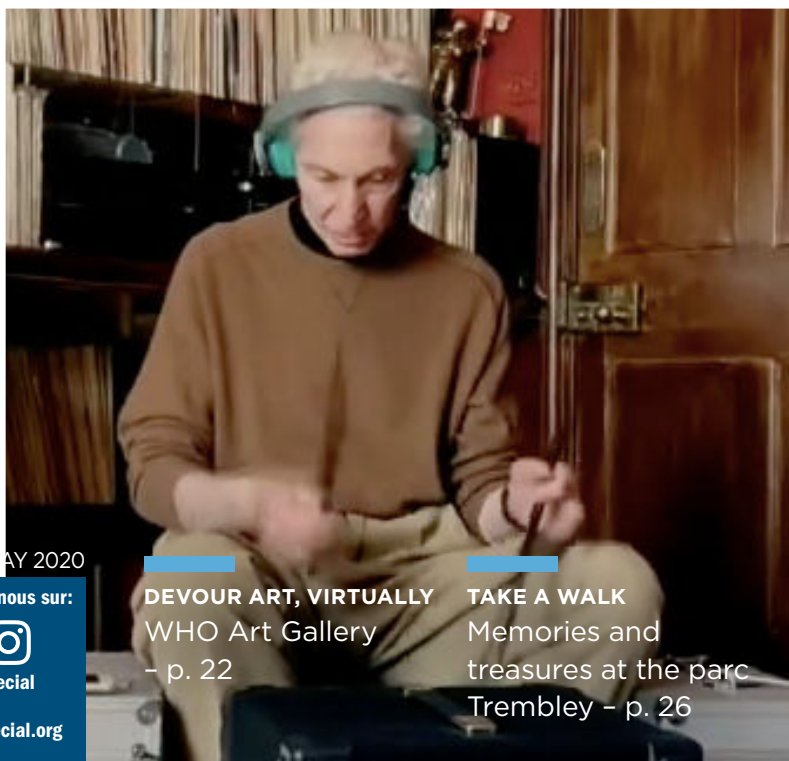
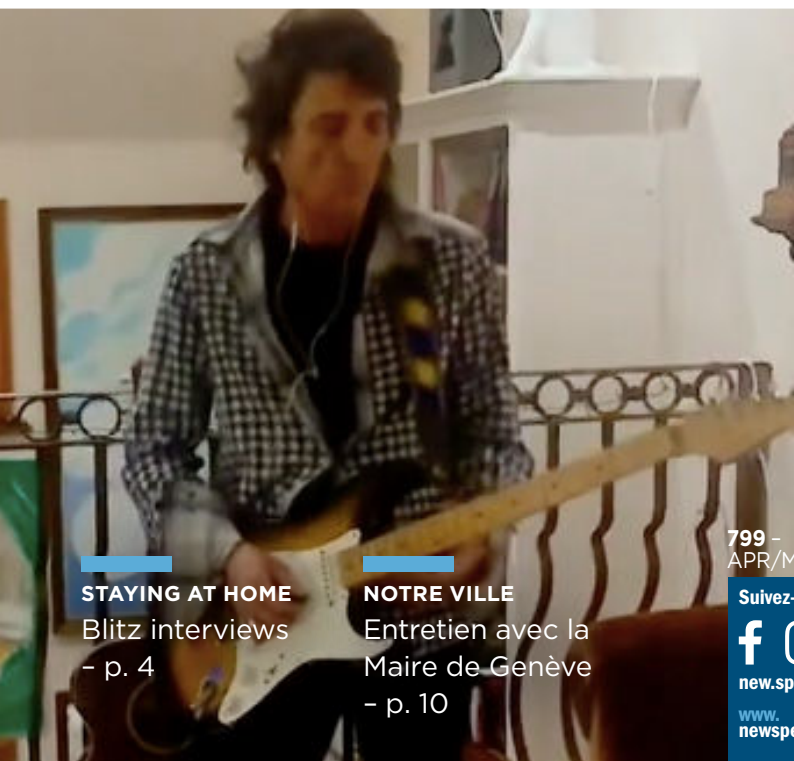


# newSpecial



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#### INTERIM EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

##### Times to remember...

Just like every other business, *newSpecial* has temporarily gone digital only. So much of our magazine is about touch. A staff member walks by our stand on their way to lunch. They pick it up, fold it and put it under their arm while standing in line to pay the cashier, then settle at a table to enjoy their meal and what our pages bring. Or maybe a delegate to a meeting, who has travelled from abroad or from a mission in Geneva, walks into one of the international organization buildings and *newSpecial* catches their eye and they pick it up. In a strange way, our magazine has always been a good friend in moments of solitude, relaxation or quiet reflection.

This period of lockdown, virtual working, and, for some, self-isolation to keep others healthy, is something we will remember for a long time.

For April/May, like you, we have had to adjust. We trust this digital issue will bring you the same amount of enjoyment as our print edition and help you get through these challenging times. ■

**Serving the people of international organizations in Geneva since 1949**

#### COMITÉ DE RÉDACTION INTÉrimAIRE

##### Souvenons-nous de ces moments...

En raison des circonstances présentes et à l'image de nombre d'entreprises, *newSpecial* vous propose aujourd'hui une édition numérique. Habituellement, la démarche est plus tactile. Un membre du personnel repère le magazine sur notre présentoir à la cafétéria. Il le glisse sous son bras avant de se présenter à la caisse. Ensuite, il savoure son repas et nous l'espérons, apprécie ce qu'il lit dans nos colonnes. Un délégué arrive de l'étranger, participe à une réunion dans une de nos nombreuses organisations internationales à Genève et parcourt le magazine. Étrangement, notre magazine accompagne la solitude, la détente ou les moments propices au calme et à la réflexion.

Le confinement, l'isolement et le travail virtuel ont marqué, et sans doute pour longtemps, notre environnement personnel et professionnel.

En ce numéro d'avril/mai, nous avons tout comme vous, dû nous adapter. Nous espérons que modestement, cette édition numérique, comme la version imprimée, vous apportera une parcelle de détente qui vous aidera à traverser ces moments particuliers. ■

**Au service du personnel des organisations internationales de Genève depuis 1949**



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# International celebrities team up with WHO to entertain the world at home!

## GARRY ASLANYAN, WHO

In these challenging times, the value of the United Nations and its agencies is reaching every home on the planet. WHO emerged as the world leader for hope and action as embodied in the special event hosted by Jimmy Fallon of “The Tonight Show”, Jimmy Kimmel of “Jimmy Kimmel Live”, Stephen Colbert of “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” and Sesame Street Friends. The unprecedented line-up of global artists who performed shook the world.

COVID-19 has taken a heavy toll on families, communities and nations the world over, but there have also been incredible acts of generosity, solidarity

and cooperation. People in the entertainment industry came together on Saturday 18 April for the “One World: Together at Home” virtual concert. Curated in collaboration with Lady Gaga, the concert was not only focused on musicians. It brought together people who are affected by COVID-19 to take meaningful actions to protect health and to support the COVID-19 response. It celebrated and supported healthcare workers and the global work led by WHO. Such events prove that the world can and will beat current and future adversities. ■

## Blitz interviews

# Staying At Home



**JAMIE MCALLISTER, FIFA – I HAVE WORKED THERE FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS**

I am teleworking from my apartment.

I am in Zurich. The area is on a hill and leafy with very nice fresh air. I can throw open the windows and really enjoy the environment.

**What is the most abnormal think you have done today?**

I coaxed my robot vacuum cleaner into a bunch of places to do a spring clean.

**What has been your most selfless or selfish deed, throughout this period?**

I evacuated my family to Thailand as soon as possible to give them space to run around during the period of confinement. This means I might be alone for several months, but it was the right move.

**Name something that gave you a positive thought or pleasure today?**

I had a Saturday style bacon and egg muffin for breakfast even though it's only Friday

**What is the one thing you have learned? What is one thing you miss? What is one opportunity that we all could gain from the situation?**

It gives us all a little space to develop healthier habits. Eat better, exercise, have those chats with family and friends we keep missing when we're too busy. The more positively we approach this, the better shape we'll be in when we emerge. Hopefully even better than when our confinement started.

**What do you think is something that will never be the same after the pandemic?**

Social fabric has been eroded in many countries. Working people living hand to mouth and health systems on the edge. The social contract needs to be re-written as the resilience of our society has been downgraded by special interests. Many people will emerge clamoring for a New Deal for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Let's hope we have someone of the stature of FDR to see that through. ■



**LIZ MULLETT, ICAN – 3.5 YEARS, I'M A FRONTIER AND SUPER LUCKY IN THAT OUR ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE IS SET UP IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE CAN ALL WORK FROM HOME.**

In France, again we are super lucky in that we have a lot of outdoor space and a field next to us which is great for the dog

**What is the most abnormal think you have done today?**

Normally I'm super active and motivated but actually today after taking the cat to the vet's I went back to bed and binge watched a series on Netflix

**What was your most selfless or selfish deed, throughout this period?**

Nothing selfless but I've tried to be thoughtful and ask the neighbors if they need anything when I pop to the shops.

**Name something that gave you positive thinking or pleasure today?**

Going back to bed and binge watching Netflix gave me pleasure today;) Our animals give me pleasure every day (2 cats, 2 rabbits & 1 dog) though they are finding it a bit strange having us home all the day. My husband gave me pleasure today in almost finishing the shed (!)

**What is the one thing you learned? What is one thing you**

**miss? What is one opportunity that we all could gain from the situation?**

I've learned that human beings need social interaction and I wouldn't be surprised if a lot of mindful livecasts started to appear in the next week or so as I'm sure there are a lot of people out there suffering mentally from being cut off/in isolation.

One thing I hope is that people learn from this not to be so wasteful with food.

**What do you think is something that will never be the same after the pandemic?**

From the positive side, I hope that people will be more appreciative of each other after this and realize we are all in this (life) together. I also hope that people become more creative in how to spend their time together rather than just watching TV. On the negative side, I fear the divide between the rich and the poor will increase. It's such a conundrum on how the future will unfold after this. The stock markets will bounce back but will the poor? Will cheap travel as we know it cease to exist? Will corporations become more mindful of their processes and impact on the environment and implement new processes? They, in turn, will, at least in the short term, increase the product price, or will they pump out cut price goods as many people will be suffering from a loss of income? Then we will be back to where we were environmentally. Will the money really be there for those that need it after this? ■



**KEVIN “IT NERD” CRAMPTON, WHO AND FOUR YEARS AS STAFF. I SELF-ISOLATED FOR A WEEK AFTER SOME WEIRD FLU SYMPTOMS AND JUST WHEN I WAS READY TO COME BACK TO THE OFFICE WE WENT INTO LOCKDOWN – ALMOST LIKE MY COLLEAGUES WERE TRYING TO AVOID ME!**

Can you believe that Mrs. KeV has kicked me down into our laundry room to set up our home office here? She said it was safer for my health to be far away from the fridge. I share the space with the cat who looks vaguely annoyed by the arrangement.

**What is the most abnormal think you have done today?**

I started one of those online workout things where a lycra clad goddess with boundless energy tries to keep you fit. I made the mistake of leaving my camera on and then was able to see precisely what a shabby, overweight, balding specimen of pathetic athletic prowess I have become.

**What has been your most selfless or selfish deed, throughout this period?**

Does hiding the chocolate from my kids count as selfishness? I mean, I'm helping their health...

**Name something that gave you a positive thought or pleasure today?**

I started a new daily routine of calling a different friend that I have not spoken to in ages. Because guess what? They're all home. It's been superb catching up with certain old chums that I have not spoken to in years.

**What is the one thing you have learned? What is one thing you miss? What is one opportunity that we all could gain from the situation?**

I have learned that it was not a good idea to have told my wife for many years that I would do all the little jobs around the house when I had time. I miss walking in the mountains and forests, it's really the simple things. I miss camping. A big opportunity to simplify things a bit and slow down – a kind of back to basics.

**What do you think is something that will never be the same after the pandemic?**

Hmm good question and hard to say. I never underestimate how quickly we humans can forget things but I would like to think that globally we'd never leave pandemic preparedness to chance again. Any other comment is welcome. If you feel comfortable, please attach a headshot picture to include in the compilation of the interviews. ■



**ROBYN THOMAS, FICSA, 10.5 YEARS, TELE-WORKING IN SELF-ISOLATION WITH MY HUSBAND, WHO IS DOING THE SAME.**

I'm sitting at my home workstation, set up at one end of my dining room table. My husband has his workstation set up at the other end of the table. I am usually supervised by my cat!

**What is the most unusual thing you have done today?**

Online Zumba class recorded by my gym.

**What has been your most selfless or selfish deed, throughout this period so far?**

My husband and I both 'fight' to make coffees for each other; to check the mail – anything to get moving.

**Name something that gave you a positive thought or gave you pleasure today?**

Doing my online Zumba class. It was a pleasure to move to music!

**What is the one thing you have learned due to this current situation?**

That keeping in touch with family and friends via video chat is very important for my mental well-being.

