



TU Delft Urban Thinkers Campus “A Manifesto for the Just City” A 4-part event and a call for action 9, 16, 23, 30 November 18:00 CET (Amsterdam)

TU Delft [Global Urban Lab](#)
World Urban Campaign
[The Spatial Justice Network](#)
& Partner Universities

Please enrol at
<https://forms.gle/sk5sQDqDfQwXx5D46>

Logic of the UTC

Inspired by the several calls for a Build Back Better attitude post COVID-19, and building upon the UTC organised by TU Delft and partners in the first half of 2020 (UTC#1: THE NEW URBAN NORMAL: URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE POST COVID-19), the present UTC addresses the multiple challenges in the “reconstruction period” after the COVID-19 pandemic to achieve a Just City for All and proposes a radical re-imagining of the city we need.

The UTC organised by TU Delft in July 2020 sparked several conversations we intend to continue in this new edition. The pandemic has exposed serious structural deficiencies in the way our cities are imagined, planned and governed. These structural deficiencies are wide-ranging and include for example the impact of growing inequality and severe economic austerity, leading to the increase of vulnerability to the virus in cities all over the world.

But not everything is dire. Hardship seems to have awakened progressive forces and the understanding that we all need to act together and in coordination in order to face the public challenges affecting us all: a health crisis, a climate emergency and a democratic crunch, among others. All these issues have a direct impact on how our cities are imagined, designed, and governed. More specifically, collective coordinated action that is participatory, accountable, transparent, inclusive and evidence-based is at the top of the agenda. But how can universities all over the world help students imagine a radically different future, in which cities are motors of social inclusion and places that help the regeneration of our planet? How to enable students to decolonise their minds and reimagine an urban future that is sustainable, fair, inclusive and green? This UTC brings together students and teachers from universities all over the world to discuss these issues and more, with the objective to draft a manifesto for the city we need.

UTC Programme

DAY ONE 9 NOV: BUILD BACK BETTER and the Right to Housing

18:00 CET/ Amsterdam: Opening: introduction to the event

18:10: Keynote speaker: Leilani Farha. Leilani Farha is a Canadian lawyer and the Global Director of THE SHIFT, a housing initiative. Between June 2014 and April 2020, she was the United Nations special rapporteur on adequate housing. <https://www.make-the-shift.org>

18:40 Q&A

18:50 Break

18:00 Break-out rooms with students from participating universities: preparation of statements [100-200-word statements]

18:30 Students' statements

18:40 End

DAY TWO 16 NOV: BUILD BACK BETTER and Planning for Inclusion

18:00 CET/ Amsterdam: Opening: introduction to the event

18:10: Keynote speaker: BIMKOM Planners for Planning Rights is an Israeli non-profit organization working to strengthen democracy and human rights in the field of planning. <https://bimkom.org/eng/our-mission/>

18:40 Q&A

18:50 Break

19:00 Break-out rooms with students from participating universities: preparation of statements [100-200-word statements]

19:30 Students' statements

19:40 End

DAY THREE 23 NOV: BUILD BACK BETTER: Insurgent Planning and the Decolonization of our minds

18:00 CET/ Amsterdam: Opening: introduction to the event

18:10: Keynote speaker: To be announced.

18:40 Q&A

18:50 Break

19:00 Break-out rooms with students from participating universities: preparation of statements [100-200-word statements]

19:30 Students' statements

19:45 End

DAY FOUR 30 NOV: BUILD BACK BETTER: RACE & SPACE: Issues of race and class in urban development/ decolonisation of urban studies

18:00 GMT Opening: introduction to the event

18:10 Keynote speaker: Suraj Yengde. Suraj is a Shorenstein Centre inaugural post-doctoral fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Public Policy. He's the author of Caste Matters. In this explosive book, Suraj Yengde, a first-generation Dalit scholar educated across continents, challenges deep-seated beliefs about caste and unpacks its many layers.

18:40 Q&A

18:50 Break

19:00 Keynote speaker: Tainá de Paula. Tainá is a Brazilian architect and urban planner, activist of urban social movements, specialist in Cultural Heritage and Urbanism by Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She has worked in social housing projects, providing technical assistance for movements fighting for the right of housing. She's a candidate for city councillor in Rio de Janeiro.

