

Call for Participants

Youth Exchange

Exploring Gender, Nature, and Global Crises

| 07-13th December 2026 | Buchholz (Germany) |

Who cares for the planet?



Call for participants



7-13 December 2026



Buchholz near Hamburg, Germany



Service Civil International
Deutscher Zweig e.V.



Bildung für
utopischen
Wandel e.V.



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About the Youth Exchange

The climate crisis is not only an environmental issue. It is closely linked to colonial histories, social injustice and unequal power structures. Those most affected by climate change are often those who have contributed the least to it and already face discrimination and exclusion.

This project focuses on how **gender** is connected to climate change and environmental justice. We will explore how power, inequality and our relationship with nature are linked to the climate crisis. We will also learn from **feminist, queer and indigenous perspectives** and **movements from the Global South**.

The Youth Exchange creates a learning space for young people to understand these connections, exchange ideas and think about what a **fairer future** could look like. Participants will deepen their understanding of climate justice while gaining practical skills for active citizenship and inclusive community engagement.

Hard facts – place, logistics, costs...

When: The program starts on 07.12.26 around 5pm and ends on 13.12.26, around 1pm. If needed, individual arrangements can be discussed with the team.

Where: Heideruh – Buchholz in der Nordheide, Germany.

As an antifascist center for political education and remembrance, Heideruh has a long history of bringing people together to engage with the past and present. Through seminars, workshops, educational programmes and remembrance projects, it creates space to explore history, strengthen democratic participation and stand up against racism and right-wing extremism. Its historic rooms and beautiful surroundings offer the perfect setting to connect, learn, relax and feel welcome.

<https://www.heideruh.de/>

Costs: Thanks to the Erasmus+ funding by SCI Germany, **all costs** including food, accommodation, travel expenses and the educational program **will be covered**. Depending on your sending organisation, a **small organisational fee** may be charged to cover the costs of arranging and supporting your participation. This fee is set and collected by your sending organisation and is not part of the Erasmus+ funding provided by SCI-D. If such a fee presents a financial barrier for you, please **contact your sending organisation or youthexchange@sci-d.de**. We will then work with you to see what support is available.

Meals & care work: Care work is an important part of socio-ecological change. Therefore, the group will be responsible for the preparation of breakfast and lunch while dinner will be provided by the kitchen team of the house. Other care work tasks such as tidying up in small groups and social support will be part of the experience. All meals will be plant-based.

Access and barriers: We aim to accommodate a range of individual needs. Accessible rooms are available for people with limited mobility, and dietary requirements can be considered. A few single rooms are also available for participants who need individual accommodation.

If you have any questions or specific accessibility requirements, please let us know in the application form so that we can do our best to accommodate your needs.

Language: The exchange will take place in English. We don't expect you to have perfect English (neither do we). However, it is helpful if you can speak enough English to take part in a conversation.

Contact: You can contact the team for questions via seminar-info@buwa-kollektiv.de.

Who is this Youth Exchange for?

The exchange is aimed at young people between **18 and 30 years** old who are **currently living in Germany, Slovenia, Estonia and Belgium** and are interested in climate and environmental issues, global inequality, as well as queerfeminist and decolonial theory and perspectives. No extensive prior experience is needed but you should be interested in the topics.

Furthermore, we would especially like to encourage people who are **affected by discrimination** to apply. We strongly wish for a diverse group of participants and a learning space that brings together multiple perspectives and experiences. All gender, nationalities as well as people from different educational and economical backgrounds are welcome!

Content & methods

Gender, Climate Justice & Intersectionality, e.g.:

- Unequal responsibility, vulnerability, and political representation
- Queer realities in the climate crisis

Historical Roots of Today's Crises, e.g.:

- Connections between patriarchy, colonialism, and environmental destruction
- Indigenous perspectives and feminist struggles for environmental justice in history

Rethinking Nature, e.g.:

- What is "nature"? - Reflecting on our perception of and relationships with nature
- Rights of Nature, Queer Ecologies and more-than-human perspectives

Power, Movements & Activism, e.g.:

- Gendered power relations, sexism and exclusion within climate movements
- Learning from feminist and queer environmental movements worldwide

Imagining Just Futures, e.g.:

- Critical reflections on ecological modernization and green lifestyles
- Inspiring examples connecting struggles for climate, gender and social justice

The program will explore the above topics. However, the exact content is still being developed and will also be shaped by the group.

Educational Approach

The project will be based on non-formal education and experiential learning. Participants will:

- explore feminist, queer, Indigenous, and Global South perspectives on environmental justice;
- engage in participatory workshops, outdoor learning, discussions, and creative methods;
- reflect on their own assumptions, privileges, and relationships with nature;
- connect theory with their own experiences and local realities;
- develop competences in intercultural dialogue and critical thinking;
- promote sustainable and low-carbon travel choices and raise awareness of their environmental impact

Getting there & away

Participants will travel by public transport or in carpools. It is ideal if you **travel together with your national team**, as a shuttle service will be organised from the train station to the venue. Make sure to plan your travel together with your national team if possible. The nearest railway station is **Buchholz in der Nordheide**. Hamburg can also be reached by long-distance buses. We will support you in finding **eco-friendly travel options**. We will probably be able to provide financial support in case you use green (no air) travel for any necessary overnight accommodation during the travel, but confirm with us before you book. As air travel contributes massively to the climate crisis, **we will not reimburse flight travel costs**.

We encourage all participants to see the journey as part of the experience: rather than seeing sustainable travel as a limitation, **we invite you to see it as an opportunity** to broaden your horizons, discover new places and appreciate the many possibilities we have to travel in a more climate-friendly way.

Travel costs are usually paid in advance by the participants and reimbursed after the exchange. Only if this is absolutely possible for you, please contact us and a solution will be found together. More detailed information on reimbursement of costs and climate-friendly travel will be provided as soon as your participation is confirmed. Keep in mind for your financial planning that reimbursements may take several weeks up to a few months!

Registration & application

In our experience, there may be a lot of people interested in an activity like this. Therefore, please complete the application form by **18.10.2026** at the latest if you would like to take part.

Please fill in the Application Form!

We will then get back to you by **25.10.2026** to let you know whether you have been given a place or if you are on the waiting list. If you urgently need earlier feedback for your planning, please get in touch with us. It is very important for us and the group that we can reliably plan who will be taking part. We therefore ask you for a **direct and binding confirmation or cancellation** after receiving our confirmation.



Form Link: <https://t1p.de/WhoCaresYE> or scan the QR code.

About us

Bildung für utopischen Wandel (BuWa) is a collective for political education based in Leipzig, Germany. In our educational work, we often look at the intersections of fights for social justice and climate justice. For us, it's important to understand the roots of climate crisis and discrimination and to be able to imagine utopias and actions that could lead us there.

Service Civil International (SCI) is a non-profit, over 100 years old international organization dedicated to promoting peace through volunteer work. We focus on nonviolent conflict resolution, social justice, sustainable development, and fostering global cooperation. The SCI brings together 42 national branches across five continents and we collaborate with partner organizations in over 50 additional countries.

The **Erasmus+ Youth Programme** is a European Union funding programme that enables young people to gain new experiences, develop interpersonal skills and get actively involved in social issues through international exchanges, training courses and projects.

We're looking forward to reading your applications!

Yours

Lisa & Thea (BuWa)

Can & Britta (SCI Germany)