**What is one thing you miss?**

The normal social activities that bring joy to life. I also miss my day to day contact with my work colleagues.

**What is one opportunity that we all could gain from the situation?**

The knowledge that many of the smaller meetings that are normally held face to face, can also be conducted via video conference.

**Think about one thing that you believe will never be the same after the pandemic?**

It has broken down many of the barriers about working from home/teleworking, but face to face and social interaction remain a very important part of people's lives.

The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of current business continuity plans, incorporating a well-managed IT infrastructure. It has also highlighted the power of cloud-based computing. ■



**EVELYN KORTUM, WHO FOR ABOUT THE LAST 30 YEARS, BUT RIGHT NOW I AM SECONDED TO THE FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS (FICSA). OUR OFFICES ARE AT THE UN, WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSED TO NON-ESSENTIAL STAFF, LIKE MOST ORGANIZATIONS. THE WHOLE SECRETARIAT IS WORKING FROM HOME AND WE HAVE REGULAR 'TEAM' MEETINGS.**

**Where are you located right now and what are your surroundings like?**

We live in Mies, with my husband and son, on the border to Geneva and the nature is blossoming, I can hear more birds than ever before, much less noise from planes, trains and cars, neighbours are meeting on the streets keeping distance but exchanging some words. Everyone seems to be more relaxed and decided to leave the daily stress we experience at work behind.

**What is the most unusual thing you have done today?**

I read the first batch of emails and responded to them after waking up and from my bed.

**What has been your most selfless or selfish deed, throughout this period so far?**

I left the home office to my husband so that he can have his teleconferences. I moved to the living room, and then back and forth.

**Name something that made you think positively or gave you pleasure today?**

The nice weather, the sun, having woken up and my family and I being healthy.

**What is the one thing you have learned due to this current situation?**

I enjoy my own space and can occupy myself for long periods.

**What is one thing you miss?**

Non-virtual social contacts with friends and colleagues.

**What is one opportunity that we all could gain from the situation?**

I think there is a renewed collective consciousness setting in about the importance of looking after the people we love, whether they are close or distant, and looking after nature and our environment.

**What do you believe will never be the same after the pandemic?**

We will always be conscious that disease outbreaks have become part of our lives. I think we have an opportunity now to use this unusual period as a time to reflect upon the things that are important to us. How will life be after this outbreak and how can our short lives on this earth be even more fulfilling in the face of pandemics and security threats, that may break out at any time in the future again. ■



**JESUS GARCIA JIMENEZ, ITC-ILO SINCE 2007, TELEWORKING, TURIN, WORKING FROM MY HOUSE, IN A NICE SPACE IN MY LIVING ROOM**

**What is the most unusual thing you have done today?**

I had a virtual appointment with my psychologist

**What has been your most selfless or selfish deed, throughout this period so far?**

I don't think that I have done anything really "selfless" or "selfish" in this period.

**Name something that made you think positively or gave you pleasure today?**

Music is always something good for me and the fact that my husband is living with me is always positive for my mood.

**What is the one thing you have learned due to this current situation?**

The fact that tomorrow could be the last day of my freedom.

**What is one thing you miss?**

I miss the street a lot. We cannot go out and it is not easy. I would like to visit my mother in Madrid as well.

**What is one opportunity that we all could gain from the situation?**

We should rethink many things

**What do you believe will never be the same after the pandemic?**

Our sense of vulnerability ■



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## Children’s story book to help children and young people cope with COVID-19

### GARRY ASLANYAN, WHO

A new story book that aims to help children understand and come to terms with COVID-19 has been produced as the result of a collaboration between more than 50 organizations working in the humanitarian sector, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Save the Children.

The book “My Hero is You, How kids can fight COVID-19!” is aimed at children aged six to 11 years old. With the help of a fantasy creature, Ario, the book explains how children can protect themselves, their families

and friends from coronavirus and how to manage difficult emotions when confronted with a new and rapidly changing reality. As the authors worked on the book, they made sure that from the early stages of its development, more than 1700 children, parents, caregivers and teachers from around the world were involved, sharing how they were coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. This input was used by the script writer and illustrator Helen Patuck and the project team in making sure that the story and its messages resonated with children from different backgrounds and continents. In order to reach as many children as possible, the book is widely translated and was released as both

an online product and audio book. Translations into official United Nations and other languages are available. Spread the word, let your family and friends know, use the book! ■

# Cet infiniment petit... le coronavirus

*En cette belle journée de printemps, dans l'invisible pourtant, cette présence œuvre et touche des vies jusqu'à les faucher. Étrange ressenti que cette guerre feutrée entre le vivant et son anéantissement.*



© Jacques Rannou

## ISABELLE LABRE, NATIONS UNIES

Dans nos Nations Unies, voici que les frontières se barricadent contre un ennemi d'un autre genre, et dont les armées ne cessent de progresser. Par monts et par vaux, de par les mers et les terres, dans tous les airs, et sous tous les cieux, le voici présent: le coronavirus et ses troupes parcourant le globe. Du jour au lendemain, notre liberté de mouvement s'en est trouvée retirée par mesure de sécurité, alors qu'il avance, en silence, mais assurément. L'ennemi est inconnu ou si peu de lui que nous connaissons, insuffisamment pour l'heure pour pouvoir agir autrement que dans l'isolement.

La Genève internationale se mue dans la désertion de ses rues. Il n'y a plus qu'un seul sujet, celui du COVID-19 qui s'exprime dans toutes les langues, visite toutes les cultures de nos contrées locales, régionales, nationales, mondiales. Les nations se replient sur elles-mêmes. L'ironie de cet infiniment petit n'a que faire de nos frontières, qu'elles

soient physiques, psychiques, mentales, émotionnelles, économiques, territoriales: il nous lie tous à lui pour au passage prendre la vie de beaucoup d'entre nous. Apporte-t-il une ère nouvelle par cette forme de chaos qu'il charrie? La question est ouverte, nous sommes en tout cas dans l'expérimentation! Peut-être était-il temps d'une ouverture de conscience à des dimensions plus larges et sans repères connus jusqu'alors! Le micro-organisme se présente plus grand qu'un certain orgueil à chercher à tout maîtriser.

Nous sommes en déroute! Pour quelles autres routes? Serait-ce un appel de la Vie elle-même à nous recentrer sur notre existence. Accepter de ralentir pour notre bien et celle de notre demeure, la Planète Bleue. Dans l'épreuve à l'échelle mondiale, le message est universel. Encore faudrait-il pouvoir le comprendre, vouloir le recevoir. Encore faudrait-il en décrypter les termes. Force est de constater que les événements





de maintenant présents draineront des conséquences en cascades dont il est difficile de prévoir l'ampleur sur le long terme. Vers un changement de paradigme? Des nations plus unies au respect universel des biens de notre Terre-Mère, et dans sa lignée, du legs que nous préparons aux générations futures? Elle qui nous nourrit, quelle gratitude lui témoignons-nous? Qu'en est-il de notre propre vivant d'être humain?

N'avons-nous pas l'impression de préparer le creuset de notre propre tombe dans une course folle à l'autodestruction? Trop de tout et pas assez d'essentiel – nous vivions finalement en-dehors de nous-mêmes. Le temps de méditation s'impose, de se poser loin du tumulte des automatismes de beaucoup de nos vies. A y regarder de plus près, il nous est donné de vivre autrement, d'autant plus que nombre d'entre nous n'aurons pas cette chance de vivre par-delà ce virus... Ce serait une salutation à ces vies qui n'ont

eu le temps de préparer leurs adieux. En décembre 2019, le repli s'annonçait discrètement alors que la mort frappait déjà au très lointain, sur les frontières de ses murailles: la Chine. Erreur humaine, celle-ci ou une autre, l'humanité comprend-elle qu'elle est liée entre tous?! Un lien depuis des âges, des parentés inconnues, une famille à ciel ouvert qui fait des choix sombres autant qu'ils peuvent être si lumineux!

Notre conscience universelle en connaît bien plus que notre savoir. Certaines de nos croyances peuvent relever de la prescience sans en connaître les termes. Nous faisons partie d'un Tout. La Vie nous invite, certes en nous bousculant, à prendre nos responsabilités individuelles toutes inscrites dans la communauté du vivant, et à prendre soin de nous chacun en rayonnement collectif. Il nous appartient de l'accueillir et d'y répondre! C'est dans cet ancrage forcé dans l'instant présent, trop souvent délaissé par le rythme de nos

vies projetées dans le moment futur, que nous pouvons poser notre état d'être et s'aligner sur l'existence, maintenant!

Les nations auront à s'unir autrement dans une nouvelle énergie, espérée plus consciente sur bien des plans. Personne ne gouverne la Vie, au contraire, nous avons sans cesse à apprendre d'Elle, tels ses enfants que nous sommes chacun et appelés à toujours grandir. Avec le partage de nos richesses humaines, poser devant soi un demain réinventé, en serons-nous capables?

A l'espoir d'une renaissance dans plus de sagesse! ■



M<sup>me</sup> Sandrine Salerno prise à l'occasion de la remise du Prix Martin Ennals qu'elle cite dans l'article.

© Patrick Gillieron Lopreno - Ville de Genève

## Entretien

# M<sup>me</sup> Sandrine Salerno, Maire de Genève

MARIE-JOSÉ ASTRE DÉMOULIN/  
CHRISTIAN DAVID

**Vous assumez jusqu'en juin votre troisième mandat de maire de Genève. Quelles sont vos ambitions pour la cité? Quelles sont les limites du pouvoir de cette fonction?**

Depuis mon entrée au Conseil administratif de la Ville de Genève en 2007, j'ai toujours travaillé avec l'ambition de faire de Genève une ville solidaire, écologique, innovante et engagée, qui agit avec conviction pour un développement durable, pour la cohésion sociale et pour permettre à toutes et à tous de vivre dans les meilleures conditions possibles. La fonction de Maire de la Ville, occupée annuellement selon un tournus entre les cinq Magistrat·e·s du Conseil administratif – ne change pas fondamentalement cette ambition. Elle me permet par contre de

développer des projets spécifiques sur une thématique, l'égalité étant celle que j'ai choisie cette année.

**Genève ville internationale subit ces derniers temps, beaucoup de modifications: travaux importants, constructions. Quels sont les retours de la population et les attentes de la mairie vis-à-vis de cette identification internationale?**

L'ensemble des réalisations prévues jusqu'en 2023 vont changer le visage du quartier des Nations, y développer et diversifier les activités, et considérablement contribuer au rayonnement de la Genève internationale. La Ville de Genève soutient financièrement certains grands chantiers, telles que la rénovation du Palais des Nations. Depuis la naissance de la Croix-Rouge en

1863, la Genève internationale représente une composante essentielle de notre cité; elle participe à son identité multiculturelle, la nourrit de son expertise et lui offre une visibilité mondiale. Par son travail et son engagement, elle contribue de manière déterminante à la résolution des grands défis auxquels est confrontée l'humanité. Nous avons donc à cœur de la protéger, de continuer à lui offrir les meilleures conditions cadres possibles. Depuis quelques années, et notamment grâce au fabuleux travail réalisé par Michael Møller, la population genevoise partage cette préoccupation. En multipliant les occasions de rencontres et d'échanges, en ouvrant aussi les portes du Palais des Nations – longtemps perçue par les Genevois·e·s comme une forteresse imprenable –, il a réussi à réduire le fossé entre la Genève



internationale et la population du canton, et à installer une atmosphère d'amitié et de confiance réciproque. Je pense ainsi pouvoir dire aujourd'hui que Genève dans son ensemble se réjouit des transformations en cours.

**Comment l'idée d'une féminisation des panneaux de signalisation a-t-elle vu le jour? En tant qu'élue, en tant que citoyenne, comment comprenez-vous que cette initiative destinée à renforcer la place des femmes dans l'espace public ait suscité quelques réactions plutôt hostiles?**

Comme signalé plus haut, j'ai placé mon année de mairie sous le signe de l'égalité, avec l'envie de proposer des projets forts, de déconstruire les stéréotypes de genre et de questionner les modèles établis. Dans ce cadre, la question de

l'espace public, de son aménagement, de son utilisation aussi, s'est rapidement imposée. On sait en effet qu'historiquement les espaces urbains ont été conçus par et pour les hommes. Aujourd'hui encore, cette conception patriarcale de la société perdure et se manifeste non seulement dans l'aménagement de nos villes, mais aussi dans un usage très différencié de l'espace public, que l'on observe dès le plus jeune âge. Dans ce cadre, la question de la signalétique est intéressante, puisque sous prétexte de neutralité, elle est très majoritairement masculine. Or, l'omniprésence des représentations masculines stéréotypées dans l'espace public vient renforcer l'idée que certaines personnes, en particulier les femmes mais aussi les minorités, y sont moins à leur place que d'autres. Concernant les

réactions hostiles provoquées par ce projet, elles démontrent qu'on touche ici à quelque chose d'important. Et que le chemin vers une égalité de fait entre les femmes et les hommes est encore long. Je tiens néanmoins à souligner que la féminisation des panneaux a en parallèle rencontré un large succès médiatique, avec plus de 300 sujets dans plus de 35 pays, qui pour la plupart saluent cette initiative.

