe, to reflections on aggression and its permissibility, to the impact on human life that wars and conflicts bring, all are critically discussed in this issue. Several articles bring stories of the aftermath of indiscriminate attacks that caused serious injuries to populations and health workers and destroyed vital health infrastructure in recent conflicts. I am sure you will find an article or two in this issue that will be of interest to you!

Our global geopolitical system has been put to the test. We must stand by the values and principles of the UN Charter and uphold them dearly – human rights and international humanitarian law must be respected. There is no alternative if we want to live in a prosperous world fit for our children. ■

Maintenir les valeurs et les principes de la Charte

Quelle que soit l'organisation pour laquelle vous travaillez à Genève, les événements récents nous affectent tous.

Dans ce numéro, nous vous apportons un large éventail d'articles qui soulignent l'interdépendance de notre monde. Depuis la crise récente des réfugiés en Europe, aux réflexions sur l'agression et sa légalité, à l'impact sur la vie humaine que les guerres et les conflits génèrent, tous sont présentés de manière critique dans ce numéro. Plusieurs articles évoquent les conséquences des attaques sans discriminations qui ont causé de graves blessures aux populations et aux agents de la santé et qui ont détruit des infrastructures sanitaires vitales lors des conflits récents. Je suis sûr que vous trouverez un article ou deux qui vous intéresseront!

Notre système géopolitique mondial a été mis à l'épreuve. Nous devons soutenir les valeurs et les principes de la Charte des Nations Unies et les maintenir fermement – les droits de l'homme et le droit humanitaire international doivent être respectés. Il n'y a pas d'alternative si nous voulons vivre dans un monde prospère digne pour nos enfants. ■

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Making disability everyone's business at WHO

ALARCOS CIEZA, WHO*

During a lengthy presentation in a recent virtual meeting with several colleagues from WHO, one of the participants raised his hand and politely said: "All I am hearing over and over again is: 'As you can see on this slide' and 'Look at this', but... I'm almost blind. I can't see these slides!"

There was an embarrassed silence, and the meeting came to a halt. How could we have missed the obvious? All we had to do was describe the slides while we presented. Ironically, the meeting was to discuss an organizational scorecard to assess WHO's performance on integrating gender, equity, human rights and disability.

For many at the meeting, who had always assumed that disability had nothing to do with their work, this was an eye-opener. We made a simple change in business practice then. The speaker started to present in a more visual way. Not only was everyone included, but

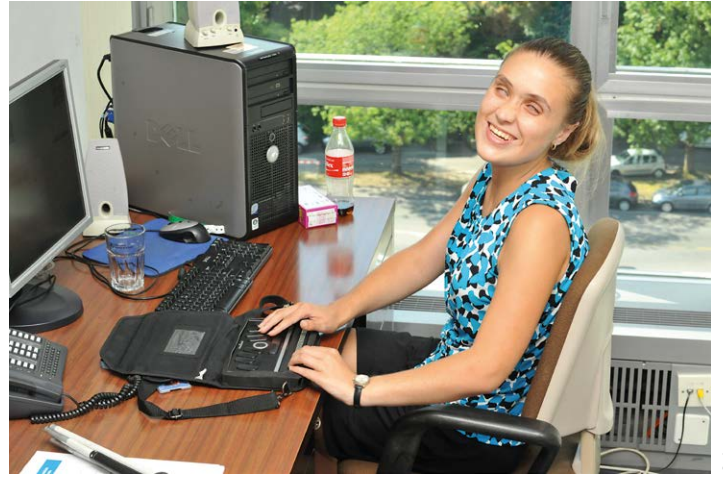
we all benefited – the presentation became more enjoyable and clearer!

What occurred that day constantly happens at WHO meetings and other UN agencies meetings around the world, as well as in all kinds of other circumstances. Disability is an afterthought.

Taking an active mode for inclusion

Previously, there was no systematic process to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities. If people thought about it, things happened. But most of the time, things didn't happen. That's why we need to have a consistent and systematic approach for disability inclusion. We need to go from an afterthought to a "pre-thought". If we move from a reactive mode to an active mode, everyone benefits.

For example, WHO's daily situation report of COVID-19 was only made accessible three months after WHO had started



producing them. This was again an afterthought. Documents such as (Microsoft) Word, PDF, and PowerPoint can be easily formatted in a way that is used by a screen reader, a software commonly used by people with severe vision impairment. Documents that are accessible are clearer and better, so this benefits everyone at the end of the day.

What does inclusion look like at WHO?

In just two years, WHO has made important changes in its business operations that are helping make the organization more representative and more effective. These include, for example:

1. The new completely accessible WHO Headquarters building – this involved extensive consultation with persons with disabilities and other experts.
2. The newly revised WHO Policy on Employment of Persons with Disabilities¹ – to have a diverse and skilled workforce that includes persons with disabilities.

3. The new WHO Output Scorecard – to measure WHO’s contributions towards health outcomes and impacts – in which gender, equity, human rights and disability were integrated in an impactful manner. The Scorecard is a game-changer. Every team and every department at WHO must now report how they promote WHO as a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities in their work.

Taking disability out of the shadows

We have a vision at WHO: to take disability out of the shadows and make it everyone’s business. This means ensuring that people with disability, in all their diversity, are meaningfully included, and disability is fully integrated across all our program areas of work of WHO.

WHO accelerated activities to fulfil this vision in response to the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2019.

WHO demonstrated its commitment to UNDIS in 2020 with the first-ever WHO Policy on Disability² and its accompanying Action Plan, which sets clear milestones for the implementation of the policy and the UNDIS.

A WHO staff disability network, “The Affinity Group on Disability”, meets once a month and advocates for the carrying out of the UNDIS within WHO, as well as sensitizing WHO’s workforce about disability issues. The Group includes persons with disabilities and people interested in disability inclusion, and colleagues from countries, regions, and headquarters. People share experiences and knowledge that are then put into practice. One participant recently suggested that our framework for cybersecurity could be used to make our IT systems more disability-inclusive. IT and cybersecurity are now working together with disability inclusion in mind.

In our disease program or implementation areas, we are looking at how to make our programmes more inclusive. We are talking about 1 billion people globally. If we don’t consider them, our guidelines and interventions are not relevant to a significant part of the population. Now, there are guidelines on physical activity, housing, and COVID-19 with specific considerations for persons with disabilities.

Government commitments to disability inclusion

In 2021, the World Health Assembly adopted a landmark resolution³ that aims to make the health sector more inclusive by addressing the barriers that persons with disabilities face.

Among the actions to be taken by the WHO Secretariat, one resolution is to develop a report on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities by the end of 2022. This report will clarify how the work of WHO departments can reach persons with disabilities, and will also outline concrete actions for Ministries of Health.

A culmination of the global momentum gained in disability awareness was the 2022 Global Disability Summit.⁵

Significantly, health was high on the agenda at the Summit. There was a recognition that the health sector needs to be far more disability-inclusive to address long-standing barriers and health inequalities and reach persons with disabilities. The Summit also discussed how tackling barriers and implementing disability inclusion in the health sector need not be complex or expensive.

For example, one person at the Summit described how, when asked to provide a urine sample

Four ways to improve disability inclusion at virtual meetings

1. Put your camera on when you speak – so people with hearing impairments can read your lips
 2. Make sure you use live captioning when you speak on MS Teams
 3. Make sure a document is formatted so it is accessible and can be followed by a screen reader
 4. Always think of everyone’s needs when you organize a meeting
-

at a health facility, he had to return home to do it, because there was no accessible toilet in the building. The point is, persons with disabilities have needs just like anyone else, however, they experience barriers when accessing health services. We need to address that in the health sector. It was encouraging that at the Global Disability Summit, more than 50 governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholder groups made concrete commitments on disability inclusion in the health sector.

The impact of COVID-19 on people with disability

The COVID-19 pandemic affected people with disabilities disproportionately, both in health impact and access to public health responses.

We discovered that people with disabilities had a four-five times

higher risk of getting infected⁶ and represented six out of ten Covid-19 deaths in some countries, such as the United Kingdom. We found those with intellectual disabilities were eight times more likely to die from COVID-19. These figures were largely due to the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from accessing and benefiting from health services. These barriers relate to the physical environment, attitudes of health workers, financial costs, and methods of communication, among others.

COVID-19 also had other impacts on persons with disabilities, such as their isolation. The wearing of masks jeopardised communication for people who need to lip read.

Yet Covid-19 also made way for significant WHO work to support countries and protect people with

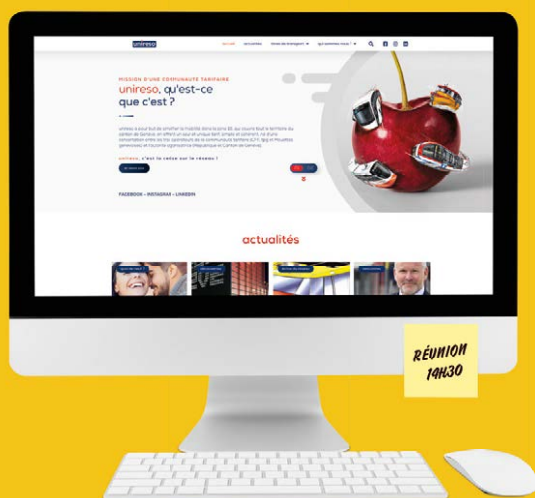
disabilities. It led to a renewed focus on disability and the publication of several policy briefs and recommendations with disability considerations.

Operationally, WHO is taking dramatic steps in implementing, meeting and, in some cases, exceeding the requirements in six of the 16 indicators in the UNDIS Accountability Framework. Despite our progress, we know we have a long way to go. We will continue to follow our vision to be a leader in disability inclusion. Within the organization and across programmatic areas, disability is WHO's business, because ultimately, disability is everyone's business. ■

- 1 https://www.who.int/disabilities/policies/documents/who_policy_disability.pdf
- 2 <https://www.who.int/publications/item/9789240020627>
- 3 <https://www.who.int/news/item/27-05-2021-a-new-landmark-resolution-on-disability-adopted-at-the-74th-world-health-assembly>
- 4 <https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/>
- 5 Kamalakannan S, Bhattacharjya S, Bogdanova Y, Papadimitriou C, Arango-Lasprilla JC, Bentley J, et al. Health risks and consequences of a COVID-19 infection for people with disabilities: Scoping review and descriptive thematic analysis. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2021;18(8).
- 6 Williamson EJ, McDonald HI, Bhaskaran K, Walker AJ, Bacon S, Davy S, et al. Risks of COVID-19 hospital admission and death for people with learning disability: population based cohort study using the OpenSAFELY platform. *BMJ*. 2021;374:n1592.

* Alarcos Cieza is Unit Head, Sensory Functions, Disability And Rehabilitation at the Department for Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO

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Ukraine refugee crisis: Grassroot initiatives step in



David Moret welcomes Ukrainian refugees to his home

MARINE VON KOENIG

49-year-old Irina, dark rings under her eyes, stepped out onto a draughty train platform in Gare Cornavin. She hunched her shoulders and pulled up the collar of her winter jacket, wrapping it around her neck. “My photography studio back in Kyiv—” she said to a young volunteer who handed her a mug with hot coffee. “I need to pay electricity bills.”

“We often see it,” he said later, “people arriving from Ukraine, who still haven’t processed that their normal life has been disrupted. All we can do is show that we care, give them immediate support before they are ready to deal with all the formal procedures of settling in.”

In an unprecedented and fast response to the onset of the Ukraine crisis, the Swiss have activated the so-called *Permit S*, for the first time since its inception back in 1999. Valid for a year with a possibility of extension, it guarantees medical care, financial assistance, housing and schooling, registrations being processed in as little as 30 minutes.

But three weeks have passed since the beginning of the war, and federal centers for asylum seekers are overwhelmed. Some 5,000 refugees had been registered during this period, the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration reported on March 15th.

At the time of writing, 3 million refugees have fled Ukraine, according to the UNHCR operational data portal. And up to 60,000 could seek protection in Switzerland, estimates Swiss Minister of Justice Karin Keller-Sutter.

“With such numbers, the state will have to rely on grassroots efforts, especially in bridging the gap between the arrival and the registration at the asylum centres,” says David Moret, a Swiss space engineer who co-founded the NGO “United For U” (U4U) – with Ukrainian, Swiss and Russian activists – the day after the conflict broke out.

“Look at the situation from the refugee perspective,” he explains. “They arrive with no idea where to go, what to do next, or what’s the process in general. Many of them speak only Ukrainian or Russian.”

Grassroot initiatives are the first point of contact for the people arriving from Ukraine. Volunteers welcome them at railway stations and airports, find solutions for critical needs, match them with host families providing temporary housing, and serve as points of contact.

Many of these initiatives were born in the first days of the conflict. Local groups formed on social media platforms, mobilising people of different nationalities and backgrounds to help people in Ukraine get to safety.

“I remember my mom called me from Ukraine in the early hours of February 24th,” recalls Darya von Bergen, a Zurich-based Ukrainian blogger and one of

the founders of the Swiss Help Ukraine (SHU). “It started, she told me.”

Darya holds her breath as if reliving the news and the frantic attempts to contact her brother in Mariupol, a port on the strip of Azov Sea coast that connects Donetsk and the Crimea peninsula.

“I felt so lonely and helpless.” Darya pauses. “So I reached out to my friends on social networks, and soon after, SHU was born.” In two weeks, the group grew from two members to one hundred and seventy and is now one of the biggest grassroots initiatives in Switzerland.

There is no lack of volunteers. Local social media groups in Switzerland and neighbouring France are brimming with offers to help, donate, or host a family. Yet it all requires a full-time coordination effort from teams behind those initiatives.

“Someone has to establish contact with refugees before their arrival,” explains David. “Then there is a host and refugee matching. Or monitoring Ukraine-related conversations in social media groups – making sure that information concerning Switzerland shared there is verified and up-to-date. We are overstretched.”

As the other members of the U4U core team, David is firefighting on all fronts. He manages the complex databases of refugees, volunteers and hosts, does “matching”, often using Google Translate to communicate with Ukrainian refugees, buys essential goods and

medication, transports people to their destinations, and provides critical support to hosts and their Ukrainian guests. He opened his own home to refugees.

The U4U team soon discovered that those who have found safety in Switzerland are now keen to volunteer themselves. Its cadre of over 300 volunteers is now expanding thanks to the refugees themselves.

In only two weeks, U4U has helped, with limited resources, over 300 refugee families and has found hosts for 400 out of 900 people expected to arrive in Switzerland in the coming days.

“More resources are needed,” says Yulia, another co-founder of U4U. “And then there is the issue of safety. With such an overwhelming wave of uncoordinated support, it is difficult to contain potential risks for the

most vulnerable refugee groups. We’ve already heard of cases of missing children or women who fall prey to sexual predators and human trafficking rings.”

