



- HYBRID EVENT -

HELVETAS SYMPOSIUM

RECLAIMING CIVIC SPACE

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Hybrid event – taking place at [Hotel Bern](#) in Berne/Switzerland, and online

2:00 – 5:30 p.m. CET followed by a networking apéro

Language: English

Authoritarianism is on the rise globally. Civic space is shrinking, and social movements and local civil society organizations are under pressure in many countries. To counter these tendencies and maintain the role of civil society as a driver for change, INGOs and donors must revisit the concept of cooperation and question power structures and funding relationships in existing partnerships.

Free registration here: helvetas.org/symposium

Program highlights

→ Join dynamic discussions led by a panel of international experts from different backgrounds and geographic locations.



MAJA STOJANOVIĆ
Executive Director of Civic Initiative, Serbia



FUMBA CHAMA (AKA PILATO)
Musician & Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth, Sport & Arts, Zambia



STEPHENSON MEUS
Member of the Executive Committee at KOURAJ, Haiti

→ Let's play together! A Ukrainian-designed role-playing game explores common decisions that civil society organizations must make.

→ Learn from an innovative foundation that defends civic space: Otto Saki, Program Officer at the [Ford Foundation](#), shares perspectives on foundations' role in redefining bilateral cooperation and partnerships in the Global South.



OTTO SAKI
Program Officer at Ford Foundation, Zimbabwe

→ Followed by a networking apéro at the Hotel Bern