

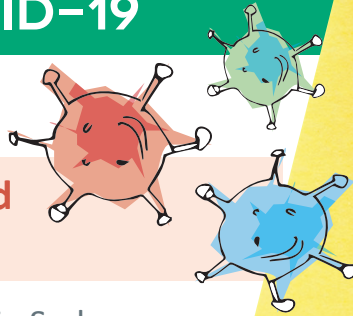


PEOPLE POWER 2020/2021

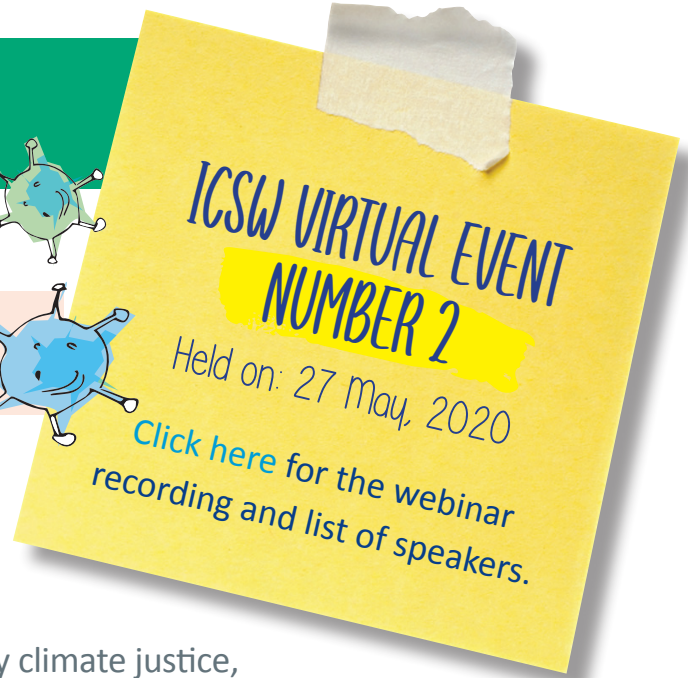
SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: BEFORE, DURING & AFTER COVID-19

BEFORE

Things were already complicated around the world in 2019.



It was a year of **historic protests**: while in Sudan, Chile, Egypt and Lebanon people took to the streets to demonstrate against corruption and dire economic and social situations, in Barcelona and Hong Kong demands centered around political freedom. Driven by climate justice, youth's voices were also heard at the Fridays for Future marches.



DURING

The pandemic has affected everyone in different ways, depending on the country we live in, our level of privilege and other intersectional factors.

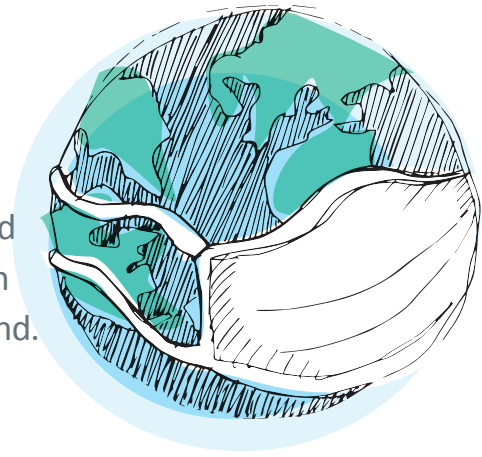
In most countries, things have gone from bad to worse: Health systems are strained if not collapsed, kids are out of school, women are stuck at home with aggressors, poverty and hunger are on the rise and economic crisis looms. Resources are now going to COVID-19 health-related issues, in detriment of other important needs.

COVID-19 also amplified the bad side of undemocratic societies.

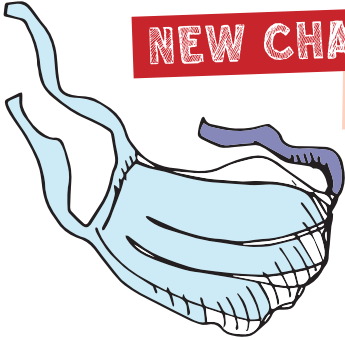
As confirmed by the **2020 CIVICUS Monitor**, people power is still under attack, with 11 countries showing worsening civic space ratings than the year before. Crackdown has taken many forms, from fines and arbitrary arrests, a tightened grip of media outlets, to outright police violence. In the meantime, grants for civil society have even been reduced or suspended and activists left without jobs!



In spite of this, there have been huge acts of **solidarity in the time of COVID-19**. Civil society has risen to the challenge to support people and their communities through this crisis, acting often as first responders in places where governments and other entities were very slow to respond. Civil society has proven to be resilient, creative and critical.



NEW CHALLENGES



Activists are at high risk of getting infected from COVID-19

Social distancing = harder to monitor human rights violations

Many unemployed activists and citizens have to focus their time and energy on securing their basic needs, instead of fighting their causes

We need a global movement to push for an ambitious, inclusive, multi-dimensional and transformational pandemic recovery agenda that leaves no one behind

GLIMMERS OF HOPE

There is a conviction that we can emerge stronger as a collective **#resilience**

New forms of civic mobilisation and new networks and partnerships have arisen

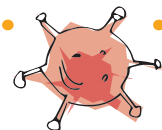
Civil society is exploring more creative ways to work, like digital activism, activism, storytelling and hologram protests

Growing reflections on global justice and social safety nets for activists



AFTER

The future after COVID-19 is yet unclear.



But we could say that this has been training for bigger crises... COVID-19 is nothing compared to what climate change will put us through! > **but this pandemic could be a paradigm shift, the opportunity to set the foundations for the world we want**



LESSONS TO BRING FORWARD

We can be creative and triumphant in adversity!

Electricity + electronics + internet should be accessible to everyone

Digital activism cannot substitute taking to the streets!

Labour protections for activists and human rights defenders are needed **#essentialworkers**

We must deepen **#connections** between social movements!