19:30 Q&A

19:40 Final statements from students from participating universities + closing remarks

Call for A Manifesto for the Just City

An activity for students and teachers of the built environment.

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COVID-19 initially looked like the “great equaliser”: all of humanity facing exactly the same microscopic enemy. There seemed to be an opportunity for all of us to work together towards the same goal: to [heal ourselves](#) and our [relationship with our planet](#).

It seemed almost like a dress rehearsal for the even bigger challenges we must face in the next decades: [our planet's delicate climate equilibrium tipping off balance, the likely disappearance of much of the planet's biodiversity after the mass extinction of animals and plants in the last 50 years, the exhaustion of natural resources, growing inequality](#), as well as the [rise of populism and a deepening democratic crisis](#).

Sadly, it soon became apparent that the virus would have a very different impact on different groups of people around the world, depending on their age, location, type of government, social class, access to medical care, job opportunities and [even race](#).

We have not come together. Our divisions and the injustices of our cities became even more apparent thanks to the virus.

Amid so many problems, we still have reason to be optimistic: we can turn things around and [BUILD BACK BETTER](#) after the storm is over. And the way to heal ourselves and our relationship with our planet is deeply connected to how [we will deal with urbanization](#). Our cities and communities are the key for healthier people and a healthier planet, but also the key for stronger democracies and more resilient communities. Much work has already been done and the pathway to sustainable and fair cities has been laid out in the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the [New Urban Agenda](#) and the [European Green Deal](#), among other policy frameworks.

We need more and better ideas on how to make our cities truly sustainable, inclusive and democratic.

For this reason, we are launching a call for

A MANIFESTO FOR THE JUST CITY

For us, the Just City is not only a place that allows all its citizens to live a healthy and accomplished life, but also a city that allows the planet to regenerate itself and fosters civic life and democracy, affording all its citizens the [RIGHT TO THE CITY](#). In order to collect ideas and discuss ways to teach and learn how to make our cities more just, sustainable and inclusive, we want to hear from students from all over the world.

We wish to invite you and your friends to write a manifesto of no more than 1000 words laying out your vision for the just city. The manifesto should be written in groups of between 3 and 5 students from any discipline related to the built environment (spatial planning, urban geography, design, architecture, landscape design, engineering, etc.) The manifesto can be written in any language, as long as a good English translation is provided by the participants. The manifesto can also be illustrated (remember, images and text are complementary). We will only accept original pictures, drawings or illustrations produced by the participants (please, be mindful of copyrights!).

In order to help you write your manifesto, we invite you and your group of fellow students to take part in a 4-part [Urban Thinkers Campus](#) sponsored by the [World Urban Campaign](#) and organised by TU Delft and partner universities online. Each part of this activity will provide you with new ideas about key topics of urban development, just like a mini-online course. In each session, you will have the opportunity to debate with like-minded people from other universities and will be invited to write short paragraphs with them. At the end of this process, we hope you will have enough ideas and material to write a trailblazing manifesto with your group. The best manifestos will be published in a special number of TU Delft Urbanism students' independent magazine [ATLANTIS](#), on the independent periodical [B-Nieuws](#) and on an open access book.

All participants submitting a manifesto and taking part in at least two online lectures will be provided with a certificate of participation by the Delft University of Technology.

In order to participate, you need:

1. To fill out the form on this [LINK](#) with the names of the members of your group and other information about you, your team and your university.
2. Get together with your group and discuss: what should be in your manifesto? Maybe here you could make a start!
3. Take part in the four-part Urban Thinkers Campus organised by TU Delft, which will take place on 9, 16, 23 and 30 of November 2020 (a link will be sent to you).
4. Submit your final text before the 10th of December 2020.

5. Your manifesto will appear in a report published by TU Delft. It will also appear on our [GLOBAL URBAN LAB](#) website. As mentioned, the best texts will be published in [ATLANTIS](#), the TU Delft Urbanism students' independent magazine and the independent periodical [B-Nieuws](#).