**Vous avez, au cours de vos mandats successifs, rencontré, côtoyé de nombreux contacts. Quels sont ceux qui vous ont marquée (en bien ou en mal)?**

Sans aucune hésitation: les nominé·e·s au Prix Martin Ennals, que je rencontre chaque année lors de la cérémonie de remise du Prix, co-organisée par la Ville de Genève. Ces hommes et ces

femmes s'engagent au péril de leur vie pour défendre les droits humains à travers le monde. Leurs combats, leur abnégation, la force de leurs convictions, forcent incontestablement le respect. Je voudrais en particulier saluer les trois femmes d'exception qui ont été finalistes cette année et qui mettent bien en évidence la place désormais prépondérante occupée par les femmes dans la défense des droits humains: Huda Al-Sarari qui dénonce l'existence de prisons secrètes et la torture au Yémen, Norma Ledezma qui lutte contre les féminicides et les cas de disparitions au Mexique ainsi que Sizani Ngubane qui milite pour l'accès des femmes à l'éducation et à la terre en Afrique du Sud. Des femmes exceptionnelles. ■

# The virtues of a virus turning us virtual

*What will happen to UN events and conferences cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic?*

**FREDERIC BALLENEGGER, UPWELLING**

Nothing, and good riddance – that much money and greenhouse gas spared, say populist politicians, who think the United Nations is just a talk shop, along with perhaps some of our partners (and even our colleagues).

Others, nevertheless, have been looking for online alternatives. True, an online event is considerably cheaper and greener than face-to-face meetings, with no air tickets, no physical venue, and much less logistics. But also no serendipitous meetings, no side conversations, no informal networking. Even in times when handshakes are discouraged, attending a conference entirely online can be a bit dull, and lack the human element, which is crucial in maintaining attention, building partnerships and momentum, and collaborating on solutions and compromises.

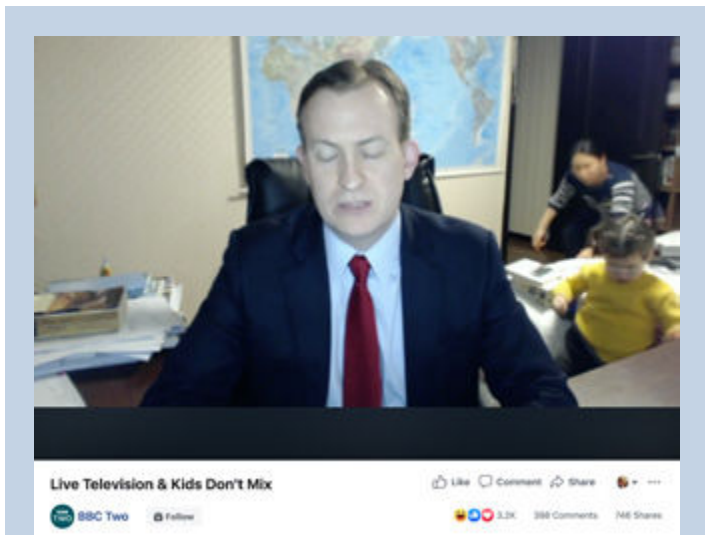
How to distinguish, then, between what will work online and what's not worth it? In fact, online consultative processes have been playing an increasingly relevant role in global policy since well before COVID-19 arrived, according to Romolo Tassone, Project Manager at the SDG Integration group at UNDP in New York, where online global and regional consultations have been designed and managed for eight years now.

The first of these online consultations was a global discussion called *The Rio+20 Dialogues*. It ultimately led

to the now-familiar 17 SDGs, which became the global development agenda not only at the United Nations, but also in the civil society and academic world, as well as in the private sector. Opening consultation processes early and online is a way to widen the support base for outcomes that occur much later in the process, Tassone says. *“Online processes also allow us to target groups traditionally excluded or unable to participate in the past”.*

Over the years, good practices were identified and a methodological approach has been put into place. People tend to focus on technology, on a platform or tool, and that's a mistake. Trying to force consultative processes to fit a chosen technology is like putting the cart in front of the horse. The purpose for each online consultation is unique, and that determines how a consultation is managed, including its online components. *“People are easily impressed by flashy tech and often overlook the hardest, most crucial part – creating inclusive pathways for an online audience to impact decision-making processes.”*, Tassone says.

To be successful, a public consultation has to be structured, managed and lead to a significant and evident impact on decision-making processes. If citizens, scientists, academics, business people, etc, feel that they can influence UN and governmental decisions, they will make meaningful contributions and hopefully also become



## Yesteryear's Working from Home

**Unexpected glory:** On 10 March 2017, Pr Robert Kelly was providing expert advice on North Korea to the BBC from his home office when the live interview got gate-crashed by his children and wife. The video quickly went viral with six million views

that day. Pr Kelly's brush with fame showed how a behind-the-scenes glitch can become a true communication hit online.

**What will be your best moments of working from home in 2020?**

champions for the process in their own context.

### A global conversation this year

This year, as part of the United Nations' 75th anniversary, a global conversation was launched to better understand priorities as viewed by people of the world. Using technology to ask for feedback is not a mundane nor a technical exercise, but part of a very healthy trend, according to Fabrizio Hochschild, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the preparations for the commemoration of the United Nations' 75th anniversary.

Online consultations could even be a way to reinvigorate multilateralism: we have come to a very dangerous point in human history, with governments retreating from multilateralism when global challenges such as demography, climate, inequalities, and pandemics are demanding urgent international concertation and action, Hochschild says. *"But if the Secretary-General stands in front of Member States with millions, or tens of millions, of voices behind him, it becomes very difficult to pretend the United Nations lives in a small blue bubble"* and to ignore the fact that multilateralism is still our best way to tackle global issues.

Moderated discussions, questionnaires, and AI-powered social media surveys will be launched in the coming months to gather the world's sentiment on global issues. A report will be presented to Heads of State at the next General Assembly

in September. Data from the online conversation will be used as an ingredient for advocacy.

It is hard to say how Member States will react, Hochschild warns. Seventy-five years ago, differences were overshadowed by a common aspiration to move away from the atrocities of two World Wars. *'Today, talking at a distance, but with a great number of people, may allow us to reconnect to these common aspirations'*, he concludes.

### A new way to influence

Online interaction indeed changes the balance of power and influence. *"Tie-and-jacket diplomacy probably saved the world from nuclear war, let's not forget it"*, recalls Francesco Pisano, Director of United Nations Geneva Library & Archives. *"However, there is an expectation from the global civil society that its voice be heard and brought on the multilateral scene. Digital tools and meaningful engagement may be the opportunity to hear these voices and respond."*

The pandemic may open a window of opportunity to elevate not only conference-goers, but anyone, into global influencers, using the power of digital networks. This change will not happen overnight, and will require us to tap into the competencies and expertise in solid methodologies, accumulated over time. The relevance of the entire multilateral system might be at stake. ■

## Recipe for a successful online consultation

**Consult on something real.** Identify a decision-making process that should be opened to diverse perspectives, or people who were traditionally excluded.

Or, is a product being produced (policy, declaration, commitments, recommendations, etc) that could be made more robust and more transparently with more ownership from various stakeholders?

**Don't go it alone.** Ensure that those that control the decision-making process or product are on board and see the consultation as essential, not as a distraction.

**Aim at a tangible outcome.** Agree on the outcome of the consultation – how will contributions be captured and presented to decision makers?

**Structure it well.** Create the guiding questions, structure and timeline of the consultation that will lead to a robust and inclusive outcome document. For example, will the consultation be public or invite-only? The consultation stakeholders should help co-create this consultation framework.

**Pick your tools.** Determine and set-up the technology to deliver the consultation. The online tools should be user-friendly, multi-lingual and mobile (and low bandwidth) accessible. Centralise the engagement processes in a logical place.

**Select and train moderators** so that they not only support the participants and online processes, but also advocate for the consultation.

**Map the intended audience** for the consultation and use customised communication and outreach to contact them.

**Close the loop.** Once the consultation ends and the outcome has been produced, share it with the online audience to show that their voices have been captured. When presenting the outcome to decision makers, livestream this event with the consultation audience to prove that their voices have been heard. If possible, track the impact of the consultation and report back to the online audience.

For more information and support, you can contact [romolo.tassone@undp.org](mailto:romolo.tassone@undp.org).

# A short-and-sweet circuit

*What's the common point between an engraved IGP\* oyster shell, ICRC operations in Erythrea, the Pays de Gex, e-commerce and short food circuits?*



Grégory Troussier by his Gourmet Lockers

## FREDERIC BALLENEGGER, UPWELLING

The answer is: 41-year-old Grégory Troussier, a French-Portuguese entrepreneur who has already lived several lives. He was a financial executive for construction corporations in the Caribbean, then a war zone Red Cross administrator (that's where he met his wife) and, more recently, a specialist in counterfeits in a start-up at *The École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne* (EPFL). That's where he saw oyster farmer Gillardeau selling his oysters in refrigerated food lockers.

"We spent the entire summer on Madeira island, brainstorming. During the autumn I looked for funding. That's where I got my first white hair", he smiles while brushing his cowlick to one side. In November 2019, the first *Casiers Gourmands* (Gourmet Lockers) were built in Ferney Voltaire, close to the main French border control, and in Grilly. Their ambition: work only with local, high-quality producers who respect their environment and their cattle.

If French cuisine is among the best in the world, that's because it can rely on tasty

products. In Lyons or Geneva, the Halles regroup all producers under one roof. Nothing like this exists in the Pays de Gex, home to busy people who don't necessarily have time to go through traffic jams across several food stores, even more so if they come from abroad and do not know where to look.

Troussier's Gourmet Lockers try to get the best of two worlds: e-commerce efficiency – customers ordering from their office PC or phone know what they'll get – and authenticity – knowing by name who produced your steak and your honey is a luxury nowadays. Magali Kriegk's *Ferme du Chêne*, for instance, which produces organic dairy, 1,200 metres above sea level. Troussier's meat producers do not use any umbrella antibiotics either and, when the time comes, take their cattle to a slaughterhouse in the immediate vicinity. "That's our philosophy. It goes for fruit, vegetables, cheese. By the way, we're going to start with a specialty cheese a local farmer brought me. You'll like it, I think", says Troussier. ■

## PRACTICALITIES

Orders are made on [www.CasiersGourmands.com](http://www.CasiersGourmands.com) and items are collected from refrigerated lockers in Ferney, 50 m after the tunnel border control, or in Grilly (close to the beer brewery). The system sends you a code to open the locker. Orders sent before 1 p.m. can be collected the same day. Other distribution points are projected. During the coronavirus epidemics, lockers, handles, and doors are disinfected twice a day and employees wear protective gear.

\* IGP = AOP = Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée

# Hierarchie du confinement et monde parallèle

*Un monde parallèle semble s'être mis en place, depuis quelques semaines. Cette catastrophe sanitaire souligne, mieux que toute analyse, les comportements humains.*

**CHRISTIAN DAVID, NATIONS UNIES**

Il remet en perspective également la hiérarchie de valeurs, y compris en termes de rémunération accordée à certaines professions au détriment d'autres qui seraient moins «nobles». La hiérarchie du confinement s'y trouve curieusement accolée. Qui sont les personnes essentielles au fonctionnement et à la survie de nos sociétés? Celles et ceux qui ne sont pas confinés. Admirés par tous, ils nous soignent au péril de leur vie, vident nos poubelles, nous nourrissent, tiennent la caisse des magasins d'alimentation, maintiennent la sécurité ou effectuent les livraisons.

A l'échelle de la planète, cette hiérarchie du confinement est également flagrante entre nord et sud. C'est quasiment la même que celle qui donne accès aux soins et à la nourriture. Et pendant ce temps, les possesseurs continuent, à l'abri derrière leur ordinateur, à accumuler leur richesse. La bourse baisse, c'est formidable! Quelques ventes à découvert sur les marchés monétaires, financiers ou des matières premières et un bon bénéfice à la clé. Au même moment, le petit agriculteur endetté se suicide, victime d'un système qui le force à s'endetter pour acheter des plants génétiquement modifiés.

Et puis, quelques potentats locaux, nationaux ou internationaux sont, plus que jamais, prêts à tout pour marquer leur territoire au point de piétiner, en toute connaissance de cause et souvent en toute impunité, des valeurs auxquelles ils prétendent adhérer. Après moi, le déluge, mais le déluge arrive!

Bien-sûr, quelques lanceurs d'alerte réagissent, et notamment cette jeunesse éclatante qui a compris avant ses aînés que leur monde ne devait pas se réduire à celui qu'ils leur laisseraient en héritage.

En fait, je prends conscience d'une chose évidente: le monde parallèle c'est peut-être celui que nous sommes en train de quitter. Ainsi, l'opportunité de remettre en place le monde réel, sobre et juste, n'a jamais été aussi favorable.

