

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

# Global Forum 2027

*Re-Humanizing Education in the Face of the Global Crisis of Humanity*

17–19 February 2027 · University of Nairobi, Kenya

The idea of human education that has inspired generations of educators who, for centuries, have sought to realize this ideal through various school models and pedagogical approaches worldwide is being challenged today by multiple global crises:

- The climate crisis, which calls into question the classical humanistic notion of the human person as the center of the universe and as the only agency entitled to dominate and exploit non-human nature.
- The marketization and commercialization of all spheres of social life, including education, processes that reduce human beings to units of labor and consumers of material goods.
- The digitalization of life through the widespread use of social media and AI, which threatens to impoverish interpersonal relationships and undermine the authorship of knowledge and of its acquisition.
- The rapid increase in social inequalities, including inequalities in access to education of good quality.
- The global rise of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes that instrumentalize education for anti-democratic indoctrination of the youth and suppress independent and critical thinking.

Recognizing the urgent need to find convincing answers to how education should respond to these crises, and so to develop a **new self-understanding of human beings in education and a conception of education of humanity**, an international group of educators convened a conference in 2019 in Dharamsala, India, which resulted in the book *Humanizing Education in the 3rd Millennium* (Springer, 2022). This event inspired subsequent dialogues across Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, Latin America, and Oceania. These exchanges led to a Global Declaration entitled *Educating Humanity in the Third Millennium*. The Declaration — which calls for nothing less than a new sense of becoming human, rooted in civic friendship, solidarity, democracy, and care for non-human nature — was the focus of the First Global Forum Bangalore 2025. The great success of that gathering motivated us to institutionalize our movement under the title *The Global Forum for Re-humanizing Education* (<https://rehumanisingeducation.org/about-us/>)

Based on the Declaration, the following seven key topics of the movement have been identified:

- **Reframing the Human.** What does it mean to be human today, and how should education be redefined to accommodate the diversity of human condition?
- **Planetary Responsibility in the Technological Age.** How can education cultivate responsible human beings living between Earth's systems and the artificial/technological world?
- **Education for Democracy, Justice, Care, and Peace.** How can education rehumanize societies and keep them solidaric and sustainably humane? How can education prevent the exclusion, discrimination, and marginalization of persons and groups?
- **Human Agency and the Transformation of Educational Structures and Arrangements.** How can education systems support the agency of learners and educators and honor their dignity? How can educators listen to children and young people in schools and colleges so they can understand their worlds and meet their needs empathetically?
- **Knowledge, Decolonization, and New Pedagogical Imaginaries.** What knowledge is worth teaching, and how should it be taught, by whom, and where so that a whole-person growth of students is realized, especially growth in outlook and motivation to care for society and the world?
- **Lifelong and Systemic Reimagining of Education.** How must educational stages and forms evolve toward a humane society and multispecies flourishing?
- **Whether (and how) a New Humanistic Approach in Education is possible in Terms of Competence-Based Curriculum?**

To explore these themes, the Second Global Forum 2027 will take place from 17 to 19 February 2027 at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Diversity of voices and perspectives will be a guiding principle of the Forum. The program will include several formats: Plenary Sessions, Parallel Sessions, Panel Presentations, Roundtable Sessions, Discussion Groups, Workshops/Master Classes, and Poster Sessions, as outlined below:

## Presentation Formats

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**Parallel Paper Presentations:** This is the conventional format in which one presenter is given approximately 30 minutes, including time for questions and discussion.

**Panel Presentations:** These sessions examine specific research issues, problems, or topics from a variety of perspectives represented by the panel members. We encourage 3–4 participants to submit a joint proposal. Panels will be allocated approximately 60 minutes, including time for questions and discussion.

**Roundtable Presentations:** Roundtable discussions involve 3–4 participants brought together by the Program Committee. The format is more informal than a panel presentation, and presenters do not need to identify co-presenters in advance. Sessions will last approximately 60 minutes, including discussion.

**Workshop/Master Class:** Workshops or Master Classes are practice-oriented and may include experiential and participatory demonstrations of methods and forms of educational practices. Sessions will last approximately 2–2.5 hours.

**Poster Presentations:** This format allows for the presentation of a topic or issue with significant opportunity for visual and graphic display and individualized discussion with presenters. Student posters are especially welcome. Students at the undergraduate level or below must include a faculty advisor.

**Discussion Groups:** These sessions allow participants to gather around a common topic for open discussion outside traditional presentation formats. Participants do not need to prepare materials in advance. However, if you would like a specific topic to be featured, please indicate it in the proposal form.

In addition, the program should include cultural events and visits to schools in Nairobi.

## Submission Guidelines

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### How to Submit

Please submit a **150-word abstract** and a **300–500-word proposal** (excluding references) addressing one or more of the seven key topics listed above. All proposals must be submitted via the proposal form listed below by **August 15, 2026**. Decisions will be communicated no later than by September 15, 2026.

## Language Policy

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We appreciate lingual diversity. At the same time, we aim to establish an inclusive discourse at the Forum, a discourse that presupposes a *lingua franca*. That is why we welcome proposals not only in English, but also in French, Spanish, and Swahili; however, proposals that are not written in English should include a 150-word abstract also in English. The major language of communication at the Global Forum 2027 will be English.

## Key Dates

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<b>Proposal Submission Deadline</b>	15 August 2026
<b>Notification of Decision</b>	15 September 2026
<b>Global Forum 2027</b>	17–19 February 2027
<b>Venue</b>	University of Nairobi, Kenya

## Contact & Links

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**Program Committee:** [Globalforum27@gmx.de](mailto:Globalforum27@gmx.de)

**Proposal Form:** <https://submissions.rehumanisingeducation.org/>

**University of Nairobi:** <https://www.uonbi.ac.ke/about-us>