



#WEWILLRISE

STAND STUDENT FESTIVAL 2021



STAND

FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN

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celebrating our collective resilience
in the face of global challenges

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About STAND

STAND celebrates the power of ordinary people to change the world. We support third-level students to stand up for justice and equality, learn more about important global issues, and find out what they can do to take positive action. We do this by running a range of activities in collaboration with students at third-level campuses across Ireland, including:

- **STAND Student Festival:** annual festival and photo exhibition for students raising awareness of global justice issues.
- **STAND Global Issues Course:** part-time evening course for students who want to change the world.
- **STAND Ideas Collective:** social incubator program for changemakers, turning student ideas for change into solutions to the world's problems.
- **STAND News:** online news magazine for students who are passionate about equality and justice.

STAND is an initiative of Suas Education Development, an international Development Education NGO. STAND is funded by Irish Aid.

About the STAND Student Festival

The STAND Student Festival is run by students, for students, to raise awareness about the burning issues shaping the world around us. Previously known as the 8x8 Festival, the STAND Student Festival has been bringing award-winning photography, film and events focused on global justice to campuses across Ireland every autumn since 2013.

Fast forward to 2021 and the festival has expanded to 7 national university campuses and 4 smaller IT's across Ireland. Approximately **16,500** students were engaged during the festival in 2019 across all events and exhibitions. In 2020, when the festival moved completely online due to Covid 19, over **2,500** students took part across 22 online events ranging from film screenings, panel discussions and workshops to an online art exhibition and an 'inspirational speaker' series.



STAND Festival 2021

#WeWillRise

Summary

This year's festival focuses on the theme of RESILIENCE and will celebrate change-makers and trailblazers who have risen up in the face of global challenges, working tirelessly and courageously to bring about change.

It will aim to inspire hope, optimism and belief in students that no matter how dark the world may seem, we as global citizens, through our vision and our actions, are resilient - and have the power to influence the future wellbeing of our communities and our world.

Context

The last 18 months have brought unimaginable challenges to all of us. The impacts of a global pandemic have been felt by all people, everywhere, in ways that are impossible to quantify. But amidst the darkness, individuals and communities across the globe have continued to fight for their futures, working towards alleviating inequality, overcoming injustice, combating climate change and working towards building a kinder, fairer and more sustainable future for all.

The STAND student festival 2021 celebrates our human resilience in the face of these global challenges. From the fight for **climate justice** to **gender equality**, **mental health** to **social inclusion**, this year's festival brings stories of hope, determination and resilience to campuses across Ireland.

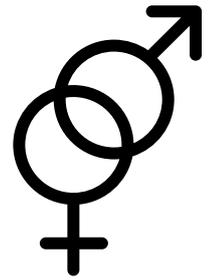
Now more than ever, we must celebrate the individuals and communities across the globe who have risen up in face of enormous challenges, who believe in the power of action, and who are proof that even in the face of seemingly insurmountable difficulties, we really can be the change we want to see in the world.

4 x thematic areas

1. Resilience x Gender Equality

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but crucial in order to build a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

Despite challenges in the fight for gender equality, which have in many cases been exacerbated by the pandemic, women and girls worldwide have continued to rise up and fight for equal rights, equal pay, and access to sexual and reproductive health. This year's festival celebrates the resilience of women and girls in building back a better world.



2. Resilience x Climate Action



From rising sea levels to global warming, overconsumption to the plague of our waste, we know that urgent change is needed by governments, industries and individuals worldwide for the protection of both people and planet.

Over the last number of years, from across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, students have risen up to make their voices heard and demand real change for us and for future generations. This year's festival celebrates the resilience of these young people in their fight for climate action and the preservation of our planet.

3. Resilience x Equality & Discrimination

Rising inequalities are threatening the future wellbeing of both people and planet. Globally, those who occupy a minority status from across the domains of race, class, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation are more likely to experience discrimination and prejudice, and face increased barriers preventing them from participating fully in our communities and societies.

This year's festival celebrates the individuals and communities who are rising up in the face of inequality, discrimination and social injustice, working for inclusion and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights for all.