Observons en effet l'attitude générale des personnes, en ces temps de crise forcément plus rares, que nous croisons. Elle est en train de changer. Les gens se regardent, parfois se sourient, deviennent moins anonymes les uns par rapport aux autres. Nos déplacements réduits ont pour conséquence d'ouvrir d'autres perspectives. En roulant sur une route désertée, il devient possible de



ralentir. Ralentir, justement! Soyons plus attentifs et prenons conscience de détails qui auparavant nous laissaient indifférents: l'arrivée du printemps, la forme particulière d'un arbre, l'harmonie entre les variétés différentes qui se côtoient en «réseaux» sans s'affronter, se nourrissent avec leurs feuilles et branches mortes. En forêt, il est désormais plus facile de croiser des animaux qui semblent étonnés de pouvoir échapper à l'omniprésence humaine, comme une trêve par rapport à l'envahissement des véhicules et autres machines-outils. Ce rouge-gorge qui nidifie dans le manchon du guidon de ma moto «confinée» en est la preuve vivante.

Pourtant, et les vrais spécialistes le démontrent, si une prise de conscience se met en place, à l'échelle planétaire, ses conséquences, notamment sur

le climat, mettront des décennies à inverser la tendance. Et c'est aussi cela que l'homme n'a pas compris, nous payons cash les conséquences des comportements que nous avons eus depuis plusieurs décennies. Imaginons que nous limitions nos comportements suicidaires, la banquise et les glaciers continueront tout de même à fondre.

Il est peut-être tard, trop tard, ou une opportunité nous est donnée de transformer cet événement majeur dans notre histoire. Changer de comportement ou alors de retourner dans ce monde de frénésie. En cela, travailler pour les Nations Unies nous donne une responsabilité supplémentaire pour contribuer à changer. ■



# Confinement gessien

**CLAUDE MAILLARD**

Pilote de Formule 1 de 1977 à 1986 (114 Grands Prix et 2 victoires au volant d'une Ferrari), Patrick Tambay m'avait déclaré que dans la vie «il fallait toujours voir le bon côtés des choses». Suivant la situation, il n'est pas toujours évident de pouvoir raisonner de cette façon. Mais depuis ce jour où j'avais côtoyé le champion automobile, je pense toujours à ces propos qui font que j'entrevois la vie autrement, essayant de chasser le «négatif» de mon esprit pour ne garder que le meilleur qui nous fait avancer et non pas stagner dans une morosité destructrice, néfaste pour l'âme et le corps.

Retraité de l'OMS depuis une dizaine d'années (Eh oui, depuis le 1er janvier 2010, ça passe vite, très vite!), j'ai pris l'habitude de passer plus de temps à la maison, sans parler bien évidemment de confinement comme nous devons le vivre actuellement. Et même si je suis plutôt «extérieur» qu'«intérieur», avide de grands espaces, d'aventures aux quatre coins du monde, passionné par tout ce qui touche à la nature,

volcans, déserts, montagne... (mes reportages de voyages dans lesquels je vous entraîne en témoignent), je crois qu'il est plus contraignant pour un actif de devoir subir le confinement qui nous est imposé par la pandémie du Coronavirus (Covid-19).

## **Garder le même rythme que d'habitude**

Pour un salarié (qui n'a pas encore le loisir de pouvoir savourer une retraite bien méritée!), qu'il ait la possibilité ou non de continuer son activité professionnelle grâce au télétravail, je pense qu'il doit avant tout faire comme s'il devait continuer à se déplacer pour rejoindre son lieu de travail, garder le même rythme que d'habitude, ne pas se laisser aller et surtout ne pas confondre «confinement» avec «vacances».

De mon côté, il y a bien longtemps que j'ai adopté le rythme de retraité actif, très actif, et mon emploi du temps est bien rempli, devant me rendre à l'évidence que les journées sont bien trop courtes pour

accomplir tout ce que j'avais programmé. Et même depuis le confinement qui m'interdit tous voyages lointains, escapades sur les crêtes du Jura au pied duquel je vis ou toutes activités sportives de longue durée, j'ai trouvé de quoi m'occuper... jugeant toujours que le temps défile trop vite.

L'un de mes derniers articles publié dans le numéro de mars du newSpecial qui avait pour titre «Le sport ne fait pas vivre plus vieux, mais fait vivre plus jeune» rapportait qu'il n'y a pas d'âge pour continuer ou commencer à pratiquer une activité physique. Depuis le 17 mars, pour moi, terminés les entraînements collectifs au stade et les joggings entre amis de plus d'une heure, d'une douzaine de kilomètres. Pas de souci: pour remplacer ces loisirs désormais interdits, un petit échauffement autour de mon domicile, quelques tours de pédales sur mon vélo d'appartement et quelques séances de gainage (renforcement des muscles) peuvent les remplacer pour entretenir ma forme... et maintenir ma ligne!





#### Savoir s'occuper

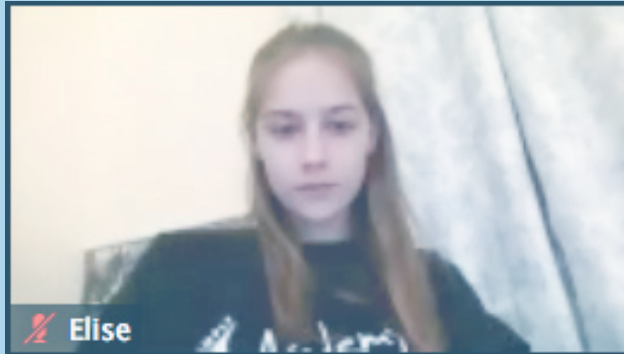
Et puis, suivant ses envies, suivant ses centres d'intérêt, suivant ses possibilités, il y a mille façons de s'occuper. Pour ma part, bricolage et jardinage font partie de mes activités régulières. Seul bémol en cette période de crise: magasins de bricolage et jardinerie sont fermés. Mais que l'on soit en maison ou en appartement avec balcon ou terrasse, il y a toujours moyen d'imaginer une activité dans ces domaines. A ce sujet, j'ai toujours aimé ce proverbe: «Qui veut peut, qui ne veut pas trouve toujours une raison». Je l'avais d'ailleurs affiché dans mon bureau à l'imprimerie de l'OMS.

Ma gourmandise pour les bonnes choses fait que je passe également un peu de temps en cuisine pour me concocter de bons petits plats, simples il est vrai, mais toujours à base de produits frais et de saison. Autant dire que pendant ce confinement, la tomate était proscrite de mes recettes! Par contre j'en ai réalisé des semis que j'espère bientôt mettre en pleine terre.

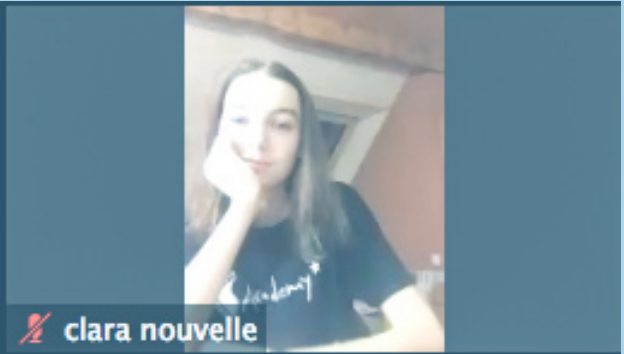
Comme vous vous en doutez, je consacre aussi une partie de ma vie devant mon écran d'ordinateur afin d'écrire mes articles. Photographe de profession avant tout, j'attribue beaucoup de temps à mes photos, dans leur choix, leur cadrage, la conception des légendes...

Voilà en quelques mots à quoi se résume mon confinement dans le Pays de Gex. Il faut garder espoir et se fier au dicton bien connu: «En avril, ne te découvre pas d'un fil et en mai, fais ce qu'il te plait».

J'ai hâte très bientôt de pouvoir repartir en vadrouille et vous faire partager mes expériences grâce à mes reportages qui vous feront découvrir prochainement la Namibie, voyage réalisé en des temps meilleurs. Et, en avant-goût, ci-joint quelques photos de ce fabuleux pays, joyau d'Afrique australe. ■



Elise



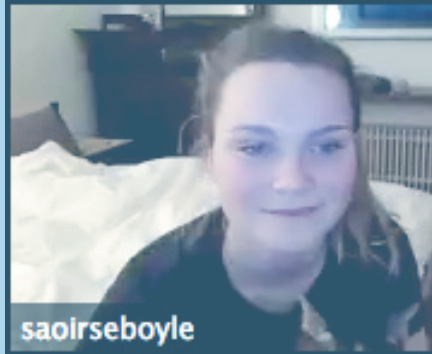
clara nouvelle



valeria



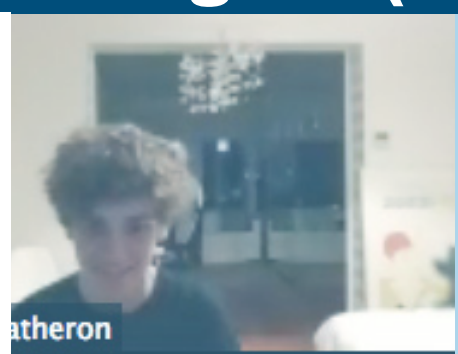
## The show must go on(line)



sairseboyle

### Do you think the Covid-19 quarantine is making office work difficult?

You're right, of course. But now, other professions are also having a hard time. In Versoix, Simply Theatre, an English language theatre company and academy for children and teenagers, has moved all of its theatre education online. Yes, all of it – meaning that students do warm-up at home, learn lines, and then use teleconference platforms to rehearse. Even the yearly show may take place online!



atheron

"Although live theatrical experiences are what we are about, there are still lots of opportunities for individual growth and development that can come from online classes," says Thomas Grafton, Director of Simply Theatre.



dylanmaquire

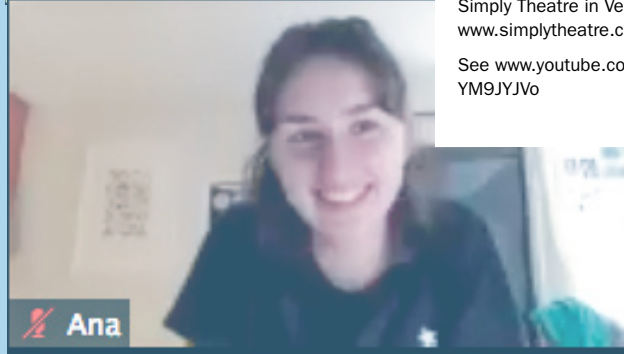
It is a bit early to say whether augmented reality would help, but coping with the situation definitely boosted creativity in teaching methods.



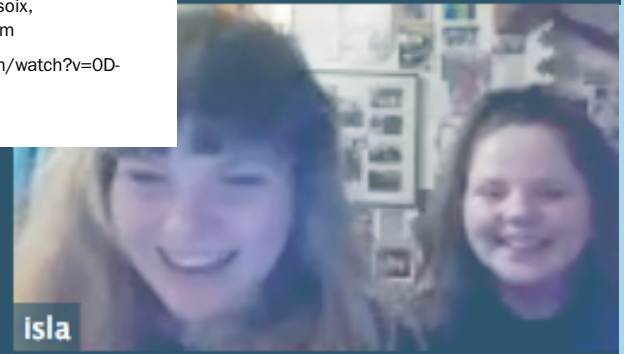
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Simply Theatre in Versoix,  
[www.simplytheatre.com](http://www.simplytheatre.com)

See [www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD-YM9JYJV0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD-YM9JYJV0)



Ana



isla

# Considerations on panic buying in the face of Coronavirus fear

**ANDREA STANOVIC, UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS**

It has now been weeks since the first talk of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, started. Today, the outbreak has risen globally to a deeply concerning level as the World Health Organization declared it a pandemic on March 11. With every rise in cases of infections and deaths, governments have taken measures to contain the spread by closing borders, restricting social gatherings and travel, as well as closing schools—changing the daily lives of millions of people around the world.

Across the United States, schools, ranging from primary to graduate-level, closed or transitioned to online teaching in an effort to safeguard collective health by encouraging “social distancing.” This is true even for schools that had no confirmed cases of COVID-19 before the in-class suspension. Such closures, along with other government actions, have caused many to “panic buy” food and sanitary provisions. With the rise of uncertainty as to the level of danger and harm that the virus can cause, people are stocking up on large amounts of household necessities and supplies that could easily last them for months and, in any case, more than the couple of weeks of recovery needed from an eventual severe case of coronavirus. Yet stores’ shelves for face masks, rubbing alcohol, hand soap and hand sanitizers were among the first to empty. The panic buying is further driving fear that causes people to stock up, albeit irrationally. Although many experts have

stated that there was no need to stockpile, and pointed to the ineffectiveness of certain items, such as surgical masks—people are still purchasing items such as simple cloth masks believing that these would be better than nothing.