As Switzerland braces for thousands of new arrivals from Ukraine, all hands will be needed on deck. It is important for grassroots initiatives to coordinate efforts with established relief organisations, such as the Swiss Red Cross or the Swiss Refugee Council. “We’ve already reached out to some of these institutions,” Yulia said. “This will ensure safety of the refugees, prevent duplication of aid efforts, and allow for the exchange of best practices.” ■

SOURCES

- <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>
- <https://twitter.com/SEMIGRATION/status/1503678709588451328>
- https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/switzerland-s-s-permit-for-refugees-from-ukraine/47,434,568?utm_campaign=teaser-in-querylist&utm_content=o&utm_medium=display&utm_source=swissinfoch

Support these grassroots initiatives in Switzerland

GENEVA

Geneva branch of the ukrainian society of switzerland (sus geneva)
 Non-profit organisation
 Primary purpose: Uniting Ukrainians arriving to the canton Geneva and providing humanitarian aid to those affected by the conflict.
 Contact: Inna Akhtyrska
<https://ukrainian-diaspora-geneva.ch/en/>

UNITED FOR U (U4U)

United for U (U4U) is a Geneva-based NGO, offering help to people in emergencies, including refugees.
 Key activities: Crowd Caring: Direct volunteer-to-refugee aid, coordinated through an innovative online platform, matching requests for assistance with offers for help
 Guardian Volunteers: End-to-end guidance and support of refugees in the host country
 Crowd Funding: Direct volunteer-to-cause aid, collected through a non-profit platform
 Contact: David Moret, Co-founder and General Secretary
www.unitedforu.org
info@unitedforu.org
 FB:@crowdcaring

ZURICH

Swiss Help Ukraine (SHU)
 Grassroot initiative with 170 international members based primarily in Zurich
 Key activities: Organising humanitarian aid – Providing transportation for evacuees – Setting up teams to manage ad-hoc tasks – Assisting Swiss-based Ukrainians in helping their loved ones in Ukraine
 Founders: Darya von Bergen, Karin Inchen
 Contact: contact.swisshelpukraine@gmail.com
https://www.instagram.com/swiss_help_ukraine/

BERN

Swiss Ukraine Network (SUN)
 A collective of Ukrainian and Swiss people from different cities and backgrounds.
 Key activities: Building a volunteer base – Running local donation points
 Compiling and sharing key information for the Swiss and Ukrainian communities – Raising awareness about safety issues (scamming, human trafficking, potential legal pitfalls of well-meaning but uncoordinated help efforts) – Networking and collaboration
 Contact: <https://swiss-ukraine-network-notion.site>

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Do not rush, take care

Precedents of permissibility

ALFRED DE ZAYAS, UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

It can be affirmed without fear of contradiction that Russia's aggression against Ukraine entails a grave violation of the *jus cogens* rule stipulated in article 2, paragraph 4, of the UN Charter – the prohibition of the use of force absent any approval of the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter.

Admittedly, Russia has invoked article 51 of the Charter, which recognizes the right of self-defence until the Security Council is seized of the matter. However, this provision only operates when there has been a prior military attack endangering the survival of the state and requiring immediate emergency action. This is not the case in the current conflict.

Some legal experts have evoked the idea of pre-emptive self-defence, a concept, however, that does not exist in international law. There is as little justification for pre-emptive self-defence here as there was none in 2003 when George W. Bush and the “coalition of the willing” invoked it to justify a war of aggression against Iraq. Some observers have suggested a justification based on the concept of vital interests of the state,

which Israel invokes from time to time in an attempt to justify its use of military force against Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians and others. Only apologists would accept these arguments that lack any merit in international law – or natural law.

Our priority today must be to work for an immediate cease fire, followed by urgent humanitarian assistance and an international conference that would attempt to reach a compromise that would be conducive to durable peace in the region. A compromise means that there must be give and take. The Cuban missile crisis of 1962 was resolved through a pragmatic *quid pro quo*, whereby the Soviets pulled their missiles out of Cuba, and the United States removed its missiles from Turkey. Because international peace and security are our goals, we must reject the temptation to insist on our “perceived” rights. We should be reminded of William Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, in which the money-lender Shylock definitely had a right to restitution, but not in the form of a “pound of flesh” from the bankrupt merchant Antonio. Here too, intransigence is incompatible with *Realpolitik* – and common sense. Indeed, there are things that one can demand, and things

that will not be given. Thus, good faith negotiation is the key. It cannot be “winner takes all”.

Root-causes of the conflict

In March and June 1994 I monitored the parliamentary and presidential elections in Ukraine as UN observer, criss-crossed the country and observed elections e.g. in Crimea. As I speak Russian, which is very close to Ukrainian, I had the opportunity of speaking with officials, professors and average people. It was clear to me that the Russian-Ukrainians had their own identity. In subsequent years, as Chief of the Petitions Section at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, I followed-up on my earlier experiences in Ukraine and considered all pertinent information received. As UN Independent Expert on International Order, I also looked into the issue of the self-determination of the Russians from Crimea and Donbass.

Whoever says war, says propaganda, and the level of fake news and false narratives concerning the conflict renders it difficult to address the issues in a realistic manner. I do not mean *Realpolitik*, balance of power, or Machiavellism – I

simply mean evidence-based, rational argumentation, solidly anchored in a comprehensive evaluation of all pertinent factors, including the pre-history of the conflict, breaches of oral agreements, mutual perceptions of bad faith, the interference in the internal affairs of states, the instrumentalization and foreign financing of non-governmental organizations as trojan horses to destabilize governments, the unconstitutional *coup d'état* against the democratically elected President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, the denial of the right of internal self-determination to ethnic Russians and Russian-mother-tongue Ukrainians, the counterproductive russophobic legislation of the Ukrainian Parliament, the violence practised against the Donbas Russians, the flouting of the agreements of Minsk 1 and Minsk 2, the constant provocations and threats in violation of article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits not only the use of force, but also the threat thereof, and incitement to racial hatred in contravention of article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Notwithstanding the bogus narratives we read in the corporate press, this conflict did not emerge



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out of the blue, did not start on 24 February 2022, but was the result of cumulative errors and abuses and of an atmosphere of deception, hostility and “hate speech”.

The current political constellation and the toxic atmosphere against anything Russian constitute major obstacles to constructive solutions. As pre-conditions to any successful negotiation one would expect the capacity of all parties to take a certain distance, demonstrate a measure of mutual respect and an honest effort to approach the conflict from different perspectives. If one side pretends that it has a monopoly of the truth and superior moral authority, this augurs badly for any solution.

Groupthink jumps to the eye when one observes the way in which the mainstream media reports on the conflict and the almost total absence of balance, the invisibility of the arguments of the other side, which have been formulated over the years and have been ignored by Western politicians and journalists. Only a few academics like Professors John Mearsheimer, Francis Boyle, Dan Kovalik, Noam Chomsky, only certain diplomats like Jack Matlock and George F. Kennan seem to have understood what was at issue: the right of every country to a measure of national security and the necessity to build a durable European – and world – security architecture.

The two proposals put forward by Russia in December 2021 would have deserved serious consideration and general debate – instead of being arrogantly put aside by the US and NATO. The rejection of these proposals and the refusal of Ukraine to implement the Minsk Agreements of 2014 and 2015 led directly to today’s tragedy.

An objective third party should have no difficulty in trying to see Russia’s concerns and would not simply perfunctorily repeat State Department and Pentagon narratives. There is no doubt that assurances were given to Soviet leaders that NATO would not expand eastward. In fact, there is no reason for the existence of NATO, following the

dismantlement of the Warsaw Pact in 1991.

Many observers have already acknowledged that judging by NATO’s post-Cold War practices, it can hardly be considered a “defensive alliance”. On the contrary. NATO itself and NATO members have for decades engaged in bullying and threatening other countries. NATO countries have committed the crime of aggression, as well as war crimes and crimes against humanity in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, and Syria – in total impunity. Would this bring NATO within the meaning of article 9 of the Nuremberg Statute concerning “criminal organizations”?

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Impunity for the powerful?

One of the major problems with international law is that there is no effective enforcement mechanism. Serial violations of the UN Charter have resulted in a loss of authority and credibility – and the emergence of what may be termed “precedents of permissibility”. Here is a non-exhaustive list of egregious violations of the UN Charter by many countries without any accountability, and with the unfortunate complicity of the corporate media, which downplayed the gravity of the crimes, white-washed the perpetrators, and suppressed the views of critics. Among them:

The US wars against the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, causing an estimated 4 million deaths, the destruction of the environment with chemical weapons including agent orange and white phosphorous, the Huế and My Lai massacres;

US aggressions and regime-change adventures against Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela, the “extraordinary rendition” program, systematic torture and indefinite detention in Guantanamo Naval Base, condemned *inter alia* by the UN Rapporteur on terrorism Ben Emmerson, QC;

The invasion of Iraq by the “coalition of the willing” in 2003 the bombardment of civilian population centres, torture centres at Abu Ghraib and Mosul, the use of white phosphorus and chemical weapons in Fallujah;

Israel’s multiple aggressions against its Arab neighbours. The occupation and annexation of Palestinian territories, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights. Israel’s continued bombardment of Syria, targeted assassinations, the use of cluster-bombs and other illegal weapons in the war against Lebanon, etc...

Turkey’s invasion and bombardment of Cyprus in 1974, the killing of thousands of Greek-Cypriots and the expulsion of some 200 000 Greek Cypriots from Northern Cyprus to the South, the continued occupation of 37% of the territory of the island, the refusal to implement judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;

Saudi Arabia’s murderous war against the Yemeni people, its illegal blockade and responsibility for the bombardment of schools, the killing of tens of thousands of civilians, and the starving of the population, resulting in the world’s greatest humanitarian crisis;

Azerbaijan’s aggression, together with Turkey and supported by Libyan and Syrian mercenaries in the September 2020 Blitzkrieg against the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, entailing thousands of civilian deaths, the destruction of churches and monasteries and the violation of the right of self determination to the Armenian people.

It is a disgrace that the international community tolerated these crimes of aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity without demanding accountability from the perpetrators. This gave rise to “precedents of permissibility” and gave a bad example to the world, almost an invitation to aggress others *ad libitum*.

Indeed, if NATO countries, Israel, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia and other states commit crimes with impunity, doesn’t this situation constitute an invitation to other states to do likewise? Apparent double-standards in the application of international law and international criminal law undermine the entire system.

That is what Friedrich von Schiller meant in his drama Piccolomini: *Das eben ist der Fluch der bösen*

Tat, dass sie fortzeugend immer Böses muss gebären. In English: That is the curse of an evil deed, because it continues generating further evils.

War does not solve problems – it creates many more. Multiple violations of the prohibition of the use of force by powerful States without Security Council approval cannot and did not change international law nor could it derogate from article 2(4) of the UN Charter. The general principle of law *ex injuria non oritur jus* – “out of a violation of law, no new law can emerge” – prevents the recognition of a purported new norm allowing aggression.

However, such repeated violations engendered “precedents of impunity”, because in reality countries have gotten away and continue getting away with criminal activity, because the UN lacks effective enforcement.

Nuremberg and the ICC

When the Statute of Rome was adopted in July 1998, many hoped that the International Criminal Court would advance transparency and accountability and contribute to a more peaceful world. Over the past twenty years, however, the ICC has failed to establish its authority and credibility. Hitherto it has not proven its potential as a deterrent mechanism, because wars of aggression and war crimes continue being committed and thus far the ICC has only indicted Africans and refused to investigate and prosecute some of the most egregious aggressions and war crimes committed since it started working in 2002.

Today it may be Russia that is in the spotlight, but over the past 20 years we have all witnessed aggressions and war crimes committed by many other countries. Yes, the ICC should investigate war crimes committed in the Ukrainian war, but it must also

investigate and condemn all the prior crimes if it wants to be taken seriously. Double-standards undermine the authority of any tribunal. Indeed, if international law means anything, it means that it must equally apply to all states and that no impunity for any country will be tolerated.

In this context, it is worth recalling that, at the opening of the Nuremberg Trials, United States chief prosecutor Robert Jackson stated:

“We must never forget that the record on which we judge these defendants today is the record on which history will judge us tomorrow... While this law is first applied against German aggressors, the law includes, and if it is to serve a useful purpose it must condemn aggression by any other nations, including those which sit here now in judgment.” (IMT, Nuremberg, *The Trial of the Major War Criminals*, Vol. 2, 21 November 1945, p. 101.)

In this sense the judgment of the tribunal stated “To initiate a war of aggression... is... the supreme international crime differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole” (IMT Vol. 22, p. 427).

Unfortunately for all humanity, the noble words of Robert Jackson and the Judgment of the Tribunal did not result in deterrence of aggressive war, did not educate the world in the ways of peace. Unfortunately, those same countries who sat in judgment over the Nazi war criminals themselves continued pursuing geopolitical agendas, starting wars of convenience and committing egregious war crimes. The lessons of Nuremberg were not learned. ■

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Sophrology

Keeping the negative thoughts at bay

Have you tried headspace, yoga, meditation, all kinds of different techniques and practices, but have never achieved any sense of relaxation? Well, I'm here to introduce you to sophrology. Arguably simpler than most forms of relaxation, sophrology is making an impact on the world.

LISANNE HOPKIN, EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, NEWSPECIAL

Currently, life is quite stressful. There's a whole lot going on that we're not in control of, that we wish we could change, that we're worrying about. All of this can be incredibly overwhelming. I cannot imagine how difficult it must be for some people to focus on work.

However, I don't want to write an article that will make you feel worse. I'd rather write an article that may have a positive impact on how you're feeling, that may help you recentre yourself for just a few minutes. So, I'm going to focus on sophrology.

Sophrology was founded in the 1960s by Professor Alfonso Caycedo.¹ When Professor Caycedo created sophrology, the main form of medicinal 'cure' at the

time was electric therapy. Caycedo knew that there had to be something more natural and humane to help our mental states. Inevitably, sophrology ended up being a mixture of yoga, Buddhist meditation, and Japanese Zen.² It is similar to meditation and yoga in that it focuses on breathing techniques, visualisation, gentle movements, and body awareness. Nevertheless, the ways in which sophrology differs from the two are that it also uses hypnosis and visualisation.³ Sophrology can help deal with anxiety, stress, sleeping problems, negative thinking, and it can improve your mindset.⁴

Sophrology is widely used and recognised in both Switzerland and France. It is offered to students at schools and universities in both countries⁵, it is also practised in hospitals, and can

be used by anyone who believes that sophrology may help them in their lives. Furthermore, sophrology can actually be covered by health insurance companies in Switzerland, as it is believed that those who utilise sophrology may reduce their medication intake by about 30%.⁶

I spoke to Bernadette Germain-Krys, who is a family friend and training to become a sophrologist. She has been taking classes for the last two years and is now working towards her master's. Bernadette usually spends her time focusing on elderly people, at retirement homes, and has even helped her family address their anxiety. She told me that sophrology has become more and more popular ever since it's been around. It is very important in Switzerland, France, Spain, all over Europe, because it can



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Mental health and relaxation go hand in hand.

be used in so many ways and for so many people. Often pregnant women and people who have cancer use it as a way of coping with the pain. It is also used outside of medical environments, which makes it easily accessible, which, in turn, helps build its incredible reputation.

