

Press Release – 15 January 2021



Launched by the Institut français in 2016, the NIGHT OF IDEAS is a project staged simultaneously in Paris, London and worldwide, at the end of January.

**This year, the NIGHT OF IDEAS in the UK unfolds into an exceptional week-long festival from 22 to 29 January, produced onsite at the Institut français in London, and live streamed on 2 channels.** In the context of lockdown, the Institut français gives greater value to this key event in the cultural agenda and expands its dates to allow as many people as possible to take part in the debate. Echoing the main themes of this year's edition, a **programme of films, BEFORE THE NIGHT (22 – 25 January)** will precede a **series of thought-provoking and free debates (26-29 January) live streamed online.**

In these changing and challenging times, when many of us feel the need to share ideas and exchange views, the NIGHT OF IDEAS provides a platform to reflect upon current issues and rethink tomorrow's world. Crossing French, British and European perspectives, and with the theme **TOGETHER** as a common thread, the NIGHT OF IDEAS will tackle the **latest ideas behind issues** central to our particularly troubled era marked by the sanitary crisis and Brexit.

**Catherine Colonna**, French Ambassador to the UK will open the NIGHT OF IDEAS, introducing the main themes of this edition. Writers **Leïla Slimani** and **Lionel Shriver**, historians **Pap Ndiaye** and **Robert Tombs**, artists **Laure Prouvost** and **Eric Baudelaire** and international rights lawyer and author **Philippe Sands** are among the thirty leading figures who will discuss **new ways of being together.**

At a time when our salvation depends on the distance we put between each other, when countries are redefining their borders, when our way of life jeopardises the whole biosphere, do we have to reinvent new ways of being close to one another and to the world? If we wonder how we can face today's crises, the answer is perhaps: together.

**UK-wide**, the Institut français d'Ecosse, the Maison Française d'Oxford and the Alliances Françaises of Glasgow, Manchester, Bristol and Oxford also take part in the NIGHT OF IDEAS offering an **online programme of free debates.**

In the run-up to the NIGHT OF IDEAS, the **LITTLE NIGHT** invites children to take part in virtual workshops. Pupils from 46 British and French schools have also produced creative projects reflecting on the main topics of the festival.

The NIGHT OF IDEAS is organised by the Institut français and the French Embassy, in partnership with the European Parliament - Liaison Office in London, the Bristol Festival of Ideas, the National Film & Television School, the Maison française d'Oxford, the Alliance Française network in the UK, Flanders House, the Goethe-Institut, the Instituto Cervantes, the Austrian Cultural Forum London, the Danube University Krems, Arte in English, the Centre National des Arts Plastiques and the Archives of Women Artists Research & Exhibitions.

**Before the Night (films): 23 – 25 January 2021**  
**Films, programme & info:** [www.nightofideas.co.uk](http://www.nightofideas.co.uk)

**Night of Ideas (debates): 22 - 29 January 2021**  
**Debates:** Live on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

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