This panic buying raises several issues as it creates scarcity of goods that puts those who need them the most at risk, such as health-care workers who are, in some cases, forced to wear their masks for longer periods of time or are left without a mask. Furthermore, the sudden and rapid mass-buying heightens the fear and reinforces the panic buying of many essential supplies. The scarcity caused not only severely affects older people and people with underlying health conditions but also affects people who are living “paycheck to paycheck.” Those people may not afford to stockpile supplies upfront, particularly when the essentials are on the costlier side, such as is the case with toilet paper and personal hygiene products. Furthermore, because these products are not needed to ward off the virus, panic buying unnecessarily creates shortages disproportionately affecting certain social groups.

Although many find the “panic” behavior to be irrational, there is an undeniable social tendency to imitate others’ behavior. Many are now self-quarantining and remaining at home alongside panic buying, while others are fleeing areas of high contamination all in the quest for safety. The outbreak has clearly instilled fear into people.



Similarly, these same concerns are at the root of refugees’ and migrants’ desire to flee their countries and escape the tragedies of war, poverty and hunger. Yet, recent law-enactments in some countries have severely limited the ability of refugees to shield themselves from those tragedies. For example, recent executive orders signed by President Trump have heightened border security, limiting asylum immigration and increasing the number of detention facilities, many of which are now overcrowded, rendering those in them susceptible to infections such as from coronavirus. Another group that, likewise, requires safety is the homeless population, which is left at high risk of infection as necessities to maintain hygiene and a strong immune system are lacking. In Los Angeles alone, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority found that close to 50,000 persons were homeless in 2019.

When considering the health of a community, many concerns also arise with respect to the health care system. In the United States, since a

significant number of individuals are uninsured and the cost of health care services is high, people who otherwise would seek medical attention end up not doing so. Furthermore, there is a general reluctance to take time off from work as many employees do not have paid sick leave since there is no national standard on it.

In conclusion, global events such as the coronavirus pandemic should serve not only to focus attention on the immediate needs caused by the ever-growing and unsettling disease, but equally important to highlight various unresolved societal challenges brought now into sharper focus by the shared fear. Hopefully, some of these problems may be resolved as a result. Or, as Hermann Hesse said: “I have always believed, and I still believe, that whatever good or bad fortune may come our way we can always give it meaning and transform it into something of value.” ■

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Andrea Stanovic is a member of the United Nations Society of Writers (UNSW) and Juris Doctor candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law.

# Coronavirus & Genève, quand les citoyens prennent l'initiative

*Au sein des organisations internationales, certains d'entre nous, vivent à Genève, d'autres continuent à venir travailler dans la cité. Face à l'ennemi invisible, des énergies se sont mobilisées et une initiative citoyenne est née.*

LISA LAROUSSE LIBEAULT, CHRISTIAN

DAVID UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

Avec «Genève-Solidarité» et «Entraide-Coronavirus», une mise en place graduelle, portée tout d'abord par quelques individus est en train de s'étendre et propose toujours davantage de solutions sur les questions essentielles liées au confinement.

Pour permettre une compréhension rapide et visuelle de l'initiative, une vidéo a été mise en ligne (durée 4 minutes)<sup>1</sup>.

Pour approfondir cette présentation, il convient de reprendre la description officielle de l'initiative: dans le contexte actuel de la pandémie du Coronavirus et du confinement qu'elle impose, une multitude d'initiatives ont vu le jour. Initiatives qui couvrent soit l'ensemble du pays soit une région en particulier. Or, force est de constater que les informations utiles et nécessaires sont diluées et que la recherche peut s'avérer longue et compliquée. En outre, beaucoup de citoyens veulent faire preuve de solidarité en proposant une aide qui vient compléter et soulager celles déjà existantes (Croix-Rouge, Scouts, Imad...).

C'est donc à partir d'une initiative citoyenne, que le le «Groupe Genève Solidarité» et «Entraide-Coronavirus», a été créé et qu'il couvre l'ensemble du Canton de Genève. Deux objectifs sont attendus:

1. Diffuser des informations regroupées autour des thèmes suivants: infos officielles, alimentation/restauration, offrir son aide, demande d'aide, soutien et santé physique, soutien psychologique, aide aux enfants, aide aux étudiants, aide aux entreprises, violences domestiques, témoignages, services de livraison solidaire, info diverses.

2. Constituer un trait d'union entre les promesses d'aides et les besoins, tout particulièrement ceux des seniors et des personnes vulnérables ou à risques, mais aussi de toute personne concernée, dans la mesure du possible.

A cet effet, plusieurs outils ont été mis à disposition:

- Le Groupe Facebook<sup>2</sup> – Genève Solidarité et Entraide – Coronavirus, qui met à jour quotidiennement les informations utiles, les offres et demandes d'aides
- Une carte Google Maps<sup>3</sup>, spécialement créée afin de mettre en relation rapidement, simplement et visuellement les différentes demandes et offres d'entraide ainsi que les services utiles.
- Un site internet en construction.
- Une hotline disponible sous peu.

Ce groupe a été créé sur la base du modèle de la page

«Nyon Solidarité et Entraide – Coronavirus», tout en s'adaptant au contexte genevois et à l'évolution de la situation et des besoins.

Voici une liste non exhaustive des questions auxquelles vous pourriez trouver des réponses via le Groupe FB et la carte google map qui est mise à jour quotidiennement.

- Qui puis-je contacter pour me faire livrer mes courses?
- Je suis un.e indépendant.e, quelles sont les mesures pour soutenir les entreprises?
- Je suis en situation de précarité, quel numéro dois-je appeler?
- J'aimerais proposer mon aide, comment dois-je m'y prendre?
- J'aimerais soutenir les producteurs locaux en faisant mes courses chez eux
- Certains restaurants sont-ils ouverts?
- J'ai besoin d'une écoute et d'un soutien psychologique, quel numéro appeler?
- Je suis parent et j'aimerais trouver des ressources pédagogiques pour mes enfants.
- Vous êtes sans domicile ou connaissez quelqu'un en détresse, quel numéro appeler?
- Mes parents ont plus de 65 ans et j'aimerais connaître les services que ma commune met à leur disposition?
- Chaque commune (45) a développé son propre plan de solidarité, comment y accéder?

- J'ai besoin d'une aide juridique, comment faire?

Comme à Nyon, le Groupe fonctionne grâce à l'engagement d'une petite équipe de bénévoles qui effectuent un travail de veille, de vérification de l'information et de diffusion afin que les informations soient utiles à vos besoins et non redondantes.

Nous mettons l'accent sur l'information. Nous n'avons pas pour vocation à susciter les débats ni à alimenter les polémiques sur telle ou telle mesure.

Si à travers cette initiative, nous pouvons aider ne serait-ce qu'une seule personne et apporter un sentiment de sécurité, nous aurons atteint notre objectif!

Si vous ne vous sentez pas concernés par cette initiative et ses objectifs, pensez à celles et ceux qui vous entourent et qui pourraient en avoir besoin. Ainsi n'hésitez pas à partager cet article autour de vous, un simple geste qui pourrait s'avérer très utile. ■



1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzMUO-7B6LE&feature=youtu.be>

2 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/genevesolidarite/>

3 <https://bit.ly/2xKv7dJ>

# From bat markets to stock markets, into the eye of the storm

*Are we reining in the pandemonium?  
Or is it reining us?*

**CHRISTINA YAP\***

Globally, we are witnessing scurries to stockpile: from food, toilet rolls to soap. This poses the dilemma: do we follow the actions of many? Or do we exercise restraint not to succumb to the temptation...? We are constantly taking cues from those around us. Psychologist Gustave le Bon identified how individuals can easily lose their sense of self and become engulfed in the collective actions and emotions of a crowd. This type of crowd behavior perpetuates cave-person like instincts and brings some unhealthy risks...

## **So what are the unhealthy risks?**

The risk of contagious panic is mass hysteria, which can be exponentially more contagious than the real virus. At its worst, it results in individuals becoming less civilised and succumbing to violence.

Fear, stress and anxiety are negative emotions that send the sympathetic nervous system into overdrive. Hyperactivity of a (typically already stressed) sympathetic nervous system leads to increased blood pressure, body temperature, breathing rate and sweating. It also affects digestion, energy levels, cognitive ability and can result in irrational behaviour.

This fight or flight response drains our energy, weakens our immune system and our overall ability to defend ourselves at a time when we need to be at our healthiest and most resilient. And at a time that we

most need – as individuals and collectively – to support ourselves and be available to support those around us.

## **Take a break**

Let's take a step back and take a helicopter (or drone, if you prefer) view for a moment. Turning BAT around, we get **TAB** which could serve as an apt acronym for **Take – A – Break**.

That's to say, take a moment to pause amidst the contagious panic around, find a state of calm and peace within. Reflect on the appropriate course of action to take. Then act appropriately, sensibly and proportionately, given the circumstances.

## **Eye of the storm**

In these challenging times, we can draw courage and inspiration from Ryan Stevenson's *'Eye of the storm'*: *'In the eye of the storm you remain in control'*

The Cambridge dictionary defines a storm as *'an extreme weather condition with very strong winds, heavy rain, thunder and lightning'*. In a storm, we protect ourselves, our families and communities and homes by taking precaution and some safety measures. Similarly, COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, taking its toll on lives, livelihood and the economy. Together with governmental bodies and employers, we have an individual and joint responsibility to

take charge of the situation and protect ourselves.

## **How?**

By getting into the eye of the storm, so to speak.

Image by skeeze from Pixabay  
The most peaceful part of the storm is in the eye, right in its centre. The eye of the storm is the only point that records the lowest barometric pressures. Surrounded by the fury of the strong winds all around, yet calm and still within.

So rather than allowing ourselves to be swept up by the storm of COVID-19, we each have a choice (and challenge) of stepping away from the turbulence into the centre, to generate a restful, peaceful state of internal equilibrium to boost our defences.

We can do so by finding whatever means that works for us to activate our parasympathetic nervous system and optimise our wellbeing. Whether this is through our breathing, meditative/mindfulness practices, our own faith, yoga, qigong, sport. This is the time needed to purify ourselves, not just physically, but mentally and emotionally as well. It is a time for self-care, by paying attention to the foods that we are eating to nourish us. A time to step back from the cacophony of media and social overload by engaging with soothing sounds and spending time in nature to calm our emotions and state of mind, so that we can get back into equilibrium.

## **Standing together in solidarity**

Who would have thought, before the turn of this decade, that bats in a wet market would have anything to do with global stocks and shares? This serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of all life.

If the actions of a minority in one small part of the world can have wide-reaching impact on the rest of the world, then it stands to reason that what the rest of us chooses to do now in solidarity can be exponentially more impactful.

We can choose to act from a state of frenzy to stir up our own storm of greater intensity than the virus itself. Or we can choose to act from a centred state of calm and balance to weather the storm.

## **TAB.**

This is an invitation for each of us take time to take a break from the frenzy:

Engage the stillness inside  
Become mindful of our actions  
Show support, respect and humanity to all around us.  
We can stand together in solidarity to get through this.

## **Take A Break. Keep Calm. This too shall pass. ■**

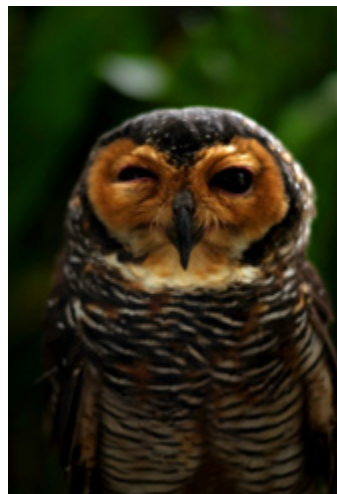
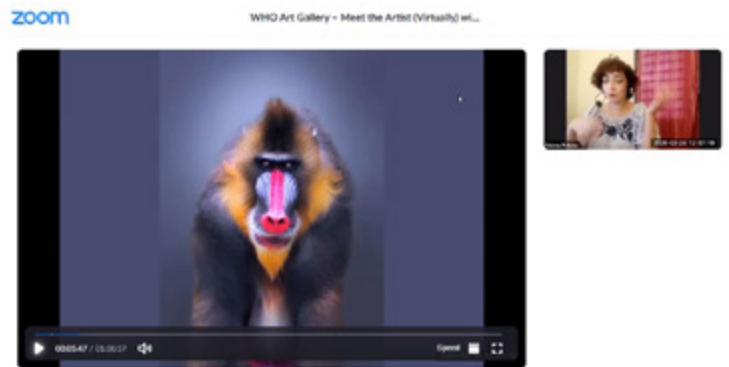


Christina Yap is a management consultant, health and wellbeing leader. She helps employees to find clarity, focus and inspiration to thrive

in challenging times. Christina has lived in Geneva and now lives in Zurich. She serves on the Global Wellness Institute and has been published on Forbes and Thrive Global.

# WHO Art Gallery meet the artist goes virtual

*Despite the Covid-19 lockdown, the WHO Art Gallery is continuing its monthly “Meet the Artist” sessions via virtual meet-ups of like-minded art lovers and thereby expanding its reach and appeal far beyond Geneva. The online sessions kicked off with the award-winning wildlife photography of Shamma Esoof from Kuala Lumpur.*



## KEVIN CRAMPTON, WHO

Since November of last year, the WHO Art Gallery has been hosting monthly “Meet the Artist” sessions (see last month’s edition of newSpecial) with the intention of dragging the art down off the walls and bringing it to kicking-and-screaming life with some close encounters with the artists themselves. They’re really not that scary close up, we learned.