Bernadette told me that there are over 50 different kinds of sophrology practices that can increase confidence, memory, re-energise, and allow you to move mountains.

Sophrology focuses on a positive mindset. The key to sophrology is focusing on and instilling positive thoughts. When you ask your brain to think of good memories, the bad ones slowly start to disappear. You're not cured of your anxiety, or the negative thinking,

you're just allowing your brain to calm down and to refocus. And the more you spend time centring your thoughts on your body, the more your brain also calms down. That's why some of sophrology targets your thoughts around the body and the gentle movements you can do to ease any tension.

Eventually, a lot of sophrologists' clients turn to, and commit to, sophrology because they don't want to take any medication. Having a personal sophrologist can be beneficial, because they can work with you and tailor courses and exercises to what they think might be best for you.

BeSophro is a clinic and online platform created by Dominique Antiglio. She trained with Professor Caycedo and is now bringing sophrology to the attention

of people all around the world.⁷ If you're looking for a place to start, BeSophro is what I recommend. Full of information about sophrology, online exercises and courses, easy to understand, it seems like the best place for beginners, and people who want to find out more.

Sophrology doesn't take more than 20 minutes to do, it can be done anywhere, and you can do and lead the exercises all by yourself. I've even added a couple of exercises you can try, so you can dip your toe into the sophrology pool and see if it's for you. Find somewhere where you can be by yourself for a few minutes. It is a practice that is beneficial if regularly included in your daily routine.

Release tension

Close your eyes and scan your body to see if you are holding on to any tension. Once you've found the tension, focus on letting it go. Tense your entire body by squeezing all of your muscles. On an exhalation, release the tension and focus on it leaving your body as a dark colour, bubble, or cloud.⁸

I have found that releasing negative thoughts in a dark colour can also be quite helpful. And, as a quick and easy way to focus on your breathing, you can also try inhaling a positive colour (mine is pink) and exhaling a negative one (black).

Feeling joy

For this one, think of a time when you felt complete joy. Develop this feeling of happiness by allowing it to run through your whole body. Right to the ends of your toes, nose, and fingers. If your mind wanders, slowly bring yourself back to this feeling of joy.⁹

I hope that, for a moment, you are able to focus on yourself, and feel some sort of weight leaving your body. It is perfectly okay to be feeling overwhelmed, stressed, anxious, upset, angry at all times, particularly now. And I hope that this article may have allowed you to calm your mind down for a few minutes. ■

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Le handicap imprimé en 3D et la fabrication distribuée

Anthony Sedikki et Yann Vodable sont passionnés. Le premier est président de VBPROJECTS, Makernet, le second est professeur d'ingénierie mécanique au lycée Lafayette de Clermont-Ferrand et fabrique des prothèses avec ses élèves. Ils maîtrisent tous deux les nouvelles technologies et notamment les fonctionnalités offertes par l'imprimante 3D.

CHRISTIAN DAVID, ONUG

Anthony, quelle est l'origine de votre démarche?

Nous avons créé une association (visières solidaires), laquelle a été diffusée sur les réseaux sociaux. Elle était destinée à offrir des visières pour les soignants pendant la période covid. Plus d'1200 000 visières ont ainsi été distribuées. Notre démarche a obtenu des distinctions mais a surtout créé une synergie et un modèle économique viable dont les maîtres mots sont: structures en réseaux, circuits courts, intelligence collective. Un véritable élan s'est mis en place dans le monde particulier des utilisateurs d'imprimantes 3 D: les «makers». J'ai rencontré Yann, nous sommes devenus partenaires et surtout amis pour tenter d'initier un élan identique à celui des visières, dans le domaine des prothèses. A la suite de l'épisode visières nous avons mis en place des manufactures de proximité pour produire de façon agile et même créer des ateliers de réinsertion. Ces lieux sont reproductibles sur le territoire avec un modèle économique alliant gouvernance partagée, met en commun des connaissances et réponses à un besoin territorial. Yann.

Le problème du handicap se définit par la singularité de chaque cas qui n'est pas compatible avec

la production de masse. Cette agilité permet de franchir toutes les lenteurs et la lourdeur d'exécution d'un processus industriel classique.

Yann, parlez-nous de cette prothèse de main

La prothèse présentée, construite pour un adulte (prendre une photo avec un modèle blanc), est constituée entièrement de PLA, du plastique de maïs non biodégradable mais biosourcé. En fonction de la destination, il m'arrive d'utiliser des plastiques différents en fonction des besoins de l'adulte. Ce matériau est en effet plus durable. Une main comme celle présentée représente une trentaine d'heures d'impression. Pour modéliser le membre, il existe plusieurs méthodes. Tout d'abord, cela dépend de la pathologie de la personne, s'il manque des doigts, la paume de la main, si la mobilité au niveau du poignet est présente ou pas. Il faut s'adapter et faire au mieux. Ma démarche est constituée essentiellement d'ingénierie, c'est un problème mécanique qu'il faut solutionner, je ne suis pas médecin ni n'ai étudié l'anatomie. L'association E-nable¹ nous met en relation. Nous déterminons le facteur d'échelle pour faire la main, nous imprimons une première fois puis nous modifions si besoin.

Outre ma démarche dans l'association, j'implique mes élèves. Ils grandissent dans une société assez individualiste et le fait d'offrir cette prothèse qu'ils ont réalisée leur permet d'entamer un changement de réflexion et d'attitude très bon pour leur construction personnelle. E-nable reçoit des demandes en France et à l'étranger et met en relation les demandeurs et les makers. Ce savoir-faire peut être dupliqué partout, dans les pays en guerre notamment, le souci est l'approvisionnement en matériaux.

Une main d'enfant a nécessité une vingtaine d'heures d'impression pour un coût de cinq euros.

A ce propos la somme de 5 euros prend en compte le prix scandaleux des bobines que nous payons entre 20 et 100 euros le kilo!

A.: Cette prothèse a été parfaitement élaborée pour être imprimable par quelqu'un qui possède tout de même un minimum de technicité. Outre le prix modique des produits, il faut noter l'énorme capacité d'adaptation au patient. Ces prothèses déjà testées, validées et optimisées sont produites par un écosystème solidaire à

des coûts ridiculement bas par rapport aux prix habituellement pratiqués.

A votre connaissance, existe-t'il d'autres structures comme la vôtre et comment améliorer le fonctionnement?

Hormis E-nable, nous ne connaissons pas d'autres structures. Pour continuer à fonctionner, nous avons besoin d'aide en termes de communication et de partenariats avec des entités nationales voire internationales. A titre d'exemple, si nous identifions le sujet précis des mines anti personnels, nous pouvons référencer et nous trouver en capacité de proposer la distribution. Si nous sommes partenaires, ou simplement référencés, cette indication va motiver davantage tous nos makers. C'est exactement ce qui s'est passé avec les visières solidaires. Nous disposons du savoir-faire, des machines, du matériau. Ce qui manque maintenant, c'est de la communication. L'idée de cette plateforme est de permettre, par un travail communautaire, de fournir une base de données éprouvée, partagée et qui est à la disposition de chaque internaute. Le cahier des charges, validé après étude, prévoira une base modifiable afin que chaque maker puisse adapter la prothèse dont il a la charge, les temps de montage et d'assemblage.



© Yam Votable

chasse gardée. Nous avons cependant noté une ouverture du côté de l'hôpital de Grenoble mais cela reste marginal. Avec l'épisode des visières, nous les avons pourtant approchés et ils ne sont pas contre l'idée. Cependant, il faut reconnaître qu'ils sont submergés de travail, souvent en sous-effectif. Il faut aussi insister sur les économies potentielles que pourraient réaliser les assurances maladie comme la sécurité sociale en France.

Comment imaginez-vous l'avenir de l'impression 3D?

Énormément de produits vont être disponibles. A titre d'exemple, la société Opus technologies développe une machine qui fabrique des fauteuils roulants gyroscopiques et ils nous ont commandé des pièces. Le champ des possibles est énorme et comprend aussi la réparation pour atténuer l'obsolescence programmée. A terme, nous

irons dans un magasin équipé d'imprimantes et nous pourrions commander une pièce qui sera produite sur place. Ce procédé évitera de stocker du matériel et donc le gaspillage résultant des invendus. Si nous ajoutons une filière de recyclage pour les matières premières et notamment le plastique que nous utilisons, nous pouvons mettre en place un cercle économique vertueux.

Pour de telles mises en place, une fois l'implantation effectuée, il faut compter un temps de démarrage qui va très vite provoquer une émulation parmi les makers. A titre d'exemple: l'hôpital X a besoin de cinq visières et de 3 engrenages pour une machine. Il ne sera pas obligé d'en commander des centaines de l'autre côté de la planète et les obtiendra beaucoup plus rapidement en se rendant sur le marketplace et en cliquant sur print.

Nous allons prochainement faire une démonstration de la fabrication distribuée à la banque des territoires à Paris. Les commandes une fois validées seront imprimées sur place. Cela leur montrera l'efficacité des technologies disponibles et leur permettra de se projeter sur un changement de paradigme de la production.

E-Nable est un mouvement mondial regroupant plus de 15 000 bénévoles dont le but est de créer des appareils d'assistance aux handicapés. ■

<https://e-nable.fr/fr/>

A noter que ces protocoles de fabrication «open source» existent déjà pour la fabrication des armes, ce qui est pour le moins paradoxal et agaçant.

Avez-vous des contacts avec le corps médical?

A vrai dire, c'est un peu une



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Préserver le droit à l'éducation

Une bataille qui n'est pas encore gagnée

L'accès à l'école, et plus largement à l'éducation, constitue un droit international, quelle que soit la situation.

ABDELJALIL AKKARI ET
THIBAUT LAUWERIER¹

Au-delà des instruments internationaux qui assurent la protection des enfants durant les conflits, de nombreux acteurs, nationaux et internationaux, aussi bien gouvernementaux que non gouvernementaux, se mobilisent pour préserver le droit à l'éducation. Quels sont leurs rôles? Et celui de la Genève internationale? Comment l'innovation pédagogique permet-elle de surmonter certains obstacles imposés par les réalités du terrain?

L'éducation prise pour cible

À la suite de l'éclatement d'un conflit, les priorités initiales sont la sécurité, l'alimentation et la protection des civils, et en particulier des enfants. Le droit à l'éducation ne doit toutefois pas être oublié. En effet, lorsque l'on demande aux enfants et aux parents vivant dans des situations d'urgence ce dont ils ont le plus besoin, ils répondent à chaque fois qu'ils veulent poursuivre leur éducation. Une récente étude de l'Organisation non gouvernementale (ONG) *Save the Children*² où l'on a demandé aux enfants de classer leurs besoins par ordre de priorité le souligne: plus d'un tiers ont désigné l'éducation comme leur première priorité, et près des trois quarts l'ont classée parmi leurs trois plus grandes priorités.

Les enfants vivant dans les zones

de conflit ont deux fois plus de risques de ne pas être scolarisés que ceux qui vivent en paix. Les conflits creusent les inégalités existantes – aggravant la discrimination à l'égard des filles et des groupes minoritaires, et exacerbant les clivages existants fondés sur le sexe, la classe sociale, l'ethnicité et la religion.

Quels sont ces risques?

Tout d'abord, l'interruption de l'apprentissage. Plusieurs mois ou années de non-scolarisation se traduisent par un risque d'analphabétisme et une incapacité durable pour les jeunes réfugiés de prendre en main leur destin. Ensuite, la non-scolarisation peut constituer une porte d'entrée des enfants dans les groupes armés et leur participation active aux conflits. Nous l'observons par exemple en Afrique de l'Ouest et en Syrie où les groupes extrémistes n'hésitent pas à recruter des enfants et des jeunes. Par ailleurs, les risques pour les jeunes filles sont multiples: mariage ou maternité précoce/non désirée, exploitation sexuelle et violence.

Même si les projecteurs sont actuellement braqués sur la situation dramatique en Ukraine, il est utile de rappeler que cette question de la préservation du droit à l'éducation à la suite de conflits concerne une multitude de contextes sur différents continents, et cela depuis de nombreuses années. L'incidence



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des conflits sur l'éducation est particulièrement élevée dans des pays comme l'Afghanistan, la Syrie, le Yémen, la Palestine, la République Démocratique du Congo ou le Mali.

Une panoplie d'instruments et d'acteurs

Tout d'abord, différents instruments internationaux assurent la protection des enfants durant les conflits. Nous pouvons notamment citer les Conventions de Genève de 1949 et leurs Protocoles additionnels de 1977, ou encore la Convention internationale des droits de l'enfant. Ces instruments prévoient un régime de protection spéciale pour les enfants. Plus spécifiquement, une centaine d'États ont souscrit à la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles³ (*Safe School Declaration*), marquant ainsi leur engagement à prendre des mesures concrètes

pour protéger les élèves, les établissements d'enseignement et les enseignants pendant les conflits armés. Toutefois, nous savons que l'application des différentes déclarations et juridictions est souvent difficile. Le cas de l'Ukraine l'illustre déjà bien.

De nombreux acteurs sont mobilisés pour venir en aide à l'éducation en situation d'urgence et de conflits. En premier lieu, les organisations internationales telles que le Haut Commissariat des Nations unies pour les réfugiés (HCR), le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (CICR), le Fonds des Nations unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) ou l'Organisation des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO). Ces organisations sont à la fois présentes au niveau de la mobilisation des fonds, de la planification de la prise en charge rapide des victimes des conflits, mais

aussi sur le terrain même des conflits par la mise en place de projets éducatifs. En second lieu, nous trouvons les ONGs internationales et nationales qui sont présentes dans les principaux lieux de conflits armés et dans les camps de réfugiés de par le monde. En troisième lieu, nous trouvons les pays d'accueil des réfugiés. Si les pays du Nord arrivent plus ou moins rapidement à prendre en charge les enfants réfugiés dans leurs systèmes scolaires, les pays du Sud, qui accueillent la plupart des enfants réfugiés dans le monde, peinent à dégager des ressources financières et humaines pour la scolarisation des réfugiés: ils sont en général scolarisés dans les camps. En outre, l'attitude des populations locales balance entre solidarité et hostilité envers les réfugiés, dans des contextes où la précarité touche chacun-e.

Genève constitue un lieu central sur le plan international pour la prise en charge de l'éducation en situation d'urgence, notamment avec le lancement en janvier 2021 du *Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies*⁴. Cette nouvelle plateforme internationale réunit différentes institutions de coopération et académiques, dont l'Université de Genève. L'objectif du Hub est d'être un catalyseur des initiatives pour accélérer les progrès vers la réalisation de l'Objectif de développement durable numéro 4⁵ dans les contextes

de crises et de déplacements, et d'aider à réaliser les engagements pris dans le Pacte mondial sur les réfugiés.

L'innovation pédagogique, une piste d'action nécessaire

Ces dernières décennies, de plus en plus d'expériences ont été capitalisées sur la question de l'éducation en situation d'urgence, et les différents acteurs sont plus à même de préserver l'accès à l'éducation dans des contextes de conflit. Par exemple, nous savons mieux comment, à travers l'accès à l'éducation, protéger les enfants et les jeunes de la mort, des blessures et de l'exploitation, et aussi comment atténuer l'impact psychologique durable d'un conflit armé en offrant routine et stabilité et en fournissant des liens avec d'autres services vitaux.

