



#humanists2023

# World Humanist Congress 2023

## Friday

**08:00-09:15**

Registration at the conference hotel:  
Scandic Hotel Copenhagen

**09:30-10:45**

Plenary: Opening ceremony  
// Sandi Toksvig, Thorbjørn Jagland, Andrew Copson and more

**10:45-11:15**

Break with coffee and tea

**11:15-12:15**

Plenary: Keynote speech: "Threats to Democracy"  
// Sofia Näsström, Roslyn Mould, Nicole Carr & David Pineda

**12:15-13:30**

Standing lunch with poster session

**13:30-15:00**

Parallel sessions

- **Parallel 1: Art as an indicator of freedom of expression**  
Location: Meeting room "Rosenborg"  
// Lusine Djanyan, Ivor Stodolsky, Victoria Gugenheim & Andreas Ekström
- **Parallel 2: Challenges to democracy in Africa south of the Sahara**  
Location: Meeting room "Børsen"  
// Leo Igwe & Gyekye Tanoh
- **Parallel 3: Why don't humanists care more about climate change?**  
Location: Meeting room "Christian"  
// David Pineda, Daniel Nnaji, Diosa Aguilera-Aguirre & Fraser Sutherland
- **Parallel 4: Girl Power: Women and Democracy**  
Location: Meeting room "Marselisborg"  
// Katrín Oddsdóttir, Inga Straumland & Darlene Field
- **Parallel 5: Will we make room for young humanists?**  
Location: Meeting room "Frederik"  
// Ana Raquel Aquino Smith & more
- **Parallel 6: Technology should be shaped by humans, not the other way around**  
Location: Plenary meeting room "Grand ball"  
// Erich Prem, Brit Ross Winthereik & Alexander Schmölz

**15:00-15:30**

Break with coffee and tea

**15:30-16:30**

Regional parallel sessions

- **Parallel 1: Africa & Middle East**  
Location: Meeting room "Rosenborg"
- **Parallel 2: North America**  
Location: Meeting room "Marselisborg"
- **Parallel 3: Europe**  
Location: Plenary meeting room "Grand ball"
- **Parallel 4: Asia**  
Location: Meeting room "Børsen"
- **Parallel 5: Latin America and the Caribbean**  
Location: Meeting room "Christian"
- **Parallel 6: Australia, New Zealand and Pacific-Islands**  
Location: Meeting room "Frederik"

**17:30-19:00**

Guided walk in Copenhagen City Hall

**19:00-21:00**

Welcome reception at Copenhagen City Hall

## Saturday

**09:30-10:30**

Plenary: On democracy and humanism  
// Wonderful Mkhutche, Dr. Sudesh Ghoderao & Nick Fish

**10:30-11:00**

Plenary speech "On hope"  
// Lars Fredrik Svendsen

**11:00-11:30**

Break with coffee and tea

**11:30-11:45**

Plenary: Presentation of Congress Resolution

**11:45-12:30**

Plenary: How can the outside world help rebuild and strengthen Ukrainian democracy after the war?  
// Oleksandra Romantsova & Remus Cernea

**12:30-13:30**

Standing lunch with poster session

**13:30-15:00**

Parallel sessions

- **Parallel 1: The Rainbow Resistance - humanism and democracy as tools to promote LGBTQIA+ rights**  
Location: Meeting room "Børsen"  
// Alex Kofi-Donkor & Uglia Stefania Kristjónudóttir Jónsdóttir
- **Parallel 2: How the death penalty leads to brutal suppression of atheism and free speech in Iran**  
Location: Meeting room "Christian"  
// Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam & Zara Kay
- **Parallel 3: How should we respond to the growth of the non-religious?**  
Location: Meeting room "Marselisborg"  
// Lois Lee and Atko Rimmel, Lone Ree Milkaer & Adrián Núñez Ferdmann
- **Parallel 4: The threat to democracy from conspiracy thinking**  
Location: Plenary meeting room "Grand ball"  
// Hulda Thorsisdóttir, Didrik Sæderlind & Ariel Pontes
- **Parallel 5: Lifestance dialogue as a tool for democracy**  
Location: Meeting room "Rosenborg"  
// Robert Hamilton, Lars-Petter Helgestad, Bente Sandvig, Uttam Niraula & Jeremy Rodell
- **Parallel 6: Case stories from our humanist ceremonial practices**  
Location: Meeting room "Frederik"  
// Brynhildur Björnsdóttir, Malin Jiborn, Tea Dyekjaer & Nakimbugwe Winfred

**15:00-15:30**

Break with coffee and tea

**15:30-17:00**

Parallel sessions

- **Parallel 1: Religious intolerance in India**  
Location: Meeting room "Frederik"  
// Sudesh Ghoderao, Babu Gogineni & Vikas Gora
- **Parallel 3: Democratic backsliding - Case stories**  
Location: Plenary meeting room "Grand ball"  
// Nina Sankari, David Ronnegard & more
- **Parallel 4: Humanist Confirmation in practice in the Nordics**  
Location: Meeting room "Marselisborg"  
// Helle Wills, Frida Valles Kirkegaard, Clara Alexandra, Morten Isaksen & Kolbrún Ósk Pétursdóttir
- **Parallel 5: Social entrepreneurship as a democratic tool**  
Location: Meeting room "Børsen"  
// Urte Zukauskaitė-Zabukė & Gerda Surgautaitė
- **Parallel 6: Freedom of Thought Report and Humanists at Risk**  
Location: Meeting room "Rosenborg"  
// Emma Wadsworth-Jones

**17:00-19:00**

Free time

**19:00**

Congress dinner and Humanists International awards ceremony.  
The congress dinner is held at congress venue.

## Sunday

**09:30-11:15**

Plenary: Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB)  
// Nazila Ghanea, Abid Raja & Elizabeth O'Casey

**11:15-11:45**

Break with coffee and tea

**11:45-13:00**

Closing plenary session with artist in residence, concluding remarks and announcement of the next World Humanist Congress.

**13:00-14:00**

Lunch to go

**14:00-19:00**

Humanists International General Assembly, part 2

**For full program description:**

[whc2023.com/program](http://whc2023.com/program)