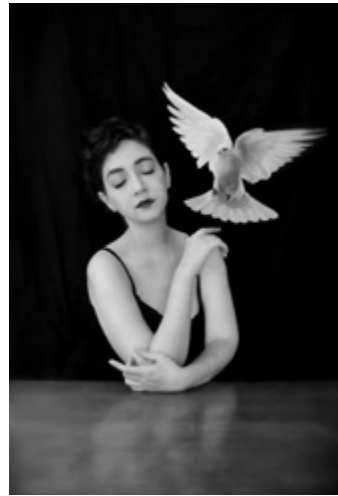
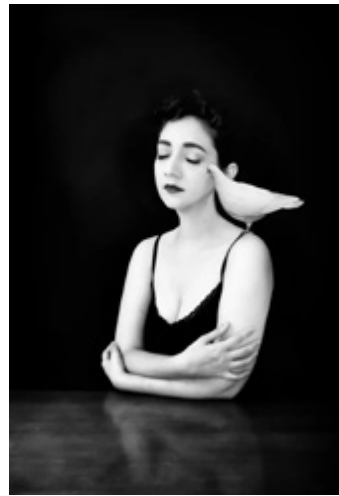
These hands-on sessions were a great way to encounter our colleagues in a new way and appreciate the passions and pleasures of their creative side and the presentations to date have ranged from Japanese textile dyeing to the Arabian lute with a whole lot in between.

And then the coronavirus hit and we were all ordered to work from home, making it slightly problematic to host an art gallery session when no one can visit (this was particularly annoying since we’d just run a refresh of the artwork to give new artists a chance to share their creations). I mean, how can a gallery function if no one can walk through the doors?

But can a little thing like a global lockdown due to a rampant pandemic quell the creative spirit? Of course not, and the “Meet the Artist” sessions now continue online with a first “virtual” encounter in March with the sickeningly-talented, multi-faceted Shamma Esoof who works in IMT support in Kuala Lumpur.

Now Shamma is one of those people who makes you feel like you spend every evening sitting at home sipping cocoa, cutting your toenails and waiting for bedtime with your teddy bear; the range and reach of her creative endeavours is truly impressive and encompasses furniture making, writing, coaching others to nurture their creative side and award-winning wildlife photography. Perhaps there are actually 48 hours in every day in Kuala Lumpur due to the trajectory of the heavenly bodies, as it’s puzzling to understand how she fits so much in.

The thirty virtual attendees were treated to a tour de force of her stunning photographs of wildlife – the wizened gaze of



owls, contemplative grins of roadside monkeys and her cat Asylan who is a favourite subject now that Shamma, like the rest of us, is holed up at home and reinventing her approach based on what she has to hand within her own four walls.

And that was the main take-away of the entertaining session; despite the curtailing Coronavirus constraints, Shamma has rigged up a black bedsheet backdrop (hung on her washing line), a super-shiny coffee table and a camera balanced on a chair to create some striking self-portraits and document Asylan's moods (he seems to be bearing up to the lockdown pretty well). She's stepped up her online mentoring of other artists and it was in fact her idea to move the "Meet the Artist" sessions online, volunteering to be the guinea-pig for the first one.

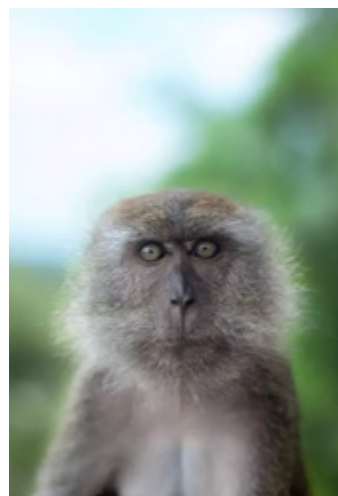
She urged us to constantly nurture our creative spirit and ran a literal hands-on exercise during the session to prove just how much you can do with a little time and imagination. The session was well attended

by other keen WHO photographers, with suggestions of their own on free software for processing, lenses and aperture settings and a bunch of other techie stuff that I didn't understand.

And finally, it was hugely refreshing to be on a conference call in which we talked about something other than Covid-19, a much-needed break from the increased workload and a timely and refreshing reminder on how to direct our energies during these strange and surreal times. If you have a camera, a bedsheet, a face and/or a cat you can work magic if you set your mind to it. ■

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You can enjoy Shamma's photography on her website <http://palomapictures.me/> and keep abreast of other art gallery events at <https://worldhealthorg.workplace.com/groups/whoartgallery/>



# End the secret code and promote a new normal

*Last month, on the cover of our magazine, newSpecial, we proclaimed “We are #GenerationEquality”. But such declarations are not just for International Women’s Day – if we want the world to change, we need to walk the talk.*

**MIHO WATANABE\***

One of the earliest memories Tim has is of dancing around a fish tank, wearing his mum’s dress and holding a wooden stick, like a fairy he saw in a book. He feels so elegant and free, until his mum grabs him from behind and pulls his dress down. He falls over and hits his knee. He cries, but she doesn’t even pick him up. She never reads him a fairy tale again.

His mum was always at home when he came back from school. She baked, checked his homework, cooked dinner, and read him a bedtime story. His dad was busy with his work, and when he was at home, everyone tiptoed around him so he could rest. Sometimes, his mum would complain or nag him, which could trigger him to explode like a volcano, roaring and slamming the door behind him so loud that the whole house shook. He had a way of getting his point across, and he taught Tim not to give up the fight until he had won, so no one would ever challenge him again. He was the fiercest, the strongest, and the most powerful. Every year on Father’s Day, Tim wrote him a card, thanking him for working hard for his family. Tim always looked up to his dad, no matter how tall he grew.

One day at high school, Tim’s classmate was talking about

how she received lewd messages from men on Instagram. Someone shouted ‘I bet you like that’, which made everyone laugh. His friend muttered, ‘I’ve seen her account, she’s asking for it’. Tim let out a nervous laugh, feeling uncomfortable with the subject. He was the only one among his friends who hadn’t had a girlfriend yet, and he couldn’t let anyone know. He heard another girl say to her, ‘Don’t listen, they’re just being boys. Those guys only send you a message because you’re pretty’. By then, the class had already moved onto another subject.

The social norm is the secret code that drives our behaviour. It tells you how you should behave in accordance with what is considered normal and appropriate by society. Tim learned at an early age that boys and girls are fundamentally different, and that stepping out of the gender stereotype has consequences – violence, rejection and shame. It was normal for his mum to stay at home and take care of the family, to be financially dependent on her husband, and to be obedient to him. In doing so, she avoided his violence. It was normal for his dad to provide for the family, to be the most powerful, and his usage of violence to defend his position went unquestioned. And all of

this gave him control over his family and earned him respect. For Tim’s friends, girls were responsible for not tempting men to sexually harass them, or they would face blame and shame. Boys’ sexual remarks and jokes were met with peer praise, and sexual activity was a sign of being a real man. All the while, violence against women and girls was trivialized, justified and normalized.

Social norms come with rewards (acceptance, approval, status, respect in a social group, etc.) and punishments (rejection, shame, exclusion, violence, etc.). As such, they are like unwritten laws that govern our society, except that they are more powerful and more difficult to change than written laws.

In Switzerland, domestic violence, sexual harassment and rape are all prohibited by law. Yet one person dies every two weeks from domestic violence<sup>1</sup>. Three in five women have experienced sexual violence, and one in 10 women have experienced rape. However, only eight per cent reported the assault to the police<sup>2</sup>.

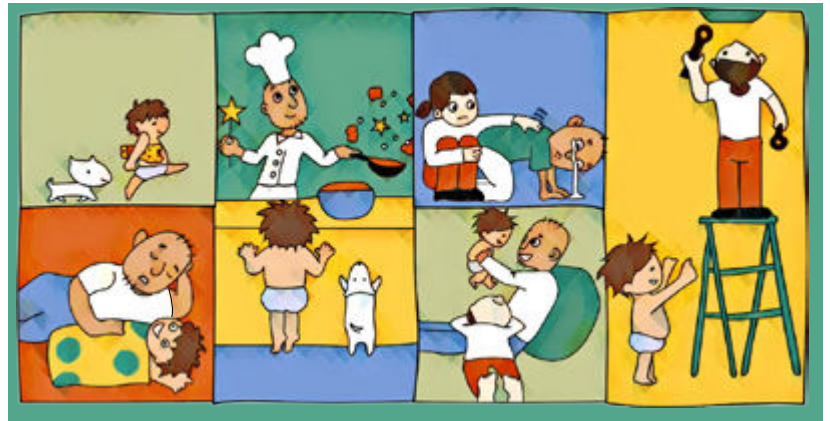
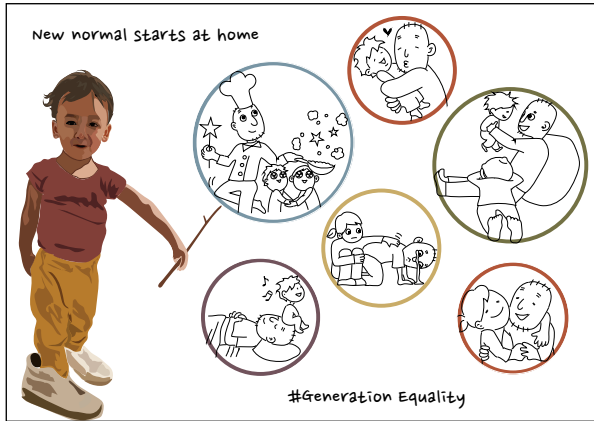
In a study conducted across six countries in Asia Pacific<sup>3</sup>, one in four men reported raping at least one woman or girl in their lifetime, yet the majority

of them had not faced any legal consequences. The biggest motivation for men to rape a woman was sexual entitlement – a belief that men have the right to sex regardless of consent.

Violence against women is about power. It is the power imbalance between men and women or boys and girls that reinforces gender inequality and is sustained by society as normal and appropriate. We talk so much about violence against *women*, how many *women* experience violence, how violence has damaging consequences on *women*, and call *women* to speak up and break the silence. But we don’t talk enough about *men*’s use of violence, how many *men* perpetrate violence, how *men*’s perpetration often faces no consequences legally and socially, or call on *men* to stop violence, first of all and foremost.

There’s a growing call among the international community to focus on social norm change to prevent violence against women before it happens. The key to it is involving men and boys to shift gender power dynamics at the individual, relationships, community and society levels, to transform the beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and values that drive gender inequality and violence against women





(known as a socio-ecological model). It means involving everyone at every level – from Tim, his parents, friends, teachers, schools, his football team, neighbours, local authorities, policymakers, media, etc., to make a 'new normal' in a society where everyone – regardless of gender, sex, ability, race, sexual orientation, religion etc. – is valued, respected, supported and empowered; and where violence is no longer tolerated.

As I write this, the city of Geneva has declared the closure of all businesses and schools to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic. So, here are a few things you can do with your loved ones while you are stuck at home.

**Turn some pages**

- “The Descent of Man”, by Grayson Perry, explores what it means to be a male in the 21st century, and what males could become. His thoughts on everything from power to physical appearance, are shot through with honesty, tenderness and the belief that, for everyone to benefit, upgrading masculinity has to be something men decide to do themselves.
- “Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982”, by Cho Nam-Joo, chronicles the everyday struggles of women against endemic sexism. It

follows the life of a woman born in South Korea in 1982, desperate to escape stifling gender roles.

- For children, picture books such as “The Story of Ferdinand” by Munro Leaf, “Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress”, by Christine Baldacchino, and “Jim Henson: The Guy Who Played With Puppets”, by Kathleen Krull, are good reads. No access to new books? No worries, just switch the pronouns of all the characters in your children’s books... and see where that takes you.

**Turn on Netflix and YouTube**

- A special collection, “Because She Watched”, consists of movies and TV shows that have just been launched by Netflix and UN Women. Hear stories about women that have inspired the women who inspire us.
- No Netflix subscription? Watch “In my dream – justice for dating violence survivors”, by UN Women, about how gender stereotypes and norms limit women’s access to justice.

**Analyse and talk**

- Assess your own gender stereotypes and norms and intentionally challenge them.
- Analyse and come to terms with your own power – whether its gender, race,

education, language, ability or age, and be prepared to let it go.

- Share household responsibilities, learn how to communicate in a non-violent way to solve conflicts, and treat everyone equally and with respect, so new normal is imprinted on your children.
- If you hear sexual jokes or witness harassment, tell the perpetrator “I’m not comfortable with what you’re saying/doing”. If someone tells you about violence, tell them you believe and support them, and ask them if they’d like you to help in any way.
- Practise and share new normal with friends and families.