En outre, les technologies de l'information et la communication (TIC) offrent de nombreuses potentialités pédagogiques. Par exemple, l'équipe de recherche en dimensions internationales de l'éducation (ERDIE)⁶ de l'Université de Genève développe une recherche-action en Jordanie, au Kenya et au Niger, grâce à un appui du Secrétariat d'État à la Formation, à la Recherche et à l'Innovation (SEFRI). Son objectif? Trouver des solutions pragmatiques pour rompre l'isolement pédagogique et humain des réfugiés.

Somme toute, la recherche et la pratique sur l'éducation en situation d'urgence ont donc réalisé de nombreux progrès. Des ONGs sont actives sur ce terrain depuis des années et ont développé des approches pédagogiques spécifiques. Parmi elles, *Save the Children*, avec qui l'Université de Genève propose un programme conjoint de formation continue pour répondre aux problématiques liées à l'éducation dans des situations d'urgence.

En effet, une approche holistique de l'éducation combinant à la fois des dimensions cognitives et socioémotionnelles est essentielle pour agir avec pertinence et adéquation avec les réalités complexes et la variété des situations. La recherche académique met également en évidence le rôle clé des enseignant-es et l'appui nécessaire à fournir aux parents et aux communautés réfugiées pour mieux assumer leur responsabilité éducative.

Néanmoins, la recherche affronte de nombreuses entraves. En particulier, l'absence de données statistiques fiables, les difficultés d'accès au terrain en raison des risques sécuritaires et les changements rapides des contextes d'urgence. Sans mauvais jeu de mots, la bataille pour préserver le droit à l'éducation n'est donc pas encore gagnée! ■

1 Enseignants-chercheurs à la Faculté de Psychologie et des Sciences de l'Éducation, Université de Genève, Responsables de la Maîtrise universitaire d'études avancées (MAS) en Éducation internationale et recherche. Plus d'informations sur <https://www.unige.ch/formcont/cours/edu-recherche>.

2 Save the Children (2019). Education against the Odds: Meeting marginalised children's demands for a quality education, disponible sur <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/education-against-odds-meeting-marginalised-childrens-demands-quality-education/>

3 Disponible sur http://protectingeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/fr_safe_schools_declaration.pdf

4 Pour plus de détails, consulter <https://eiehub.org>

5 À savoir: assurer l'accès de toutes et tous à une éducation de qualité, sur un pied d'égalité, et promouvoir les possibilités d'apprentissage tout au long de la vie.

6 Pour plus de détails, consulter <https://www.unige.ch/fapse/erdie/>

Des contextes économiques, politiques, sociaux parfois complexes influencent l'apprentissage et l'enseignement dans le monde. La Maîtrise universitaire d'études avancées (MAS) en Éducation internationale et recherche de l'Université de Genève propose des outils et des compétences pour mener des actions éducatives et de recherche dans une perspective multiculturelle et internationale. Plus d'informations sur <https://www.unige.ch/formcont/cours/edu-recherche>.

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Accessible innovation

3D prosthesis printing

In many low and middle-income countries, only 5% to 15% of people who require assistive devices, including artificial limbs or braces, have access to them.



Togo, an International Handicap technician, prepares a 3D-printed orthopaedic support in Lomé.

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL SUISSE

In many low and middle-income countries, only 5% to 15% of people who require assistive devices, including artificial limbs or braces, have access to them. In areas that are remote or dangerous, specialized health professionals can be scarce and materials expensive. If poorly made or unadjusted, artificial limbs and braces can make life uncomfortable for patients by causing skin sores, pressure wounds, and muscle fatigue.

As a solution, Handicap International launched a 3D printing technology trial. Since 2016, four scientific studies were conducted on telerehabilitation and 3D prosthesis printing. The organization worked with leading universities,

private companies, and NGOs. The research was based on clinical trials and pilot projects in six different countries including Togo and Uganda, to rapidly produce affordable, high-quality prostheses in a range of contexts.

Founded almost four decades ago, Humanity & Inclusion has been at the forefront of many of the innovations and initiatives that have revolutionized humanitarian assistance. Indeed, by producing at first bamboo, leather, wood or tire prostheses, as well as wooden wheelchairs, Humanity & Inclusion was the first humanitarian organization to develop simple and cost-effective orthopedic devices adapted to the local context. Forty years on, Humanity & Inclusion is the first organization

in the world to combine telerehabilitation and the production of 3D prostheses. The organization explores innovative solutions adapted to humanitarian needs and believes innovation should be as widely accessible and beneficial as possible.

Today, teams are working with people who had amputations and use a small, lightweight, 3D scanner to create a digital mold of the amputated limb. The mold can then be adapted according to the patients' needs using computer-modelling software. Finally, it is sent to a 3D printer that creates thousands of layers of thermoplastic to produce a bespoke socket. The final product corresponds perfectly to the shape of the patient's amputated limb.

3D Technology: In Brief

- The 3D file obtained is sent to a specific printer, which solidifies the material layer by layer, to obtain the final device.
- Digital modeling software is used to modify and adapt the device to be printed according to the patient's needs.
- A lightweight and easy-to-use scanner makes it simple to take accurate measurements of the limb(s) requiring an orthopaedic device.
- A CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing Design) file is then created.

The European Union Horizon Prize 2020 has honored Humanity & Inclusion with two of the five prizes of the inaugural EU Horizon Prize for Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid. The prize money allows the organization to establish a new fund to help fuel future advances. Manuel Patrouillard, Global Managing Director explains:

“The Tele Rehabilitation For All project and the use of 3D technology reflects something that's in Humanity & Inclusion's DNA: a desire to improve the quality and impact of our response using accessible technologies. Innovation is not just for specialists. It should be widely accessible. We are committed to that goal.” ■

For more information about the subject: Readaptation | Handicap International CH (www.handicap-international.ch)



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Le combat de Handicap International Non aux bombardements des civils

Bombardements massifs et disproportionnés, pilonnages sans distinction au cœur des villes, l'Ukraine en plein tourment, mais aussi Alep, Raqqa, Mossoul, Donetsk, le Haut-Karabagh ou encore Gaza sont devenus le symbole du mépris le plus total pour la vie des civils.

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL SUISSE

Aujourd'hui, 90% des personnes tuées et blessées par des armes explosives dans les zones peuplées sont des civils¹.

Qui peut encore
décemment parler
de dommages
collatéraux?

Témoin direct de ces drames humains, Handicap International milite depuis plus de 6 ans, avec de nombreuses organisations humanitaires, pour faire aboutir un processus diplomatique international qui exclura l'utilisation d'armes explosives lourdes des zones peuplées. La troisième et dernière étape de négociations se déroulera du 6 au 8 avril prochain aux Nations unies à Genève.

«Au cours de ce prochain cycle de négociations, nous devons nous assurer que le texte de la déclaration sera fort et aura un impact réel sur la protection des civils en situation de conflit.

L'exclusion des armes explosives lourdes des zones peuplées doit devenir une norme internationale. Mettre fin à leur utilisation permettra de prévenir ou d'éviter de graves crises humanitaires» indique Daniel Sudalang, directeur de Handicap International Suisse.

Les conséquences des bombardements des civils

90% des victimes des armes explosives utilisées dans des zones peuplées sont des civils. Ils représentaient 15% des victimes

en 14-18 et 50% en 39-45. Une tendance des conflits modernes dévastatrice pour les populations, au mépris du droit international humanitaire et des Conventions de Genève.

«Les armes explosives lourdes sont conçues pour être utilisées sur des champs de batailles ouverts. Certains affirment effectuer des «frappes chirurgicales» mais nous savons qu'en réalité l'imprécision et leur puissance provoquent inévitablement des dégâts sur les civils. Une frappe visant une cible militaire, comme un aéroport, par exemple, peut endommager une zone résidentielle située à 300 mètres de distance, sans chance de survie» explique Daniel Sudalang, directeur de Handicap International Suisse.

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Yémen, hôpital Al-Joumhorî à Taiz, détruit par des attaques aériennes

Handicap International appelle tous les États à adopter une position forte pour une meilleure protection de la population.

Les machines de guerre infligent d'énormes souffrances. Des quartiers entiers sont bombardés, tuant ou mutilant des innocents, détruisant leur maison et des infrastructures civiles essentielles: hôpitaux, écoles, systèmes d'approvisionnement en eau et en électricité.

Une contamination massive par des munitions non explosées engendre des déplacements de populations à l'intérieur et au-delà des frontières. La vie ne pourra reprendre qu'après des dizaines d'années d'opérations complexes de déminage.

Vers un accord historique
Du 6 au 8 avril 2022 aura lieu aux Nations unies à Genève la dernière phase de négociations pour un accord international

visant à interdire l'utilisation d'armes explosives lourdes en zones peuplées. Seront réunis des représentantes et représentants des États, des agences des Nations unies, des organisations internationales et de la société civile afin de finaliser le texte d'un accord international qui sera ensuite soumis à la signature des États. Près de 70 pays, dirigés par l'Irlande, ont participé aux deux précédents cycles de consultations.

Le Secrétaire général des Nations unies et le Président du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge ont souligné l'impact dévastateur des armes explosives sur la vie des civils, affirmant leur ferme soutien à cette déclaration politique et appelant les États à s'engager à trouver des solutions politiques à ce problème humanitaire majeur.

Les déclarations d'intention doivent se transformer en actions. Un certain nombre d'États demeure réticent à s'engager en faveur d'un accord international. Les négociations d'avril devraient s'achever par l'ouverture à signature de cette déclaration politique plus tard en 2022. Ces prochains mois sont donc décisifs pour la protection de millions de civils vivant dans les zones de guerre. ■

1 Action on Armed Violence

Pour plus d'information: #StopBombingCivilians - Rejoignez la campagne! | Handicap International CH (handicap-international.ch)

<https://handicap-international.ch/fr/stop-bombing-civilians>



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Celebrating 70 years of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System

Founded in 1952, the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System¹, or GISRS, is celebrating 70 years of success as a worldwide network founded to protect people from the threat of influenza, reviewing its value to broad respiratory virus threats including COVID-19, and setting its sights to the future.

Influenza is a serious global health problem that impacts all countries: every year, there are an estimated one billion cases of seasonal Influenza causing three to five million severe cases including up to 650 000 influenza-related respiratory deaths globally. Moreover, new influenza viruses are constantly emerging – these can cause pandemics that lead to widespread societal disruption and millions of deaths.

Influenza viruses constantly evolve into new variants and spread rapidly, similar to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. GISRS operates as a network of over 150 laboratories in 127 countries, areas or territories that continuously monitor influenza viruses and diseases globally. Millions of specimens are tested and hundreds of thousands of viruses are exchanged within GISRS every year.



“GISRS is a proven global network that has provided a first line of defence against influenza for 70 years.”

WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS





GISRS has made some giant leaps. To list just some of these:

- When GISRS was established in 1952, only 25 countries had some influenza surveillance in place and were able to report data to WHO. Now, more than 127 countries, areas and territories contribute to GISRS.
- As of January 2022 GISRS has grown to include 148 National Influenza Centres, seven WHO Collaborating Centres, four Essential Regulatory Laboratories, and 13 H5 Reference Laboratories. It continues growing, and all these institutions form an interactive and complementary global operation.
- Between 2014 and 2019, GISRS tested an average of 3.4 million specimens every year. This surged to 6.7 million tests annually for influenza and 44.2 million tests for SARS-CoV-2 in 2020 and 2021.
- GISRS shares around 20 000 influenza virus samples every year to WHO Collaborating Centres, updates the weekly influenza situation based on laboratory and disease surveillance reporting through the FluNet and FluID systems,

and distributes timely risk assessments and alerts to countries.

- Based on GISRS surveillance, WHO has been recommending suitable viruses for inclusion in annual seasonal vaccines since 1973. Since 1998, GISRS has made biannual recommendations for seasonal influenza vaccine compositions for the northern and southern hemispheres.
- GISRS operates throughout the year, which enables it to function as a global alert for the emergence of novel influenza and other respiratory viruses of public health significance. It demonstrated its capacity and capability in the rapid detection and response to avian influenza A(H5N1) in 1997 and its re-emergence in 2003, SARS-CoV-1 in 2002, and pandemic influenza A(H1N1) in 2009, in partnership with organizations in the animal sector and other international agencies.
- Although GISRS was built to address influenza, it also serves as a critical resource for countries handling non-influenza emergencies. In the COVID-19 pandemic,

GISRS has made significant contributions from the start. For example, GISAID, a long-term partner of GISRS, published the first SARS-CoV-2 sequence data hours after it became available.

In many countries, National Influenza Centres of GISRS readily became primary hubs for national COVID-19 testing and response. Importantly, GISRS has been conducting integrated sentinel surveillance of influenza and SARS-CoV-2 to guide public health response to the two viruses and associated diseases at the same time.

The GISRS network today is a tribute to several generations of scientists throughout the world who have dedicated themselves to influenza surveillance and response. It is also a tribute to many governments that have committed their political, financial and administrative support to the Network over the years.

WHO has been developing a roadmap to further expand GISRS into GISRS+: an enhanced network, built upon existing influenza infrastructure, to achieve integrated surveillance and response systems to influenza and a range of other respiratory viruses with epidemic or pandemic potential. This exciting prospect will be the next great leap, as we look to the future. ■

¹ <https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-influenza-surveillance-and-response-system>

Humanitarian mine action and victim assistance

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed or injured by explosive ordnance over the past three decades. The victims are casualties, families and affected communities. The term 'victims' refers to people killed and injured by explosive ordnance, the families of people injured and killed, and affected communities. In the context of mine action, the term 'survivor' refers to a person who was injured as a result of an explosive ordnance and has survived the accident.

FARZANE SEIF HASHEMI, UNMAS GENEVA

For many people, first aid is the difference between life and death. Many die of haemorrhaging after explosions. First responders can save the lives of explosive ordnance casualties by stopping the bleeding. It is critical that governments invest in emergency medical care, including first aid and emergency medical transport, access to safe blood and trauma surgery in areas affected by explosive ordnance contamination.

UNMAS is the United Nations system's mine action coordinator, and acts as the chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA), and the Geneva-based UNMAS office serves as the global coordinator of the Mine Action Area of Responsibility of UNCHR-led Global Protection Cluster. The IACG-MA developed the United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action. Under the policy, UNMAS is committed to advocating for the inclusion of victim assistance in humanitarian programme cycles. Furthermore, UNMAS is expected to ensure that the human rights of mine and Explosive Remnants of

War (ERW) victims are properly addressed. One of the key principles of victim assistance is to ensure that services supported with victim assistance earmarked funding are non-discriminatory. Support should be focused on programmes for the wider population of persons injured or with disabilities, including victims of explosive ordnance.

