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## **Leading Philanthropists to Explore Democracy in Retreat; Philanthropy & Civil Society's Role in Rebuilding**

REDWOOD CITY, CA – From April 1-3, the 18<sup>th</sup> annual [Global Philanthropy Forum \(GPF\) Conference](#) will convene 300 purpose-driven philanthropists, foundation executives and social investors from around the globe to explore the shift from liberal to illiberal democracy, “where the vote may be sacrosanct but the protection of individual liberties is not,” according to GPF founder Jane Wales. They will consider the role philanthropy and civil society organizations are playing and can play in reversing that trend.

Entitled “Reclaiming Democracy,” the conference will feature speakers from across the globe and across the political spectrum, including [Charles Koch](#), CEO of Koch Industries; [David Brooks](#), Columnist for The New York Times; [Asha Curran](#), Co-Founder of #GivingTuesday; [Ivo Herzog](#), Chairman of the Vladimir Herzog Institute in Brazil; [Charlotte Pera](#), President and CEO of the ClimateWorks Foundation; [Christian Picciolini](#), a former white nationalist who founded the Free Radicals Project; [Mary Fitzgerald](#), Editor-in-Chief of OpenDemocracy; and [Lucy Bernholz](#), of Sanford University's Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society.

In addition it will feature a panel of Venezuelans who are former and likely future political leaders of the country.

Complementing national and international names will be leaders from communities where inventive solutions have been crafted, ethical and inspiring leadership has been shown, problems have been solved and social capital has been built -- in short, where democratic decision-making has worked. Examples of such “new localism” will come from Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia—as will the philanthropists and social entrepreneurs in attendance.

Visit our website to explore our [agenda](#) and full list of [speakers](#), and to follow the conversation on social media, visit GPF's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages and follow #GPF19.

### **About the Global Philanthropy Forum**

A project of World Affairs, the [Global Philanthropy Forum](#) (GPF) was founded in 2001 and aims to build a community of donors and social investors committed to international causes, and to inform, enable, and enhance the strategic nature of their giving. Through an annual conference and special events, the GPF connects donors to issues, effective strategies, potential co-funders and emblematic agents of change from around the world. By building and continually refreshing a lasting learning community, the GPF seeks to expand the number of philanthropists who will be strategic in the pursuit of international causes. The GPF has affiliates in Latin America and Africa.

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