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RECHT BERATUNG WEITERBILDUNG

 Public Lecture

Tim Shriver

Chairman of Special Olympics and Chairman of UNITE

Why Dignity Matters: Reducing Contempt in Public Discourse

Thursday, 19 March 2026, 18.30 – 20.00, Aula KOL-G-201 at the University of Zurich

Faith ^{HON} Self-Respect ^{value} Humanity ^{Pride} Inclusion
Equality *Rights* Equality Respectful Worthiness
Rights **DIGNITY** Voice
Compassion Confidence
Self-Worth *Respect* Independence *Pride*

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Why Dignity Matters: Reducing Contempt in Public Discourse



Tim Shriver

Chairman of Special Olympics and Chairman of UNITE

Time & Place

Thursday, 19 March 2026

18.30 – 20.00 at the Aula Magna KOL-G-201, at the University of Zurich
Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich

Speaker

Tim Shriver is a husband, father, grandfather, educator, best-selling author, Chairman of Special Olympics, and Chairman of UNITE. As Chairman of Special Olympics, a global movement to end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities, he led the largest expansion in the organization's history, growing from one million to more than six million athletes in over 170 countries. Inspired by the example and spirit of Special Olympics athletes, Shriver began exploring how empathy, self-awareness, and perspective-taking could help bridge divisions in society. These conversations led to the creation of UNITE, a nonprofit advancing initiatives such as the Dignity Index, which promotes disagreement without dehumanization and brings people together to address major national challenges.

Topic of the Lecture

We are living in a time of historic polarization across the globe. Many people believe today's divisions are the result of irreconcilable differences in beliefs or values. Tim Shriver disagrees. He argues that the deeper problem is not disagreement itself, but how people treat one another when they disagree.

In this presentation, Shriver introduces The Dignity Index, a tool he co-created through UNITE to help individuals, institutions, and communities better understand the role language plays in both fueling conflict and fostering healing. The Dignity Index offers a clear, practical framework for measuring how people speak to one another – especially in moments of tension – and for choosing dignity over contempt in public and private life.

Registration

Free Entry. Registration required. Limited seating capacity



More Information

For more information please contact the Europa Institute at the
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