UN assistance is provided in accordance with international humanitarian law provisions relating to victim assistance, and relevant international human rights instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The last and current UN Mine Action Strategies developed by the IACG-MA under UNMAS's leadership prioritized victim assistance coordination. The Strategy called for the establishment of coordination mechanisms within the UN to integrate the needs of victims into mine action service delivery and programming. In particular, it highlighted the role of UN mine

action actors in documenting and supporting referral pathways, a flexible mechanism that links survivors to supportive and competent services.

UNMAS has 18 programmes with various levels of engagement on victim assistance, ranging from victim identification and data collection to advocacy and policy support, to resource mobilization for victim assistance, and finally, direct service provision. UN support to victims varies widely across different UN mine action programmes depending on the assessed needs, the national capacity, the legal framework for victims in the country/territory, the scale of the threat, the UN mandate and availability of funding. UNMAS has engaged significantly in coordinating victim assistance in Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Syria, and in the Territory of Western Sahara. Good practices are outlined below.

In Nigeria, UNMAS developed a Guidance Note on Disability Inclusion in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). This note has been drafted to support humanitarian mine action operators in order to develop

disability-inclusive EORE activities. The note focuses on persons having functional difficulties (persons with disabilities) and improving their access to information about risk.

In 2020, a Victim Assistance Working Group was established in Damascus under the Mine Action Area of Responsibility umbrella with the primary goal to improve access to services and social protection for survivors and indirect victims of explosive ordnance. So far, the group has identified over 250 services. The group has developed a service mapping dashboard that includes information on relevant service providers, their contact information, and the types of services provided. They are categorized in psychosocial, socio-economic services and specialized services. This initiative is in line with the Mine Action Area of Responsibility 2022-2024 Strategy which aims to strengthen partnership and collaboration on equality, diversity and inclusion through sharing of best practices.

Moreover, in 2021, Mali had two projects dedicated to victim assistance, focusing on the capacity building of national civil society



Bruno Donat, UNMAS Geneva Chief and Global MA AoR Coordinator during a visit in Gaza, Palestine in October 2021.



Victim Assistance in Afghanistan.

organizations in the Northern and Central regions. The emphasis was on providing direct services that enabled victims of improvised explosive devices to access emergency and long-term medical assistance, psychosocial support, social inclusion, and emergency livelihood support, but also on strengthening

service mapping and access to existing referral pathways, and reinforcing the community-level first aid response. All people with disabilities were included in these efforts.

Finally, in Afghanistan until August 2021, UNMAS collaborated closely with the

Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) Victim Assistance Department to integrate victim assistance into Mine Action and broader national policies, plans, and legal frameworks relating not only to disability but also to health, education, employment, development, and poverty reduction.

In a nutshell, UNMAS advocates at various levels, directed at a variety of stakeholders, in a variety of ways; it has also recognized the rights of survivors with disabilities, recognising that the challenges they face must be addressed to provide them with the assistance they require. ■

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We cannot keep leaving women with disabilities behind

Women with disabilities need to see themselves be represented. They deserve the same care, opportunities, and accessibilities as men and women without disabilities.



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GERTRUDE OFORIWA FEFOAME, SIGHTSAVERS

Right now, across the world, one in five women has a disability. Yet we still lack the same economic rights of men¹. Globally, compared to men without disabilities, women with disabilities are three times more likely to have unmet needs for health care; three times more likely to be illiterate; two times less likely to be employed and two times less likely to use the internet. Among those employed, women with disabilities are two times less likely to work as legislators, senior officials, or managers.²

Disturbingly, women and girls with disabilities may face up to ten times more violence than women and girls without disabilities³. Girls with intellectual disabilities are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence.

What's more, armed conflict in a country can result in higher levels of gender-based violence, and women and girls with disabilities

are disproportionately impacted. Yet they still remain underreported and excluded from peace and security processes. Between 1992 and 2019, only three in every ten peace processes included women mediators or women signatories. It's simply not enough.⁴

It makes for sombre reading. As all these facts show, women with disabilities are still among the most marginalised and poorest in society, often experiencing dual discrimination.

This is why we need to make sure they are represented in decision-making bodies and can lead the drive for change. The adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁵ (UNCRPD) by over 180 countries has been a hugely important and effective instrument for ensuring the rights of people with disabilities. That's why I am standing for re-election for a place on the committee – to ensure that women like me continue to make strides forward in



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being represented. In June this year, elections will be held for nine of the 18 positions on the committee.

In the next elections there is a risk that gender parity could be lost, which is why I am supporting Sightsavers' Equal UN campaign. It calls for States Parties to use their votes in the election to protect the gains made on gender parity on the Committee.

I hope UN member states recognise the importance of fair representation and cast their votes with this in mind.

For the world to be truly inclusive, women need to be fairly represented in leadership roles. Governments need to commit to tackling some of the most pervasive forms of exclusion that women with disabilities experience, and ensuring that they and their representative organizations are involved in policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring.

Among the issues I am passionate about seeing changed is the discrimination and violence that goes unreported and unpunished. Existing laws, policies, and programmes on gender-based violence rarely address the situation of women and girls with disabilities.

Many of these issues boil down to the simple fact of representation and lack of it. In 2011, the United Nations' resolution on women's political participation

stated that "women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalised from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, lack of access to health care and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women." For women with disabilities, the barriers are even higher, and the discrimination often doubled.

The statement was made a decade ago but it's as true in 2022 as it was in 2011. Women still represent a minority of decision-makers worldwide, and there is no official data on the representation of women with disabilities in political decision-making.⁶

If we are to achieve full inclusion and participation, we need to challenge stereotypes. I love seeing the change for a woman with a disability, from thinking she's good for nothing to saying 'I can'.

And we need transformational change. This means the systematic inclusion of people with disabilities by governments, civil society and development agencies. Our right to participate is fundamental. People with disabilities need to be consulted on the issues that affect them – from start to finish.

Progress has been made, but not nearly enough. Women, and particularly women with disabilities, remain unheard in far too many decision-making processes.

I know first-hand the difference that having women at the decision-making table can make from the role that myself and other women have been playing on the UNCRPD. Before 2020, there was no gender parity on the committee. In 2018 there was only one woman out of eighteen members. This meant no sub-committees had women involved, and their voices weren't represented when holding states to account.

Since we have had gender parity, we now have a working group specifically on women's rights, and also one on the rights of children, and women sitting on all sub-committees. This ensures that when countries are guided on their approach to ensuring disability rights, women's voices are represented. I hope to see this important work continued, and for the committee to be truly representative and diverse in line with its intent. ■

1 <https://www.devex.com/news/2-4-billion-women-lack-the-same-economic-rights-as-men-world-bank-102,756>

2 <https://afri-can.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/190,325-UN-Flagship-Report-on-Disability.pdf>

3 <https://blogs.worldbank.org/sustainablecities/five-facts-know-about-violence-against-women-and-girls-disabilities>

4 Council on Foreign Relations, Women's participation in peace processes.

5 <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

6 <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2019/Brief-Leadership-and-political-participation-of-women-with-disabilities-en.pdf>

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Covid-19 pandemic and environmental emergency Reinventing global health in times of global changes

**JELENA MILENKOVIC, DIRECTOR
OF OPERATIONS, GENEVA HEALTH
FORUM**

The Geneva Health Forum (GHF) was born from the desire to bring together all the actors concerned around the major issues of global health with the aim of promoting access to care and health in the world. Co-organized by the Geneva University Hospitals and the University of Geneva, in collaboration with more than thirty partners from international Geneva, the GHF offers since 2006 a platform to discuss openly current and future challenges in global health.

The Geneva Health Forum capitalizes on the strengths of international Geneva and in particular its health hub, bringing together practitioners, decision-makers, academics, representatives of multilateral agencies and public-private partnerships, the private sector and civil society. The GHF gathers participants from a multisectoral and global audience. It gives a voice to actors from the field, including by inviting people from Low and Middle

Income Countries, and connects them to decision-makers present in Geneva. Traditionally, the Geneva Health Forum gives visibility to innovative, accessible and sustainable practices and tools. Over the course of its editions, the GHF has become a renowned international event in the field of global health.

For its ninth edition, which will take place at the Geneva International Conference Center from 3 to 5 May 2022, the Geneva Health Forum will address crucial issues for our common future. Under the theme “Covid-19 Pandemic and Environmental Emergency: Reinventing Global Health in Times of Global Changes”, **the GHF will help us learn the lessons from the Covid-19 crisis and better understand the impact of environmental degradation on human health.**

Indeed, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted our fragility as societies in the face of zoonoses, diseases that appear in the animal world and that can spread to human beings. Zoonoses are

more likely to spread to humans in a context of biodiversity loss, fragile ecosystems, deforestation and urbanization. At the same time, pollution is having an increasing impact on our health. Climate change might lead to unprecedented crises such as droughts, floods, fires, heat waves, being the source of potential humanitarian disasters, destabilization, migrations and even conflicts. One thing is clear: our health is intrinsically linked to the health of the environment.

Global health must
reinvent itself in
the light of this
observation.

It is in this context that the Geneva Health Forum will offer, from 3 to 5 May, a platform to better understand these complex issues, which by definition require a multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach. Working closely with international Geneva partners and UN agencies, the



Geneva Health Forum will bring to light innovative approaches such as “One Health” or “Planetary Health” and initiatives offering possible solutions to these crucial challenges.

After two years of the pandemic, the GHF will also offer an opportunity to learn the lessons from the Covid crisis, particularly with regard to little-discussed perspectives such as mental health, research-related challenges, or even community approaches. The GHF will also address the topic of pandemic prevention and international legal instruments related to pandemics. The “silent pandemic”, antibiotic resistance, will also be addressed.

Understanding the concepts and the challenges behind the inter-twining of human and environmental health will also be part of the programme. We will among others discuss, together with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Planetary Health Alliance, why the notion of “Planetary Health” is a paradigm shift in the field of global health. With Doctors Without Borders (Médecins sans frontières, MSF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), we will question how ready we are for post-pandemic adaptation measures for health-related challenges of the environmental crisis. We

will also explore the Development of the “One Health” approach in Europe, with the One Sustainable Health Forum and the World Health Summit, the impact of climate change on health or the key role that the private sector can play in helping us tackle these crucial challenges.

Our programme will be rich and besides the sessions under the main theme of the GHF this year, we won't forget other important issues such as the stakes of the development of E-Health, Neglected Tropical Diseases or how to develop a sustainable pharmaceutical distribution in Africa, among others.

Finally, the GHF will offer the possibility of visiting the Global Health Lab, our innovation fair, where more than 100 innovations can be discovered. These innovations were selected following a large and very successful call for contributions but also thanks to an important network of partners. Overall, the innovations that you will be able to discover will concern Covid-19, Planetary Health but also many other issues, as for example airborne monitoring, disinfection of rooms, logistics, masks, respirator and oxygenometer, data collection, diagnosis, community involvement, mobile application for patient, telemedicine, cervical cancer, disability, vaccines and vaccine management or training.

Let's meet at the Geneva International Conference Center

After two years of videoconference meetings, the Geneva Health Forum wishes to meet its public in Geneva, at the Geneva International Conference Center (Centre International de Conférences Genève, CICG). We value direct human interaction as irreplaceable. That said, we would like to give the possibility to people

who could not travel to Geneva to participate in the Geneva Health Forum. This is why we are going to offer a selection of panels which will also be broadcast on our digital platform. Moreover, our digital offer is expanding. In addition to the Innovation Fair, the booths, the posters and the networking opportunities, we will provide you with a virtual space capable of recommending GHF sessions that may interest you.

Global health is at the heart of concerns. Whether you are interested in understanding the links between pandemics and environmental degradation or are a professional aiming at tackling these challenges, we are looking forward to welcoming you and hearing your insights and concerns. ■

See full programme at: <https://ghf2022.org/programme>

More information and registration at www.ghf2022.org

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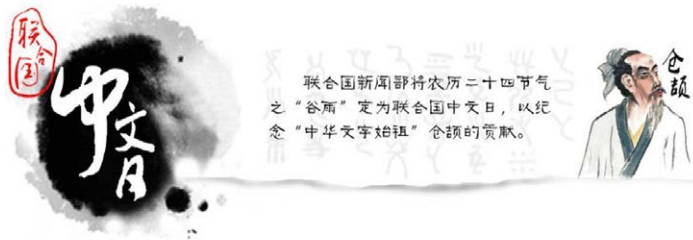
- à l'entrée au collège
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EXTERNAT & INTERNAT

Est-il plus facile d'apprendre le chinois à l'ère digitale?

Entretien avec Li Bourrit enseignante du Programme de chinois, à l'ONUG.



CENTRE DE FORMATION ET DE MULTILINGUISME, ONUG

Depuis le début de la pandémie au printemps 2020, tous les cours de langue du Centre de formation et de multilinguisme (Centre for Learning and Multilingualism) de l'ONU à Genève sont virtuels. Oui, ce nouveau format, qui articule trois heures hebdomadaires d'apprentissage en groupe via Teams et une heure de pratique en ligne sur la plate-forme Moodle, connaît un vif succès. Apprendre le chinois est, en soi, un défi. Il était logique que la pratique s'adapte à ces nouvelles conditions de travail.

Au printemps 2020, vous avez dû, en très peu de temps transférer vos cours sur une interface en ligne.

Nous avons effectivement dû quitter nos salles de classe. Comme dit un proverbe chinois, «une épaisse couche de glace ne se forme pas en un jour». Nous étions prêts car notre service, qui enseigne les six langues officielles des Nations Unies, se préparait depuis dix ans aux cours en ligne et avait développé des outils et un savoir-faire tant sur le plan technologique que pédagogique. Des ateliers nous ont permis de débattre du choix des approches et des outils pédagogiques les plus adaptés à l'apprentissage en ligne. L'équipe a également

bénéficié du soutien de nos collègues informaticiens qui nous ont fourni les moyens technologiques nécessaires.

Le 20 avril est la journée internationale de la langue chinoise

Avec deux années d'expérience, comment percevez-vous aujourd'hui l'apprentissage du chinois en ligne?

Il convient de distinguer différents types d'apprentissage en ligne. Un nombre grandissant d'applications proposent des modules d'apprentissage du chinois (prononciation, écriture des caractères, grammaire, conversation). Ils peuvent, certes, constituer des outils et des ressources utiles pour l'entraînement régulier d'un étudiant. Mais ce type d'entraînement reste souvent passif, car les corrections sont automatisées, sans intervention humaine. Le manque d'interactions entre les étudiants et l'enseignant, et d'échanges entre les pairs, nuisent à l'apprentissage. De plus, ces programmes, basiques, généraux, sont rarement adaptés aux attentes d'une demande spécifique. Depuis ces deux dernières années, un grand nombre de chaînes vidéo dédiées à l'apprentissage du chinois comme langue étrangère sont

apparues sur Youtube. Par rapport aux modules préfabriqués des applications, les leçons au format vidéo sont dotées d'un espace de discussion entre participants (via les commentaires des internautes), espace dans lequel intervient, parfois, le tuteur. Certaines chaînes proposent même des leçons en direct, mais de manière ponctuelle. Évidemment, la création professionnelle des vidéos et la grande variété de contenu proposé sur ces chaînes les rendent attrayantes et populaires. Mais je me demande si un étudiant, débutant voire avancé, n'éprouve pas le même embarras face à cette offre pléthorique qu'un bricoleur dans les rayons d'un magasin de bricolage.