**Get involved**

- Learn what kind of gender bias the world holds and discover existing power gaps that obstruct gender inequality in “Tackling Social Norms – A Game Changer for Gender Inequalities: 2020 Human Development Perspectives” by UNDP<sup>4</sup>.
- Check out what your country is doing about violence against women on the “Global Database on Violence Against Women” by UN Women. Engage with your representatives to ensure the implementation of laws that promote gender equality.
- Donate to organizations that provide support to survivors,

- advocate for gender equality, empower women and girls, and work towards ending violence against women, such as UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women at <https://UNTFevaw.rallyup.com>
- Join the conversation online by following #GenerationEquality. ■

1 Federal Statistical Office (2019) Domestic violence: Defendants of completed homicide by relationship, sex and age  
 2 Amnesty International (2019) Switzerland: One in five women is a victim of sexual violence  
 3 Fulu, E., Warner, X., Miedema, S., Jewkes, R., Roselli, T. and Lang, J. (2013). Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent It? Quantitative Findings from the United Nations Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific. Bangkok: UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV.  
 4 UNDP (2020) Tackling Social Norms – A Game Changer for Gender Inequalities: 2020 Human Development Perspectives. Bangkok: United Nations Development Programme

\* Miho Watanabe is an international consultant and illustrator working on ending violence against women and promoting gender equality. She shares some insights on how we can all work together to challenge what is normal and create a new normal that values every member of society.

# Memories and treasures at the parc Trembley



## ALFRED DE ZAYAS, UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

The city of Geneva harbours many beautiful monuments that merit our attention<sup>1</sup>. Many commemorate the history of this city, e.g. the *Mur des Réformateurs*, the Rousseau statue on the Ile Rousseau, or the Statue to the *Confédération*, inaugurated in 1869 in the *jardin anglais* to celebrate Geneva's entry into the Swiss Confederation in 1814. Other monuments are universal, like the broken chair at the Place des Nations, reminding visitors of the thousands of mutilated victims of land mines, the bronze sculpture of a knotted gun, eloquent expression of our commitment to non-violence, or

the stele outside the Synagogue at Plainpalais in memory of victims of the Holocaust.

Two years ago, in April 2018, a memorial series of nine bronze lanterns was officially unveiled in the Parc Trembley, rue Pestalozzi in Petit Saconnex, very near the Palais des Nations. The ten-meter candelabra honour the memory of the victims of the Ottoman genocide against the Armenians of Asia Minor during World War I.

This remarkable monument is the result of a proposal by Geneva citizens of Armenian origin supported by Geneva-based human rights activists. The proposal was accepted by the City of Geneva in 2008 and enjoyed the support of the *Fonds municipal d'art contemporain* (FMAC). Eight artists participated in the competition organized by FMAC. The simple, aesthetic and coherent project submitted by Melik Ohanian, a French contemporary artist of Armenian origin, residing in Paris and New York, was unanimously accepted. It renders homage to the collective memory of all victims of violence and exile in a spirit of tolerance and dialogue. The "Streetlights of memory" are like virtual tears. Two small plaques in the parc identify the work of art as "*Les Réverbères de la Mémoire*", but the plaques are almost hidden. It took me half an hour to find them!

At the opening ceremony on 13 April 2018, the then Armenian Ambassador to Switzerland, the late Charles Aznavour, stated

that the installation was not just a reminder of past disaster; "it is a monument that says that this must never happen again". There was, however, some opposition from the Turkish government, and the controversy even rose to Switzerland's highest court, which in February 2019 dismissed claims that the monument could lead to the area becoming a site of demonstrations, or even conflict between members of the Armenian and Turkish communities<sup>2</sup>.

The series of lamps invite us to stroll through this generous parc, adorned by centennial conifers, Douglas firs, three majestic Cedres du Liban, three Sequoias, oaks and other lofty trees. If you go in April you will enjoy the hundreds of daffodils. It is also possible to cycle on the winding paths, provided pedestrians and lovers are not disturbed – there are also plenty of residents pushing baby carriages or walking their dogs, and by good weather plenty of kids running around and couples sunning themselves on the grass.

Since 1757 the parc was property of Abraham Trembley and remained in his family for two centuries. Eventually the parc became property of the city of Geneva, which built thereon a school, a basketball court, a gymnastic facility... Most visitors are not even aware of the discrete message of the lamps, intended to honour the victims of the first genocide of the Twentieth Century<sup>3</sup>, which started with the massacres of April 1915, already condemned

in May 1915 by the British and French Governments as “crimes against humanity and civilization” – not just against Armenians, whose ancestors had lived in Asia Minor since Biblical times. Until recently this tragedy had been largely ignored by historians and the media. Hitler once cynically remarked about the massacres of more than a million Armenians: “who remembers the Armenians now?”. In 2001 the Geneva Parliament recognized the Armenian genocide and the Swiss Federal Parliament in 2003.

We internationals know that the vocation of the United Nations and of the International Committee of the Red Cross is to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to protect civilian populations in time of armed conflict, as reflected in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Protocols<sup>4</sup>. Back in 1944, as the Holocaust was being perpetrated, the Polish jurist Raphaël Lemkin coined the term “genocide”, deriving it from the Greek word *genos* for ethnic group, and the Latin verb *caedo* (to kill). Since the adoption of the Genocide convention in 1948, genocide is considered the ultimate crime, and since 2002 this crime can be prosecuted by the International Criminal Court under Article 6 of the Rome Statute. Sustainable peace and justice can only be built on historical truth. Denial only prolongs the trauma. Negationism constitutes a continuation of the crime. Reconciliation thus depends on truth and



education. That is why so many truth commissions were set up Latin America following the crimes of the right-wing military juntas, as in South Africa following *Apartheid*. In the Human Rights Council the function of the *UN Special Rapporteur* on the promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of non-recurrence<sup>5</sup> was established in 2012. The goal is prevention through information and education, especially a paradigm shift so that we perceive our neighbours as potential friends rather than potential rivals.

The Parc Trembley is a friendly location for the memorial, but other locations closer to the Palais des Nations had been proposed, e.g. in the Ariana Parc, which also harbours other monuments. We who work in the United Nations should realize that this memorial is necessary and that it deserves greater visibility. The City of Geneva should install a proper plaque providing an explanation of the significance of the monument. Indeed, it would be useful to have information points at each entrance to the park, highlighting the history of the memorial and giving electronic links to useful sites that elucidate the historical events.

The University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute could conduct legal and historical seminars on all genocides, including the Shoah, the genocides against the Armenians, Greeks of Pontos, the Chaldeo-Assyrians<sup>6</sup>, against the indigenous of North and South America, in particular the Amerindios of Brazil<sup>7</sup>, the Mapuche of Argentina and Chile, the Yazidis of Iraq and other minorities.

Geneva is a city of refuge and human rights, headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The “Streetlights of Memory” in the Parc Trembley invite us to make the link between the Armenian tragedy a century ago and today’s humanitarian catastrophes, how to prevent them, how to assist the victims and their families. In 2015 at the 56th Venice Biennale, the project was honoured with the *Lion d’or* award. In 2019 the *Réverbères* was awarded the Swiss Prix Visarte in Zurich. <https://visarte.ch/de/kunst-und-bau/prix-visarte/prix-visarte-2019/>

On the 24th of April Armenians in Armenia and the diaspora

throughout the world will remember the fate of their ancestors. Memory is identity. ■

Professor Dr.iur. et phil. Alfred de Zayas  
<https://www.ville-ge.ch/reverberes/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150408085214/>

<http://armeniangenocide100.org/en/>

1 <https://www.geneve.ch/fr/themes/environnement-urbain-espaces-verts/monuments-fontaines-plaques/monuments>

2 [https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/streetlights-of-memory\\_federal-court-rejects-opposition-to-armenia-genocide-memorial/44765738](https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/streetlights-of-memory_federal-court-rejects-opposition-to-armenia-genocide-memorial/44765738)

3 Alfred de Zayas, *The Genocide against the Armenians*, Haigazian University Press, Lebanon 2010. Ward Churchill and Israel Charny (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Genocide*. ABC-CLIO. “The Armenian Genocide and International Law” in *Genocide Prevention Now*, Jerusalem [http://www.ihgilm.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ARMENIAN-GENOCIDE-AND-INTERNATIONAL-LAW\\_web.pdf](http://www.ihgilm.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/ARMENIAN-GENOCIDE-AND-INTERNATIONAL-LAW_web.pdf)

4 Marco Sassoli (ed.), *How does Law Protect in War*, ICRC, Geneva, 2d edition 2006.

5 <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/TruthJusticeReparation/Pages/Index.aspx>

6 Alfred de Zayas “The Ottoman Genocide of the Greeks and other Christian Minorities” pp. 311-341, in Tessa Hoffmann (ed.), *The Genocide of the Ottoman Greeks*, New York, 2011.

7 Totten, Samuel; Robert K. Hitchcock (2010). Samuel Totten, Robert K. Hitchcock (ed.). *Genocide of Indigenous Peoples*.



# The 73rd FICSA Council – a fruitful forum

## E. KORTUM, FICSA

The Council of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA) returned to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for its 73rd Session, from 10 to 14 February 2020 with pre-Council meetings that took place on the preceding weekend. The last FICSA Council was held at IMO, 24 years ago in 1996. The meeting was chaired by Alfredo Parroquín-Ohlson from IMO.

Despite storms Kiara and Dennis, around 140 participants from 30 full member associations and unions, and 55 others with associate, consultative or observer status, as well as guests, attended the Council to discuss important issues concerning international civil servants' rights in seven Standing Committees, two Ad Hoc Committees and two Joint Sessions, as well as in Plenary.

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim inaugurated the opening session of the Council and hosted a welcome reception on the first day of the week-long event. Mr. Larbi Djacta, Chair of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) addressed the Council as guest speaker and responded to a Q&A session together with the Executive Secretary of the ICSC, Ms Regina Pawlik.

Through the FICSA Council, FICSA members addressed a number of important matters for staff both within and outside

the UN common system. These issues are usually addressed at the ICSC, the Human Resources Network (HR Network), the HLCM UN System High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) and other key inter-agency bodies in which FICSA fully participates.

Participants most enjoyed opportunities to network and exchange knowledge, to feel solidarity and comradery, and to meet staff association representatives from the diverse membership. Participants unanimously agreed that the venue for the Council, IMO, was conducive to a good working environment and they appreciated the efforts that were put into the organization of the event. Most importantly, the Council elected a new Executive Committee including the new President. The outgoing President Brett Fitzgerald from WIPO will be followed by Tanya Quinn-Maguire from UNAIDS who will take up her full duties next month on 1 April. The new composition of the Executive Committee is as follows:

The new composition of the Executive Committee is as follows:

President: Tanya Quinn-Maguire (UNAIDS Geneva)  
 General Secretary: Evelyn Kortum (WHO/HQ Geneva)  
 Treasurer: Kay Miller (WHO/EURO Copenhagen)  
 1st of two members for Compensation Issues: Pilar Vidal (PAHO/WHO Washington DC)

2nd of two members for Compensation Issues: Imed Zabaar (IAEA Vienna)

Member for Regional and Field Issues: Véronique Allain (SCBD Montreal)

Member without Portfolio: Brett Fitzgerald (WIPO Geneva)

Council also elected the following Regional Representatives:  
 Africa: Anthony Ndinguri (ICAO Nairobi)  
 Americas: Jesus García Jiménez (ILO/ITC Turin)

Asia: Rajesh Mehta (WHO/SEARO New Delhi)

Europe: Juan José Coy Giron (FAO Rome)

... and the following Standing Committee Officers:

### Legal Questions

Chair: Andrès Orias-Bleichner (WMO)

First-Chair: Brett Fitzgerald (WIPO)

Second Vice-Chair: Gemma Vestal (WHO/HQ)

### Human Resources Management

Chair: Lianne Gonsalves (WHO/HQ)

Vice-Chairs: Ambretta Perrino (UNFCCC) – Steve Eales (UNIDO)

### SOCIAL SECURITY/OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Chair: Edwin Titi-Lartey (IMO)

Vice-Chairs: Katja Haslinger (IAEA) – Paola Franceschelli (FAO/WFP-UGSS)

### Conditions of Service in the

### Field

Chair: Cosimo Melpignano (UNGSC)

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Lastly, FICSA members voted on a new FICSA logo which will from now on show the dynamic forward movement of the Federation.

More information and background concerning the Council can be found on the FICSA website at this location: <https://ficsa.org/activities/73rd-ficsa-council.html>

The next Council will be held in Copenhagen at the WHO/EURO offices from 8-12 February 2021. ■

# A 14-year-old's internship experience

## AMIROUCHE BELHADJ

My name is Amirouche; I am 14 years old and in 11th grade. This is my last year in the “cycle”. I am interested in orthodontics, but as time passes, I am beginning to have second thoughts. I decided to attend college next year until I become sure of the course I want to take. I have other interests such as judo, movies and, of course, games. I am also very interested in Japanese culture and I became even more interested when we went to visit Japan last year.

### Reason for the short-term internship

In Switzerland, all students who are in their last year of the cycle are required to do an internship for two to five days in any company or organization based in Switzerland. The goal of this requirement is to familiarize students with the professional environment. I believe that exposure like this can help us decide what career path to take. For now, I am interested in the health area and doing the three-day internship at WHO.

