



PRESS RELEASE, 17.11. 2021

We need to keep working on democracy, freedom, and tolerance — this is the message of the *Building Bridges for the Global Future* Conference organized by the Forum 2000 Foundation at EXPO 2020

The event took place in Dubai on November 17th, and parts of it were also live-streamed via Facebook and YouTube. The recordings are available on the Forum 2000's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

PRAGUE, 17.11.2021 - A catholic priest and a member of Forum 2000's Program Council Tomáš Halík, an economist Tomáš Sedláček, Rabbi Elie Adabie and the Directress of the DUHA Movement Anna Kárníková were among those who took part at the Conference.

On November 17th, 2021, Forum 2000 Foundation in cooperation with the Czech Pavilion at EXPO 2020, #díky, že můžem, Korzo Národní, and Opona organized the Conference *Building Bridges for a Global Future* as part of the Czech EXPO 2020 program in Dubai. The first part of the Conference was dedicated to the interfaith dialogue. It referred to Václav Havel's concept of the "moral global minimum" that comes from the fundamental values and principles all the major religious traditions share. *"We should bring people from different religions to think together about our perspective for the future. We should keep our identity while seeing the identity of others not as a danger but rather as an inspiration."*, said prof. Tomáš Halík.

The second part of the Conference touched upon the importance of education and active citizenship for a free, open, and tolerant modern society. Education is an indispensable tool for creating such a society but the panelists agreed that it has to change to be more relevant to today's world. Mostly the education needs to create an interactive space for kids and students to communicate and express themselves.

Citizens' engagement is the prerequisite for the development of a prospering society. Social movements played a crucial role also in the 1989 events in Prague and other cities and countries. *"The main challenge is to teach people that civil society is not only NGOs but themselves, their families, and neighbours,"* said a Romanian activist Alina Aflecailor, *"and for each activist it is important to stay authentic and have three main values: love, courage, and truth,"* Mikuláš Minář added. Among the main tools that were mentioned are new technologies including social networks because for some activists it is the only way for their work. On the other side it can be misused by the authorities or it may be easy for them to shut down the internet to unblock this way of communication. What is important for each activist is also the context they need to take into account in their work.

"We should not give the public space only to politicians. It really is res publica – so the civil society is vital for it.", Tomáš Halík concluded: *"democracy is not only the state system, it is the relationship among people."*



The recordings of the panels of the 2nd part of the Conference entitled *Through Education to Tolerance and Civic Responsibility and How Successful Civil Society Movements Reach Their Goals* are [available on our Facebook](#).

ABOUT THE FORUM 2000 FOUNDATION

The Forum 2000 Foundation continues the legacy of Václav Havel by promoting democratic values and respect for human rights, developing civil society and strengthening religious, cultural and ethnic tolerance. It provides the world's leaders, thinkers and courageous individuals from all walks of life with a space to share and discuss these issues openly.