Enfin, les «Moocs». Ce sont des mini-programmes proposés au grand public par les Universités du monde entier. Les interactions sont plus satisfaisantes, car elles sont encadrées. Cependant l'apprentissage reste *asynchrone*, c'est-à-dire que l'étudiant ne suit pas les modules d'enseignement en temps réel, mais en différé. Dans le même ordre d'idée, certaines plates-formes commerciales proposent un éventail de ressources et de services (leçon vidéo, quiz, plan d'études personnalisé, forum). Dans les deux cas, l'autodiscipline de l'apprenant est primordiale pour sa

réussite; or on sait combien il est difficile de trouver en soi-même la motivation nécessaire à ce type d'apprentissage.

D'après vous, quelle est la recette pour réussir un cours à distance?

Les cours en ligne présentent d'indéniables avantages pour les étudiants, tels que le gain de temps, la flexibilité horaire, la navigation facilitée entre les différentes interfaces, l'accès rapide aux ressources. Trois conditions me semblent indispensables et nous tentons d'y répondre dans notre programme:

- garantir la régularité de travail;
- pratiquer et interagir avec les autres;
- maintenir le niveau de motivation pour progresser.

Notre programme général couvre les niveaux de l'ONU I et de l'ONU II¹. Nous donnons deux séances hebdomadaires de cours en groupe sur Teams, d'une durée de 90 minutes, avec les mêmes objectifs et le même contenu d'apprentissage² que dans une salle de classe. Les étudiants pratiquent, interagissent avec l'enseignant et leurs pairs. Bien entendu, les approches pédagogiques sont adaptées à l'environnement virtuel. En plus de ces séances en direct, chaque semaine, nos étudiants sont tenus de compléter



Apprendre le chinois permet de s'approcher d'une culture, d'un peuple

au minimum, une heure d'activités en ligne sur la plate-forme Moodle. Ces activités, alignées sur les contenus travaillés en direct, leur permettent d'exercer de manière autonome la langue écrite et orale. Certaines activités sont auto-corrigées, d'autres, comme les productions écrites ou orales, sont commentées par l'enseignant. Les étudiants sont évalués périodiquement et guidés tout au long de leur parcours. Ces cours au format hybride sont très appréciés par nos étudiants. Ils dépassent même leurs attentes, c'est ce qui ressort de leurs commentaires.

On a souvent l'impression que l'interaction se fait plus difficilement à distance.

L'interaction est différente. Pour les cours de chinois, l'utilisation d'un clavier (qui permet d'écrire facilement les caractères) améliore la communication entre étudiants dans un document collaboratif ou un «chat». Le fait de répéter à haute voix derrière un microphone désactivé ce que prononce l'enseignant aide aussi à corriger la prononciation, à améliorer la fluidité et l'aisance

à l'oral. Ces manières de s'exercer seraient difficiles à envisager dans une salle de classe.

Les étudiants sont-ils nostalgiques des cours en présentiel? Comment remédier à cette nostalgie?

Un certain nombre de nos étudiants regrettent nos salles de classe. J'admets que les liens qui se créent constituent un vecteur important de l'apprentissage. Comment créer cet attachement dans une salle virtuelle? C'est une question de motivation. L'implication d'un étudiant repose pour une part sur sa motivation personnelle, et pour une autre part, sur celle de l'enseignant, son savoir-faire pédagogique. Un enseignant motivé sait communiquer son propre enthousiasme à ses étudiants. Il sait se servir des ressources et des outils en ligne pour créer un espace bienveillant pour les échanges. Il sait utiliser Internet pour déployer cet espace, enrichir les échanges, et finalement créer une communauté virtuelle où les liens entre les étudiants de différents niveaux, ainsi qu'entre les étudiants et les enseignants, deviennent féconds.

Qu'est-ce qui a changé dans l'enseignement du chinois par rapport à il y a cinq ou dix ans? L'enseignement du chinois

comme langue étrangère est longtemps resté traditionnel. Ce n'est que ces dix dernières années que les enseignants, poussés par la nécessité de moderniser leur pédagogie, ont tenté d'intégrer de nouvelles approches et de s'adapter au développement technologique, ainsi qu'aux besoins de plus en plus exigeants des étudiants. Depuis, les méthodes comme les ressources ont prospéré. La pandémie a contribué à diversifier les pratiques pédagogiques de manière significative. Nous avons ainsi pu travailler autrement.

D'un côté, notre équipe a dû se pencher sur des formes nouvelles d'enseignement et construire des ressources pédagogiques adaptées aux outils numériques (fichiers audio, vidéo, contenu interactif). De l'autre, plus que jamais, elle a dû remplir un rôle de «guide» auprès des étudiants. Les guider dans la navigation entre le synchrone (temps réel) et l'asynchrone (temps différé). Les guider dans la sélection des ressources en ligne. Les guider, enfin, dans leur apprentissage individuel en leur offrant un soutien personnalisé. Pour y parvenir, nous avons dû nous former de manière continue, faire preuve non seulement de réflexivité, mais d'esprit critique face à la vague d'outils et

d'applications dédiées apparues en peu de temps. Nous voulions apporter une réelle valeur ajoutée aux étudiants.

Que diriez-vous à ceux qui aimeraient, mais hésitent, à commencer l'apprentissage du chinois?

La langue est la frontière de notre monde. Apprendre le chinois permet de s'approcher d'une culture, d'un peuple, d'un univers différent. C'est un lieu commun, mais il reste valable. À un niveau plus global, compte tenu du poids géopolitique et économique de la Chine dans le monde, la langue chinoise est amenée à occuper une place plus grande dans les échanges internationaux. Je pense que cela fait au moins deux bonnes raisons de se lancer. Avec les nouvelles méthodes, avec la dynamique de groupe que peut insuffler un apprentissage hybride, cette langue est plus accessible que jamais. ■

1 Selon le Cadre des Nations Unies pour les langues.

2 À consulter sur le site <http://learning.unog.ch>.

Pour plus d'information sur le Programme de chinois ou d'autres programmes de langue à l'ONU Genève, veuillez visiter le site

<https://learning.unog.ch> ou contacter clm.language@un.org.



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CZECH REPUBLIC

Petr Bouška...

...cheerful “Mister Love” to open hearts

- *Polička, 1982*
- *Living together - Institute H21 and All you need is Láska*
- *“La Jonction district, symbol of different world visions that meet and in which we try to put love.”*

newSpecial is delighted to include profiles presented by Zahi Haddad, in his recently-published book “126 Heartbeats for International Geneva”. We thank the author and his publisher, Slatkine, for this exclusivity.

For seven years, Petr Bouška works in Geneva finance. With success. After studies in international and European relations. But “something was missing. So, to better balance my life, I volunteered for different associations, here and in the Czech Republic.” Petr is fully engaged in educational and cultural projects for vulnerable children and against corruption. Before slowing down. Before a cancer diagnosis in 2010. A disease that he fights for a year and eventually overcomes.

He takes the time to rethink his life, to “make myself available to humanity.” Destiny brings along another Czech, Karel Janeček, into his life. Like Petr, Karel has seen his life turn upside down after a serious accident. He too left finance, where he made his fortune, and then, again like Petr, he opened his arms to philanthropy. The similarity of their paths brings them together. Petr joins Karel in the NGO “H21”, Humanity of the New

Millennium, which they intend to unite by highlighting its points of convergence and “by proposing a revolutionary decision-making system, helping to make better collective decisions and to fight against the polarization of our societies.” They want to ensure that everyone is heard, adults, children, immigrants. “This is a very consensual, very Swiss approach. In fact, when I realized it, I applied for Swiss citizenship.”

To go a little further, the two friends decide to work with municipalities and set up participatory budgets. “A city lets its inhabitants know that it has a certain amount to finance citizen projects. Then, the best ones are chosen by popular vote via our platform and thanks to an innovative method, which allows everyone to give several votes for but also against a project.” Most of these actions concern education and urban planning and spread quickly, thanks to H21, to Scotland, the United States, France,

Slovakia, Tunisia, and Zambia. Each time, giving a “voice to those who do not have one. For example, the development of a schoolyard is presented to its first users: school children.”

Building on this success, the two friends feel that their project lacks a dimension in order to reach peoples’ hearts. In October 2018, Petr finds his path during the 100th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Czechoslovakia. In front of the “Lennonova zed”, the Prague memorial dedicated to John Lennon. A colorful, psychedelic wall, continuously painted and flowered, it has become a place of pilgrimage, a symbol of peace and freedom. A slice of concrete a few tens of meters long to which Petr connects himself to launch the “All you need is Láska” movement, always in reference to the former Beatles and their famous song “All You Need is Love”. To “bring this love to the world, we painted it on this wall, in thirty different languages,

and I went to the Prague Central Train Station, where I threw thousands of pink stickers inside the trains going to all corners of the country.”

Crossing the Czech borders, “All you need is Láska” spreads its pink color around the world, from Belgrade to Oman, via Australia, the summit of Kilimanjaro and Geneva. It is a time of joyful happenings, “islands of deviance positively open thanks to art.” Time to spread the love which is “the art of freedom together.” Time to meet Petr, as shaggy as he is enthusiastic and generous, handing out his stickers like the “Mister Láska” he has become at home. ■



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Double cérémonie pour la sécurité au Palais des Nations

CHRISTIAN DAVID, UNOG

Après deux ans de pandémie, une reprise des activités, quelques conférences et le retour dans les bureaux se mettent en place de manière progressive. L'occasion était belle pour le Service de la Sécurité et de la Sûreté, de renouer avec des habitudes longtemps repoussées.

M. Drumgoole, Officier en charge du Service a invité des collègues du Palais à assister à une cérémonie destinée à accueillir de nouveaux visages sous le bleu de l'uniforme d'une part. D'autre part, il s'agissait de distinguer des

collègues ayant fait preuve d'un professionnalisme remarquable dans les locaux du UNHCR lors d'une situation particulièrement éprouvante (auto-immolation).

Assisté par ses adjoints, le responsable du Service a reçu les quatorze collègues ayant réussi les tests de sélections. Ils achevaient leurs six semaines d'instruction distillées par la Section de la Formation. Chaque agent a pu se familiariser avec le savoir-faire indispensable qu'il devra maîtriser pour accomplir sa mission première: protéger les personnes et les biens des Nations unies. Issus de différentes entités comme la police, la douane, la gendarmerie ou l'armée, ces agents possèdent une solide expérience qui viendra soutenir et compléter celle du Service. Leurs motivations pour nous rejoindre sont diverses et avant tout marquées par un désir profond de travailler pour l'Organisation.

La Directrice générale, a remis leurs certificats de formation

aux 14 agents qui recevaient également leurs badges remis par l'Officier en charge.

Dans un deuxième temps, cinq collègues ont été honorés par M^{me} Tatiana Valovaya, Directrice générale de l'ONUG et par M. Raouf Mazou, Assistant au Haut-Commissaire pour les Opérations (UNHCR) qui leur ont remis leurs distinctions.

Les discours qui ont ponctué cette cérémonie, notamment celui prononcé par M^{me} Valovaya vantaient, au travers de cette reconnaissance individuelle, le travail accompli par le Service au cours des deux dernières années. La Directrice générale a rappelé notamment que la première image pour les visiteurs reste celle des agents de sécurité qui effectuent leur mission dans des conditions parfois difficiles. Le sens du devoir démontré lorsque la situation l'impose, constitue, dans de telles circonstances, un exemple pour tous. ■



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The welsh roots of the Ukrainian city of Donetsk

Ukraine sits at somewhat of a crossroads between east and west, north and south, and as a result, its history is a rich and complex story of influences from all points of the compass. One city that illustrates this well is Donetsk, with its surprising link to the valleys of Southern Wales and the colourful character of its founder.



John Hughes (1814–1889)

KEVIN CRAMPTON, WHO

Today, the city of Donetsk is the capital of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic in Ukraine's troubled east. It lies in the Donbas region, which, although recognised internationally as part of Ukraine, has since 2014, declared that it is a breakaway, autonomous area with a demand to hold a popular referendum on ceding from Ukraine and joining Russia. The fighting between Russian-backed separatists and the Ukraine military has raged since April 2014, and is named the Donbas War, a precursor to the current conflict. It was in the crossfire of this conflict that the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over the region in July 2014.

The majority of the inhabitants of the region are Russian speaking, reflecting the fact that the area was once part of the Russian Empire, with a small settlement first mentioned at the end of the 18th century during the reign of Catherine the Great.

During the 2018 census, Donetsk was home to 2.3 million people, although a 2012 United Nations report had also flagged the area as one of the fastest depopulation centres in the world. This was due to the deteriorating local environment which was caused by the concentration of heavy industry in and around the city.

One reason for the industry is the local presence of reserves of coal. It was this resource that led to the original founding and early, explosive growth of Donetsk.

In 1868, the Imperial Russian Government were building a naval fortress at Kronstadt on the Baltic Sea, and they wished the fortification to be plated with metal. It was the age of ironclad ships, and metal armour was essential for military operations. The request came to the attention of the Millwall Iron Works Company all the way over the other side of Europe in Southern Wales, United Kingdom. This

part of Wales is also rich in coal, with a long history of working the seams that brought so much employment and prosperity to the valleys in which they are found. The first million-pound deal ever done in the history of trade was at the Coal Exchange in Cardiff for the supply of fuel to France, and in the 1860s, Wales had a high concentration of skilled labour and expertise in coal-working, with many generations being a part of the industry. It was the age of great steamships and locomotives, and coal was King.

One of the founders and managers at the Millwall Iron Works Company was a Welshman named John Hughes, born in the valley town of Merthyr Tydfil, and coming from a family steeped in heavy engineering and coal mining. With a keen eye for an opportunity, Hughes negotiated a concession from the Russian Government to develop a metal works to supply material for the naval base, and formed the 'New Russia Company Ltd.' to raise capital.

Having been granted land for the foundation of the works, Hughes set sail in 1870 with eight ships to relocate to Russia and create a state-of-the-art industrial foundry from scratch, using the local

coal available in Donbas. The fleet brought with them the equipment necessary, but also around 100 skilled Welshmen, including ironworkers, miners, and builders. Hughes was 55 at the time.

Within two years, eight blast furnaces were operational to produce pig iron and facilities for building construction and the forging of railroad tracks. Hughes' vision was for the industrial settlement to be largely self-sustaining, and it grew to engulf the village dating from Catherine the Great's time as the availability of work swelled the population.