### My journey towards the short-term internship

Schools do not help students in the search for a company or organization in which to do the internship. Students must find an internship by themselves. I believe that going through this process and experience is already part of the training. The first thing I had to do was prepare my CV even if I didn't have much to put in it.

Then, I had to write a motivation letter. I didn't know what that was back then so my father guided me in writing it. When I was done writing the

motivation letter, I submitted my CV to a dental clinic near where we live. This was my first choice because, as I've mentioned, orthodontics is one of the fields I am most interested in.

I thought things were going to be simple and that my application would be accepted without any problems. I really wanted to do my internship in this clinic so I did not apply to any other companies at that time. As time passed, I began to panic because I thought the application would take only two weeks or less, but I still had not heard back from them after two weeks. We followed up with them and they said that they didn't know by when the application would be processed. It was at this point that my parents supported me in trying to find other companies in which to do the internship.

Unfortunately, most of them would not accept a short-term internship. Others raised the issue of confidentiality. While others said that I had applied too late.

Just as I was about to lose hope, I was informed by my mother that I could get a three-day internship at WHO, though unofficially. Two days is the minimum length for an internship. I felt happy knowing I was going to do an internship for three days, in two different places.

### My short time in WHO

The short-term internship I got at WHO was not related to orthodontics or the health sector, but it didn't bother me much. The goal of this project,

like I said previously, is to familiarize students with the professional environment. On the first day, I felt nervous because I didn't know what to expect. While waiting for my first boss, my mother asked me to help finish the interactive prototype that she's been working hard on and to test it out. That was the first time I had done anything like that and I found it easy and very interesting. Then my boss arrived and I started working with her. She first asked me some questions like “What are your plans for the future? What do you like doing?”. I was actually expecting her to ask me those types of questions. I attended all of her five meetings that day which I found a bit uninteresting because I couldn't understand the topics and I didn't have any context. After those meetings, interestingly, she asked me to write an article on my experience as a three-day intern. She said that this would be my opportunity to be published and to inform parents, who are readers of this magazine, about the opportunities and challenges a young person like myself has in companies and organizations here in Geneva.

At the end of the first day, Monday, I had a project in hand to be finished by Wednesday.

On the second day, I worked in the other department. I was excited for this part because I prefer technical jobs to theoretical ones. I also got to visit the library and got a tour of the changes in the library from 1850 to the present day.

As of writing this, I have just completed my two days of

internship and I still have one more day to go.

### What I learned while doing the internship in WHO

While working for a short period of time at WHO, I discovered a lot of things about the working environment. I learned that office jobs involve a lot of meetings and that it is essential for this kind of job. I also learned that people are really friendly and dedicated to their work. Working can be fun if you love what you're doing.

### My advice to students who will undergo the short-term internship and my wish about organizations with regard to students seeking short-term internship

I would advise students who plan to pursue short-term internships to start applying as early as possible. Don't wait until the last minute. I did and I sincerely regret that part. Don't apply to one company only, but to as many as possible. Learn as much as possible in this short period of time. Don't treat the internship just as something you have to do because you are required to do it. Students who are given this opportunity are lucky because you can experience the working environment at an early age.

For companies/organizations, I wish that they were more open and accepting of students seeking short-term internships. This would help students to gain experience of the professional world and shape their future. After all, we are the workforce of the future! ■

## FRANCO SBARRO

## Un destin hors norme

*Depuis la conception de son premier prototype en 1959 dans son petit garage de Grandson, sur les rives du lac de Neuchâtel, Franco Sbarro a indéniablement marqué le milieu de l'automobile par ses créations et ses inventions uniques.*

## CLAUDE MAILLARD

Fidèle parmi les fidèles du Salon international de l'Automobile de Genève, Franco Sbarro aurait dû participer à cette manifestation pour la 48<sup>e</sup> fois. Mais la nouvelle est tombée vendredi 28 février : «En raison de l'apparition des premiers cas confirmés du coronavirus en Suisse, la 90<sup>e</sup> édition du Geneva International Motor Show (GIMS) qui aurait dû accueillir le public du 5 au 15 mars n'aura finalement pas lieu. Il s'agit d'une injonction du Conseil fédéral de ce jour selon laquelle tous les événements réunissant plus de 1000 personnes sont interdits jusqu'à mi-mars 2020».

A quelques jours de l'ouverture de la manifestation, le montage des stands était à bout touchant. Parmi ceux-ci, aux côtés des grands constructeurs venus des quatre coins du monde, celui de Franco Sbarro qui devait dévoiler le prototype SAETTA, la dernière création élaborée par son école «ESPERA Sbarro». En effet, en plus d'être un designer et concepteur hors pair, le Vaudois d'adoption s'est également transformé en «maître d'école» depuis de longues années.

## Franco Sbarro, mécanicien,

## inventeur de génie, designer...

Rien ne prédestinait le fils de fermier Francesco Zefferino Sbarro à faire partie un jour de ces concepteurs designers d'automobiles, dessinateurs et constructeurs de voitures de rêve. Né le 27 février 1939 à Presicce, dans la région des Pouilles, dans le sud de l'Italie, ce petit génie de l'automobile moderne, plus connu sous le nom de Franco Sbarro, commencera par faire des études de latin-grec à Lecce. Mais bien vite, le jeune Italien va s'intéresser à tout ce qui touche à la mécanique, dévorant des tas de livres techniques et mettant ses connaissances en pratique en réparant et en améliorant les performances des vélomoteurs et des scooters de ses copains. Et tout a commencé comme ça...

En 1957, sa passion le mène en Suisse, à Neuchâtel, où il travaille comme mécanicien. Deux années plus tard, à l'âge de 20 ans, il achète un petit garage, se met à son compte et collabore notamment avec le constructeur automobile allemand Borgward. Quelques années plus tard, il fait la rencontre de Georges Filipinetti, observateur permanent de la République de Saint-Marin auprès des Nations



Salon de l'Auto de Genève 2013, Franco Sbarro au volant de l'un de ses prototypes

Unies à Genève. Mais le diplomate est également un homme d'affaires, concessionnaire Ferrari et d'autres marques automobiles de prestige pour sa ville, Genève. Passionné de compétition, il avait fondé la «Scuderia Filipinetti» qui faisait courir les meilleurs pilotes de l'époque, essentiellement suisses, dont Joseph Siffert qui disputera plusieurs grands Prix de Formule 1 au volant d'une Lotus 21. Natif d'Italie comme Franco Sbarro, il lui donnera sa chance et, en 1963, lui confiera le poste de chef mécanicien au sein de son écurie de course. Le milieu de la compétition automobile qu'il côtoiera durant une dizaine d'années lui apportera beaucoup. Il pourra travailler sur des voitures d'exception comme des Lola, des Ferrari, des Ford GT 40, des Porsche ou des AC Cobra qu'il devait entretenir et mettre au point, notamment pour les 24 Heures du Mans. Parallèlement, il construira sa première voiture, le coupé Filipinetti à partir des plans d'une VW Karmann Ghia à moteur 1600 cm<sup>3</sup>, voiture qui sera dévoilée au Salon de Genève en 1967. Mais Franco Sbarro veut voler de ses propres ailes et en avril 1968 il fonde l'ACA, l'Atelier de

Construction Automobile, dans une ancienne manufacture de cigarettes à Grandson, à deux pas du château, propriété de Georges Filipinetti.

## L'autre façon de concevoir l'automobile

Le tout premier modèle construit par l'ACA fut le coupé Dominique III (du prénom de la fiancée de son commanditaire londonien), une petite sportive très basse, motorisée par le V8 Ford de la GT 40 et produite à un seul exemplaire. Franco Sbarro livrera lui-même la voiture en Angleterre, par la route, et au cours du voyage, il fera la rencontre d'Eric Broadley, concepteur des Lola T 70 et Ford GT 40. Il en profitera pour lui proposer de réaliser des versions routières de ses voitures habituellement destinées à courir sur des circuits automobiles. S'ensuivront quelques reconversions de modèles survitaminés en version plus civilisée, plus dociles et faciles à conduire sur nos routes pour des clients fortunés. S'y ajoutera également la production de répliques de Ferrari P 4 qui apporteront à Franco Sbarro une solide réputation d'artisan-constructeur de qualité.



Sbarro Joclyn, exemplaire unique construite à la demande d'un riche Américain pour l'offrir à sa fille



Les élèves de l'école ESPERA Sbarro près de leur dernière création, le prototype SAETTA

Franco Sbarro ne s'attarde pas sur ce qui est fait, l'homme a toujours plein d'idées à mettre en œuvre. Il n'a pas de marque ou de modèle préféré non plus. Pour preuve, après avoir réalisé une mini-série de BMW 328 et de roadster Mercedes 540 K, il s'attaquera à la construction d'une Bugatti Royale équipée de deux blocs Buick V 8 de 3,5 l. Pouvant accueillir jusqu'à 7 passagers, cette très imposante berline au luxe sans pareil n'abordait cependant pas l'insigne Bugatti, mais le fameux lévrier symbolisant la marque Sbarro. La notoriété de Franco Sbarro va rapidement se faire internationale et rien ne l'arrête dans ses projets extravagants, plus extraordinaires et fabuleux les uns que les autres. Que dire du gros Windhawk de 1980 à six roues motrices fabriqué pour le roi Khaled d'Arabie saoudite ou du «bureau» mobile de 7,2 m de long commandé par un homme d'affaires saoudien. A six roues lui aussi, il était élaboré sur une base de Cadillac Eldorado entraînée par bloc V 8 de 8,2 l. En une cinquantaine d'années, l'ACA a vu sortir de ses ateliers plus de 500 voitures. Non content de dessiner et construire des voitures

d'exception, «Sbarro l'inventeur» présente régulièrement des innovations technologiques marquantes et très performantes comme la roue orbitale sans moyeu (améliorant la tenue de route d'un véhicule en abaissant son centre de gravité) et le châssis «dual frame» devenu courant aujourd'hui chez beaucoup de constructeurs automobiles.

#### **Ecole ESPERA Sbarro, la passion avant tout**

Voulant transmettre son immense savoir et surtout ses connaissances accumulées au fil des ans, Franco Sbarro fonde l'école ESPERA Sbarro, une école particulière où les élèves, en plus de travaux de bureau, doivent obligatoirement mettre la main à la pâte pour la construction, de A à Z, des modèles automobiles qu'ils doivent créer selon un cahier des charges précis.

Installée il y a plus de 20 ans à Montbéliard, l'école ESPERA Sbarro propose sur 10 mois une formation aux techniques de l'automobile, associant théorie et pratique. De septembre à juin, les élèves découvrent: le dessin/design, le modelage, la carrosserie polyester, la

mécanique générale, la soudure, la mécanique automobile, la construction de châssis et leur liaison au sol.

L'enseignement, confié à des professionnels, eux-mêmes anciens élèves de Franco Sbarro, complété par l'intervention de spécialistes en économie, gestion et communication, s'articule autour d'un code défini en quatre points par Franco Sbarro: esthétique, éthique, conceptuel et technique.

Autonomie, confiance en soi, aptitude au travail en équipe seront également les notions qui seront développées durant cette période intense de travail, concrétisée par la fabrication de plusieurs prototypes roulants, présents à l'occasion de rendez-vous prestigieux du monde de l'automobile, comme le *Geneva International Motor Show* que Franco Sbarro ne raterait pour rien au monde. ■

ESPERA Sbarro Montbéliard  
90010 Belfort Cedex (France)  
Tél: 03 81 32 90 10  
Ecole-sbarro@utbm.fr

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Garry Aslanyan – newSpecial  
OMS, 20 av. Appia, CH-1202 Genève, Suisse  
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Garry Aslanyan – newSpecial  
WHO, 20, av Appia CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland  
By email: info@newspecial.org

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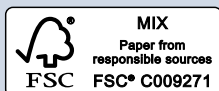


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Quai Gustave-Ador 42, 1207 Genève  
T. +41 22 700 98 00 - F. +41 22 700 90 55  
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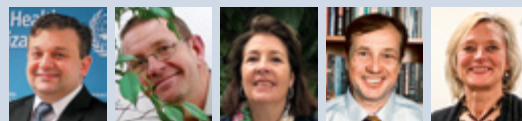
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135, chemin du Long-Champ - 2504 Bienne  
T. +41 32 344 83 84  
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### Graphisme / Design

Atelier Schnegg+ - Michel Schnegg  
Rue du Simplon 5, CH-1207 Genève  
T. +41 22 344 72 90 - F. +41 22 340 24 11  
[www.atelier-schnegg.ch](http://www.atelier-schnegg.ch)

### Composition du bureau intérimaire de rédaction

**Composition of the Interim Editorial Committee**



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Appelez le **022 700 98 00** pour toute  
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C.E.P. SA  
42, quai Gustave-Ador  
1207 Genève  
Tél.: 022 700 98 00  
Fax: 022 700 90 55  
e-mail: cepinfo@bluewin.ch



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