4. Resilience x Mental Health



A year of living through a global pandemic has taken its toll on our mental health. Studies have shown levels of anxiety, depression and mental illness among students and young people have risen dramatically over the last 18 months.

This year's festival celebrates young mental health advocates and activists who are fighting to improve the rights, treatment, and public perception of those suffering from any mental health issues.



Festival Format 2021

The STAND Student Festival 2021 will launch on the 20th September and will continue until the 5th November. STAND will coordinate a national program of 'keynote' online events, while student festival coordinators will organise local, campus-specific events at each university.

For the national program of online events, STAND will promote a series of film screenings, panel discussions, keynote interviews and workshops with influential speakers, activists and artists. **The 'keynote' events will take place during the month of October.**

Sample online events:

Film Screenings & Arts events

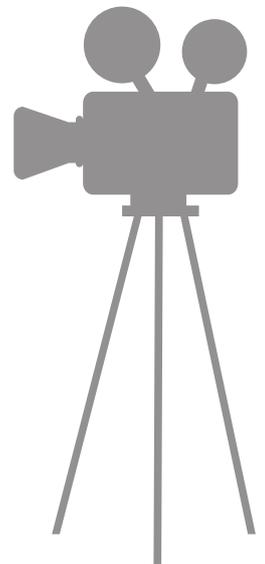
- 'Woman' by Yann Arthus-Bertrand * & Anastasia Mikova
- 'Girl Rising' with World Vision Ireland
- 'On Her Shoulders' Exhibition showcasing female changemakers from across the globe
- Spoken Word performances

Inspirational Speakers series & Panel Discussions

- Talks focused on the theme of 'Resilience' with influential speakers from across the spheres of climate action, gender equality, mental health and social inclusion.

Workshops

- Active Hope workshops
- Storytelling for Change
- Creative Campaign building
- Minding your Mind
- Creativity & Change



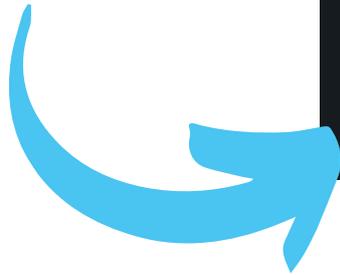
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Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí, Eachtracha agus Trádi
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Previous Festival

Click on the image for a full engagement report for the 2020 festival



STAND STUDENT FESTIVAL 2020

CLIMATE CHANGE
& MIGRATION

12 - 24 OCT 2020

 Irish Aid
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádáil
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



2020 Speakers

Headline Speakers from our 2020 festival include:

- **Sophie Kianni** American writer & climate activist, founder & Executive Director of Climate Cardinals
- **Vanessa Nakate** Climate Activist from Uganda, Founder of Rise Up Climate Movement
- **Emma Dabiri**, broadcaster and author of 'Don't Touch My Hair' and 'What White People can Do Next'
- **Anote Tong**, former president of Kiribati
- **Sorcha Pollak**, Irish Times journalist
- **Saoirse McHugh**, Environmentalist & former MEP candidate

Panellists include (among many others)

- Amali Tower (Climate Refugees);
- Jackie Qataliña Schaeffer (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium);
- Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad);
- Jannie Staffansson (Indigenous Peoples Rights Activist);
- Genevieve Jiva (Pacific Islands Climate Action Network)
- Saoi O'Connor (Fridays for Future Ireland);
- Nayeli Jimenez (Youth organizer for Our Time 2019);
- Niria Alicia (SustainUS COP25 youth delegation leader);
- Noga Levy-Rapoport (UK Fridays for Future);
- Kristy Drutman (Brown Girl Green podcast & media series)
- Constance Okollet (Osukuru United Women Network / Climate Wise Women);
- Tanaya Dutta Gupta (Climate Refugee Stories);
- Pelenise Alofa (Kiribati Climate Action Network);
- Inderpal Grewal (Chair and Professor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Programme, Yale University)
- Lisa Thalheimer (Oxford Environmental Change Institute);
- Abraham Lustgarten (ProPublica & NY Times);
- Alexandra Tempus (Fair Warning News);
- Sara Creta (The New Humanitarian)



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