The complex was given the name Hughesovka (Yuzovka – Юзовка) after its founder. Hughes saw to the creation of a hospital, schools, tea rooms, bath facilities, and an Anglican church dedicated to the patron saints of England (St George) and Wales (St David). It grew very much in line with the philosophy of the "ideal worker city" then prevalent, in which the employer had a duty of care to create suitable living conditions for the employees to the benefit of all. Similar "model towns" were also springing up around this time in Bourneville (1900), founded by the Quaker Cadbury family for the production of



John Hughes' statue in Donetsk

Hughes had relatively humble beginnings, and it was his skill as an engineer and metallurgist that allowed him to develop new designs and patents that raised his fortunes. By his mid-30s, Hughes owned his own shipyard and iron foundry, and would later be appointed Director of the Millwall Ironworks after its disastrous involvement with the SS Great Eastern. This was the largest ship ever constructed at that time, created by perhaps the most famous British engineer of the age, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The Great Eastern was used to lay the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable, but was a commercial failure and bankrupted the shipbuilder with whom Brunel worked.



The Hughes family house, Hughesovka around 1900

chocolate, and *Saltaire* (1851), founded by Titus Salts to create a workers' paradise around his textile mill.

Remarkably, Hughes achieved all of this despite having never learned to write, and he could only read capital letters. After his death in 1889, the businesses and the town continued to be managed by his four sons.

Hughesovka was producing 75% of all Russian pig iron by 1913

and working ten different local coal pits. It continued to attract skilled immigrants from Wales up until the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 when most returned to their native United Kingdom and were replaced with Russian labour.

The town was renamed Stalin in 1924 and Donetsk in 1961, but its Welsh roots and the connection with the United Kingdom have not been forgotten. A statue of John Hughes stands in the city today (or at least it did at the

start of the current fighting), and the Welsh band the Manic Street Preachers released a 2014 instrumental song paying homage to Hughes around the beginning of the Donbas crisis. A 2017 event in Hughes' native Merthyr Tydfil also celebrated the link with various cultural activities celebrating this largely forgotten Welsh contribution to the history of Ukraine. ■

GLOBAL HEALTH MATTERS

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WITH YOUR HOST,
GARRY ASLANYAN

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Five Poems For Peace

In the light of the unfolding tragedy in Ukraine, peace-loving people must stand up and say «NO MORE WARS!» - even in the form of poetry against all aggressors and merchants of death anywhere in the world.



Manichaeian rites

Manichaeian games
in black and white
are played by ideologues
whose world is colourblind.

With certainties of good and bad,
they drive young soldiers to their graves
and carnage the civilians too
in name of just wars and democracy.

Fatigued old myths of patriotism
hide the slaughter in a haze of heroism.
Perpetrators play the role of victims
Victims are maligned as perpetrators

Top dogs dress as underdogs,
while underdogs await their turn.
In cycles guilt and innocence
are galloping to nothingness.

Janus-faced our world
is juggling yin and yang.
A chorus sings our requiem,
while Lysistrata offers peace.

Manichaeian games
have set the world in flames.
Manichaeian rites
have torched our human rights.

Beatitudes¹

Can you tell me who is good and who is bad?
The ancient «we and they» divides us artificially.
Yet for the children of New York, Kabul or Baghdad,
only one equation counts: their shared humanity.

Woe upon the men who have unleashed war after war
through brazen lies, in breach of every law!
Alas, the many nations that such crimes abhor
let drums of war develop into «Shock and Awe».

Remember: silence now will make us guilty too.
Protest we must: Condemn imperial wars!
Who are the victims, who the victimizers? Who?
Ourselves, our leaders! To the White House: Mirrors!

Blest are the peacemakers, children of our God.²
Deplore the wielders of the sword: they shall one day account.
Our presidents invoke our God, but do they grasp the core?
It is the Sermon on the Mount.

¹ published 2003 in Sam Hamill's book "Poets against the War"

² Matthew V, 91



Apocalypse

Nocturnal darkness overcomes receding Earth,
enveloping the silent hemisphere in black.
The velvet air of night a perfumed mist brings back,
while starry skies glow softly on renewing birth.

The warming sun has sunk beneath the West at sea...
But what if break of day repeat itself no more?
What if that pristine fount of light ne'er reach the shore
of day to brighten our universality?

What if that vast black blanket change into a pall,
a still and suffocating garment, drowning out
forever and anon the world's exultant shout
of joy for its mere drawing breath at all?

In global warming and pollution we eclipse,
in lies and wars to nuclear apocalypse.



Dinosaurs

For two hundred million years
they roamed the planet,
the great and lesser dinosaurs.
One day they disappeared.
Deservedly or not.

For scarcely a million years
hominids have been pretending
to be rulers of the earth

Alas, our love of war
and habits of pollution
soon may hasten our demise.
Deservedly, perhaps.



Panem et circenses*

No need for gladiators, chariot races,
CNN and Fox can always entertain us
with much better shows.
Our clever drones and smarter bombs
can conquer terrorists in Syria, Libya, Yemen –
Yes, we like to stomp on Raisi, Assad, Putin, Xi Jinping.

Who cares about the death and damage,
whether willed or just collateral,
when science is so pretty,
weapons so aesthetic?
After all, our weapons with depleted uranium
only generate low radiation.

Let's be patriotic, not pathetic –
Pathos is for adolescents.
We want war to be primetime,
with few or no commercials.
Yes, we love our *panem et circenses*:
it's the modern *ad leones*** show!

* Bread and circus games (Juvenal, Satires, X, 81)

** *Christianos ad leones!* Tertullius, Apologeticum 40, 2



© Carla Edelembos

La Suisse inconnue, à la découverte des 26 cantons

Canton de Schaffhouse: Schleithem

Une série de 26 impressions de lieux
plutôt inconnus – loin du tourisme.

CARLA EDELEMBOS, UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

Le canton de Schaffhouse est entré dans la Confédération Helvétique en 1501, comme 13^e canton. A l'époque, Schleithem dépendait du monastère de Reichenau, lui-même situé sur une île dans le Lac de Constance en Bade-Wurtemberg. En l'an 1530 le canton de Schaffhouse et le comté de Bade-Wurtemberg échangèrent deux de leurs territoires et Schleithem entra dans le canton de Schaffhouse. Cet échange provoqua une curiosité constitutionnelle, le Hostiz: la haute juridiction sur Schleithem continuait d'être dans les mains du comté de Bade, et cette anomalie ne fut abolie qu'en 1839!

La vallée dans laquelle se trouve le village, est habitée au moins depuis l'époque romaine. En fait, l'endroit est marqué comme le

bourg Iuliomagus sur la Tabula Peutingeriana, une ancienne carte romaine où figurent les routes et les villes principales de l'Empire romain. Le nom actuel est documenté pour la première fois en 995 et signifie «maison sur une pente douce». C'est vrai que la région, parfois nommée Randen, est constituée de collines douces, souvent boisées. Une tour fut construite en 1909 sur le sommet d'une des collines, à une bonne heure de marche depuis le village. Elle permet d'admirer la région depuis les hauteurs. On nous dit que par beau temps, la vue porte jusqu'à la forêt noire en Allemagne. Ce n'est donc guère surprenant que la tour ait été utilisée par l'armée suisse comme poste d'observation pendant la deuxième guerre mondiale.

Quand nous arrivons à Schleithem, il pleut et il fait

froid. Au lieu de prendre le chemin vers la tour, nous nous réfugions vite dans le restaurant Löwen au milieu du village, un local honnête où on nous offre le plat du jour, poulet et frites, précédé d'un potage d'orge nourrissant. C'est bon et c'est copieux, et nous donne envie de faire une petite sieste, mais le temps nous manque et nous partons à la découverte du village. Heureusement la pluie a cessé et il y a un soleil timide qui joue en cache-cache avec nous.

La commune est actuellement plutôt agricole, mais au 19^e siècle, il y avait toute une industrie de plâtre, et la région fut exploitée pour le minage de gypse. Des fragments de plâtre trouvés pendant des excavations dans la petite ville romaine d'Iuliomagus suggèrent que les Romains y ont déjà trouvé et traité des pierres de gypse. Au 18^e siècle les habitants découvraient l'utilisation de plâtre comme engrais et déjà en 1790 on commençait à creuser des tunnels pour extraire du gypse. La région autour de Schleithem

constituait, au 19^e siècle, le centre de l'industrie suisse de gypse, mais au début du 20^e siècle, l'extraction cessait d'être rentable. Un des tunnels d'extraction, construit en 1860 proche de la frontière avec l'Allemagne, a été conservé et peut être visité quand le petit musée à côté est ouvert.

Nous nous promenons aux alentours et admirons les anciennes fermes en colombage pour la plupart construites après 1747 quand un incendie détruisit le centre du village. Il y a aussi des magnifiques grandes maisons construites par les Amtsmänner, les représentants du monastère de Reichenau, qui depuis 1595 jusqu'au 1839 étaient toujours membres de la même famille Stamm de Schleithem. Un charmant bâtiment nommé Brauerei (Brasserie), une auberge avec restaurant qui offre des chambres, date de 1748.

Un ruisseau romantique traverse tout le centre du village et les petits ponts (8 ponts et 6 passerelles!) qui passent d'un côté à



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© Carli Edelbroos



© Carli Edelbroos



© Carli Edelbroos

l'autre donnent un aspect tout à fait charmant. Après une inondation dévastatrice en 1844, le torrent fut endigué par des murs. Comme c'est l'hiver, aujourd'hui il coule tranquillement et des canards et des oies s'amuse dans le courant.

Après être passés devant plusieurs magasins et un salon de coiffure, nous montons doucement vers l'église protestante qui nous attire avec son campanile en carreaux colorés et dont les 5 cloches tintinnabulent d'une belle sonorité. On nous dit qu'il y avait une église à cet endroit déjà au 7^{ème} siècle, mais le bâtiment actuel date du 1870. L'intérieur est clair et simple, avec un beau vitrail dans le cloître. La majorité des 1700 habitants de Schleithem est protestante mais une rustique chapelle catholique se trouve un peu éloignée du centre de village,

érigée en 1939 quand il devenait de plus en plus difficile pour la centaine des catholiques de Schleithem de passer la frontière pour assister à la messe en Allemagne.

Proche de l'église protestante, se trouve le musée local, dans le bâtiment imposant et bien entretenu de l'ancienne école. Depuis cet endroit, le chemin des anabaptistes mène de Schleithem à une pierre commémorative de la persécution des anabaptistes qui se réfugiaient dans les denses forêts de la région. Le mouvement suisse des anabaptistes commençait avec la Réforme à Zürich. Ils refusaient le baptême des enfants et le service militaire et pour cette raison ils furent sévèrement opprimés. Dans l'année 1527, avant même que le canton de Schaffhouse introduisît la Réforme en 1529,

c'est à Schleithem que les anabaptistes, sous la direction du moine bénédictin Michael Sattler, rédigeaient leur confession de foi, qui forme toujours la base de leur croyance. Un des rares exemplaires de cette confession de Schleithem se trouve au musée dans une pièce dédiée à l'histoire de ce mouvement.

Pour finir notre immersion dans le passé nous nous dirigeons vers le musée des thermes romains de Iuliomagus qui se trouve un peu en dehors du village dans une zone artisanale. Les thermes datent du 1^{er} siècle et furent élargis au 2^e siècle. A la fin du 3^e siècle quand l'empire romain commençait son déclin, la ville et ses thermes furent abandonnés. Des excavations récentes ont fait surgir tout un complexe de bains, avec des vestiaires, des bains froids et chauds, un sauna, un

gymnase, et une salle de repos. Un chauffage au sous-sol complétait l'ensemble. La qualité et l'intelligence de la construction nous interpelle: comment toutes ses connaissances et expériences ont-elles pu se perdre après la chute de la civilisation romaine? Un jour peut-être, les humains du futur regarderont-ils des restes de notre civilisation avec un pareil étonnement? ■

Depuis Genève, prenez le train en direction de Zurich. A Zurich, changez pour le train vers Schaffhouse. A Schaffhouse, prenez le bus 21 en direction de Schleithem. Durée du trajet: 4 heures et quelques minutes.

Les thermes romains sont ouverts tous les jours. Le musée de gypse ainsi que le musée local sont ouverts le premier dimanche du mois.

Agatha Christie's influence continues almost 100 years later!

MARKO STANOVIC, UNOG

In 2013, 600 members of the United Kingdom's Crime Writer's Association ranked *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* as the best crime novel ever written (www.thecwa.co.uk)

Agatha Christie is one of the world's most famous writers of detective stories. She wrote more than 66 novels and short stories, including one of the longest-running theater plays – *The Mousetrap*. Her timeless work continues to be of interest even today, almost 100 years later, and serves as inspiration to many aspiring writers of the “whodunnit” fiction.

Agatha Christie was born on 15 September 1890 in Torquay, a seaside resort town on the English Channel. Initially home-schooled, she started attending school at the age of twelve, but found the institutionalized learning difficult. At the age of fifteen, her mother sent her to Paris, where she attended various boarding schools, learning singing and piano playing.

After spending a couple of years in France, Agatha returned to England and wrote her first short story — *The House of Beauty*, while in bed recovering from sickness. She never intended to become a writer and discovered her talent accidentally.

In 1916, after having been a fan of detective novels and reading, among others, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's early Sherlock Holmes stories, Agatha Christie wrote her first full-length detective novel — *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. The story's main protagonist is Monsieur Hercule Poirot, a former Belgian police officer

who had taken refuge in United Kingdom after Germany invaded Belgium in 1914. He appears in 33 of her later novels and more than 50 short stories.

“Over the wall, to my left, there appeared a face. An egg-shaped head, partially covered with suspiciously black hair, two immense mustaches, and a pair of watchful eyes. It was our mysterious neighbor, Mr. Porrott.”

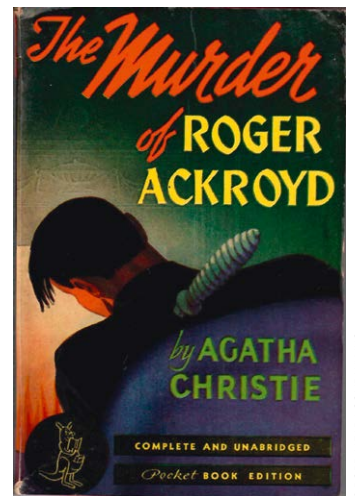
These lines introduce Mr. “Porrott”, otherwise known as Monsieur Hercule Poirot, a retired Belgian detective, in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, written by Agatha Christie and first published in 1926. The novel lines skillfully lead the reader through a maze of clues and personalities, examining each one carefully, and eventually leading Mr. Poirot to discover who the murderer was. And it was not who we expected to be!

Among the cast of Agatha Christie's protagonists, Monsieur Poirot was eventually joined by a fictional character of Miss Jane Marple, who lives in the village of St. Mary Mead and acts as an amateur consulting detective. Agatha Christie is said to have been inspired in creating Miss Marple's character by her step-grandmother's village friends. Miss Marple's character never married and has no close living relatives. She never held a salaried job, but is of independent means, although she benefits in her old age from the financial support of her nephew Raymond. Well-educated, Miss Marple solves difficult crimes thanks to her shrewd intelligence. She has appeared in full-length novels, such as *The Murder at the Vicarage* in 1930, and the *Sleeping Murder* in 1976.

During both World Wars, Agatha Christie served in hospital dispensaries, acquiring a detailed knowledge of the poisons which featured in many of her novels. For example, strychnine was used in Agatha Christie's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, cyanide in the *Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side*, *And Then There Were None*, *A Pocket Full of Rye* and, of course, *Sparkling Cyanide*, while arsenic was used in *4.50 From Paddington*. Agatha's villains also used unusual poisons, such as thallium featured in *The Pale Horse*, taxine in *A Pocket Full of Rye* and coniine in *Five Little Pigs*. In *Cards on the Table*, a doctor murders his victim by contaminating his shaving brush with *bacillus anthracis* that is known to pass through skin cuts, while in *Dumb Witness*, the victim's liver pills are filled with phosphorus to mimic liver failure.

Agatha Christie's crime novels appeal to wide age groups, as they feature interesting real-life characters and varied plots. They are not graphic or particularly violent, and portray early 20th century English middle to upper-middle-class life with its elegant décor, mannerism, and inevitable intrigues. The reader can often identify with one of the characters, which makes the story more personal and interesting. Twist after twist, one is kept guessing until the last minute as to who the murderer is, and of course, it is rarely the one suspected!

In 1971, Agatha Christie was named a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her contributions to literature. Guinness World Records lists Agatha Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all times, her novels being



In 2013, 600 members of the United Kingdom's Crime Writer's Association ranked *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* as the best crime novel ever written (www.thecwa.co.uk).

estimated at selling more than two billion copies.

Christie's stage play *The Mousetrap* holds the world record for the longest initial run. It opened at the Ambassadors Theatre in the West End of London on 25 November 1952, was closed in March 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic and reopened again in May 2021.

In 1955, Agatha Christie was the first recipient of the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award. Later that year, *Witness for the Prosecution* received an Edgar Award for best play. In September 2015, *And Then There Were None* was named the “World's Favourite Christie” in a vote sponsored by the author's estate (www.agathachristie.com). Most of her books and short stories have been adapted for television, radio, video games, and novels, and more than 30 feature films are based on her work.

Almost 100 years after she published her first mystery story, Agatha Christie continues to inspire many hopeful writers of detective stories and provides fascinating reading for countless others. ■

WHO announces Film Festival shortlist and jury

This time the jury includes Sharon Stone, Emilia Clarke, Mia Maestro, Anita Abada, Eddie Ndopu and Dr Eckart von Hirschhausen. Entries for 3rd edition in 2022 takes total of short films received to nearly 3500 since the initiative launched in 2020.



Let's encourage external audiences to interact!

External audiences to WHO are encouraged to choose one of the films that they would like to champion and comment about its story / topic, before 10th of May 2022. Comments can be posted in their social media using #Film4health or through the YouTube playlists available from the Festival's website (link below) as well as WHO's YouTube channel. Some comments from the public will be featured during the HAFF virtual Awards Ceremony in mid-May.

WHO staff should rather promote the overall shortlist published at www.who.int/film-festival and/or one of the playlists, but not a specific film until the winners would be awarded by WHO Director-General.

LET'S WATCH, COMMENT & SHARE



GILLES REBOUX, WHO FILM FESTIVAL LEAD

More than 1000 film makers from over 110 countries have submitted short films for the 3rd edition of the WHO Health for All Film Festival (HAFF), on themes ranging from the trauma of war to living with COVID-19. Some 70 films have been chosen for the shortlist, which will be reviewed by international actors and development leaders, before the announcement of the winners in mid-May 2022.

This large participation from patients, health workers, health activists, NGOs, students, public institutions, as well as from professional film makers, demonstrates the potential of the Festival to contribute to health promotion and education. Including the submissions received in 2022, almost 3500 films have been registered by the festival since its launch in 2020, many specifically made for the initiative.

“The success of the WHO Health for All Film Festival mirrors the great interest and heightened awareness globally in the importance of health and ensuring people are able to attain the

highest levels of physical and mental well-being,” said WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “The wide range of subjects featured in this year’s submissions, and the high calibre of judges, underscores the growing importance of the festival as a platform to bring urgent health issues to the public’s attention.”

The following distinguished professionals, artists and activists, joined by three WHO senior experts, comprise this year’s festival jury: Sharon Stone (actor from the USA); Emilia Clarke (actor from the UK); Mia Maestro (actor from Argentina); Anita Abada (producer from Nigeria); Eddie Ndopu (UN SDGs Advocate from South Africa), and Dr. Eckart von Hirschhausen (TV presenter from Germany).

The 70 shortlisted films are available to view online in six playlists, one for each of the three main competition categories: Universal Health Coverage, Health emergencies, and Better health and well-being, as well as three more on Rehabilitation, Health innovation and Very Short Films.

This playlist will gather submissions from all three HAFF editions, as well as other productions from WHO and other United Nations agencies.

A wide range of health topics are covered by the new 2022 selection: trauma of wars; noncommunicable diseases, including COVID-19, HIV-AIDS; as well as environmental and social factors of health, including gender-based violence, road safety and pollution. The benefits of sports and arts on health are also part of this selection.

In the coming weeks, jurors will review the shortlisted films and recommend winners to the WHO Director-General, who will make the final decision. Three “GRAND PRIX” and four special prizes will be announced mid-May during an online Awards Ceremony followed by a series of online discussions with winners and jurors. ■

For more details on the official selection, the jury composition and further information, please visit <https://www.who.int/film-festival>



Depuis le belvédère, le panorama sur la ville basse et le port de plaisance de Rives est exceptionnel

France – Haute-Savoie – Thonon-les-Bains

Une histoire d'eau

Station thermale et touristique, capitale historique de la petite province savoyarde du Chablais blottie sur les rives du lac Léman et dominée par le massif montagneux de la Dent d'Oche qui culmine à 2221 m, l'accueillante ville de Thonon-les-Bains jouit d'une histoire riche et d'un patrimoine remarquable.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Sous-préfecture de Haute-Savoie qui compte 36 000 habitants, Thonon-les-Bains est construite sur un site occupé au moins depuis le Néolithique: des tessons de céramique, de l'outillage de pierre et des pilotis ont été découverts en 1989 au port de Rives. Ces pilotis ont été datés des années 3094 à 3049 av. J.-C. La ville, située à 431 mètres d'altitude, se divise en deux parties bien distinctes reliées par un pittoresque funiculaire.

La ville basse et son port de Rives

La ville haute, où l'on trouve de nombreux lieux historiques,

notamment des édifices religieux, sillonnée par des rues essentiellement piétonnes avec ses petites maisons, ses bâtiments de moyenne hauteur, ses commerces, son grand marché du jeudi. Et la ville basse et son petit port idyllique de Rives, sur le Léman, avec ses restaurants qui sauront vous régaler des poissons du lac dans un cadre magnifique et apaisant.

La ville basse et son port de Rives

A l'époque de la batellerie, les ouvriers attendaient impatiemment le coucher du soleil pour achever leur journée. Les patrons les retenaient tant qu'il n'y avait

pas «le feu au lac», c'est-à-dire que le soleil couchant fasse rougeoyer les eaux du lac. Le funiculaire qui permet aujourd'hui aux moins «courageux» de rejoindre le port de Rives au centre de Thonon a précisément été créé en 1888 pour effectuer l'acheminement des matériaux transportés par les barques de Meillerie vers la ville haute. À L'époque, ses cabines étaient en bois et leur charme n'excluait nullement une certaine sophistication puisqu'il était prévu des emplacements de première et seconde classe ainsi qu'une partie réservée aux bagages et denrées transportés. Le système de contrepoids d'origine nécessaire à sa motricité



Trônant au centre de la place de l'Hôtel de Ville, la fontaine datant de 1737 est l'œuvre des sculpteurs thononais Delesmillières et Joly Copel



Abrité dans trois guérites traditionnelles, l'écomusée de la pêche et du lac créé en 1987 a trouvé sa place au sein du village des pêcheurs

(réservoir rempli de 11 tonnes d'eau) a fait place à une nouvelle génération de funiculaires à moteur électrique et, en 1989, la ligne fut entièrement automatisée. D'une longueur de 220 m, il gravit les 46 mètres de dénivelé en une minute et demie environ, et c'est l'un des seuls funiculaires au monde où le croisement des cabines ne s'effectue pas en ligne droite.

Sa gare inférieure est érigée dans la ville basse, près du port de Rives et du vieux village de pêcheurs avec ses rues étroites, ses vieilles maisons et leurs escaliers extérieurs en bois. Unique sur les rives françaises du Léman, il joue un rôle appréciable pour les touristes gastronomes. Depuis les pittoresques guérites, une dizaine de pêcheurs professionnels partent avec leurs filets et nasses à l'assaut du vaste Léman, en toutes saisons et par tous les temps. En son sein, l'écomusée permet de découvrir l'univers des pêcheurs d'hier et d'aujourd'hui ainsi que la richesse de l'écosystème lémanique. Dominant les lieux, la petite chapelle gothique de Rives construite en 1860 fait face à la Tour des Langues datant du Moyen Âge. Son nom rappelle

une ancienne redevance féodale: les bouchers devaient aux seigneurs les langues du bétail abattu.

La ville haute et son belvédère sur le Léman

Le terminus du funiculaire est construit près du square Paul Jacquier qui offre depuis son belvédère un panorama exceptionnel sur la ville basse et la Suisse voisine avec, de l'autre côté du lac Léman, les villes de Lausanne, Morges et Yvonand ainsi que les monts du Jura. A deux pas se dresse le château de Sonnaz bâti en 1666 sur les ruines du château médiéval de Thonon. Lors de leurs séjours en Chablais, les souverains de Sardaigne étaient reçus dans cette magnifique demeure, propriété des Gerbaix de Sonnaz, l'une des plus anciennes familles de Savoie. Elle abrite aujourd'hui le Musée du Chablais et l'Office de Tourisme de Thonon-les-Bains. A ses côtés s'élève l'Hôtel de Ville dont la construction remonte à 1821. Edifié sur l'emplacement même de la première Maison de Ville de Thonon datant du XVI^e siècle qui fut entièrement détruite par un incendie en 1815, le bâtiment de style néoclassique marque le

«kilomètre zéro» officiel de la Route des Grandes Alpes. Cet itinéraire prestigieux conçu en 1911 par le Touring Club de France, long de 684 km et ponctué par 16 cols parmi les plus hauts des Alpes françaises, rallie Thonon-les-Bains à Menton à travers des territoires au patrimoine naturel et culturel exceptionnel. Trônant au centre de la place de l'Hôtel de Ville, la fontaine datant de 1737, œuvre des sculpteurs thononais Delesmillières et Joly Copel, est l'une des très nombreuses fontaines, sources ou lavoirs (magnifiques bassins ovales de Concise et de Rives) qui jalonnent la ville.

Proche du square Aristide Briand s'élève la basilique Saint-François de Sales dont la construction fut décidée en 1885. Pour cela, les travaux prévoyaient la démolition de l'église Saint-Hippolyte qui occupait une partie des lieux. La population thononaise s'éleva contre la destruction de l'église, la plus ancienne de Thonon (XII^e siècle); seul le presbytère sera démoli. Finalement, la basilique sera moins imposante que prévu et sera accolée à la crypte de l'église qui est aujourd'hui l'une des plus fières représentantes du style baroque en Haute-Savoie.

De château en château

Retour dans la ville basse par le chemin de Croulacul qui serpente en contrebas du château de Bellegarde. Avec sa tour carrée, il gardait autrefois l'accès nord-ouest de la cité. Derrière sa porte gothique se cache une romanesque cour intérieure avec vue imprenable sur le Léman et, en levant les yeux, on peut contempler une frise «coquine» en bois sculpté qui représente les sept péchés capitaux.

Au bord du lac, parmi de majestueux arbres, se dresse le château de Rives. Ancienne maison forte du XIV^e siècle, aujourd'hui propriété de la ville, il abritera d'ici 2027 le nouveau musée de Thonon-les-Bains. A l'extrémité des quais aménagés à la promenade où il fait bon flâner, la plage municipale propose un lieu de baignade et de détente privilégié dans un parc fleuri de 3 hectares. Le public peut profiter de plusieurs bassins et d'un accès direct au lac. Un peu plus haut, un petit coin de paradis attend les amoureux de la nature: la plage de la Pinède où l'on accède par un sentier qui longe les vignes du domaine de Ripaille. Ce dernier, haut lieu historique, culturel et



© Claude Mallard

La Tour des Langues recevait les bouchers qui venaient payer leur impôt au seigneur sous forme des langues des bêtes qu'ils abattaient



© Claude Mallard

Édifié pour renforcer l'angle ouest des fortifications de la ville, le château de Rives est l'un des rares édifices du Moyen Âge conservés en Chablais



© Claude Mallard

Par leur grandeur, leur charme, leurs souvenirs, Ripaille et son château sont l'un des plus beaux domaines au bord du lac Léman



© Claude Mallard

A l'époque de la batellerie, les ouvriers pouvaient achever leur journée quand le soleil mettait «le feu au lac»

vinicole protégé par une haute muraille qui l'entoure, est l'un des plus grands et remarquables sites naturels au bord du Léman, et son château est l'un des joyaux du patrimoine de la Haute-Savoie. Idéalement installé sur les rives du lac, il a été construit au XV^e siècle par le premier Duc de Savoie, Amédée VIII, afin d'en faire un ermitage pour grands seigneurs et s'y retirer. Plusieurs ordres religieux en furent tour à tour propriétaires, dont celui des Chartreux, qui occupèrent le domaine du XVII^e siècle jusqu'à la Révolution française. La restauration du château commence en 1892 sous l'impulsion de Frédéric Engel Gros qui utilise alors le style «Art Nouveau»

pour en faire un exemple de la modernité de 1900. De même que pour l'agréable parc de Montjoux et de son château inspiré d'une construction gothique anglaise (1930), également implanté sur les rives du lac mais côté ouest de Thonon et qui accueille chaque été un festival, Ripaille est ouvert au public. Après avoir été un lieu de pouvoir et de religion, il est à présent dédié aux arts et à «l'art de vivre».

Station thermale au cœur des Alpes

Déjà appréciée par les romains qui en avaient découvert les bienfaits, l'eau minérale naturelle Thonon était autrefois baptisée Eau de la Versoie. Plus tard, au

XVI^e siècle, Saint-François de Sales, prédicateur de Thonon, en fit état dans ses écrits et en recommanda les vertus. La source fut déclarée d'intérêt public en 1864 et, dix-huit ans plus tard, débuteront les premiers travaux de captage en même temps que la construction du premier établissement thermal. Aujourd'hui, la ville voit venir du monde entier des curistes qui ne demandent qu'à profiter des bienfaits rhumatologiques, diurétiques et diététiques procurés par cette eau qui a fait de Thonon-les-Bains une station thermale réputée. ■

Office de Tourisme de Thonon-les-Bains
Tél. 33(0)450 7155 55
thonon@thononlesbains.com

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Adressez vos commentaires à:

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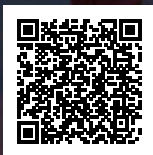


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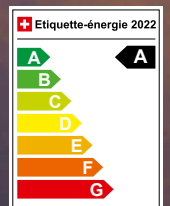
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