

# INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2026

The Protestant University of Applied  
Sciences and International University  
Partners



**APRIL 20-24, 2026**

Protestant University of Applied  
Sciences, Ludwigsburg  
Paulusweg 6  
71638 Ludwigsburg



## SOCIAL WORK HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

Human well-being is inseparable from the well-being of the natural world. Defending human rights therefore requires confronting ecological harm at its structural roots.

Within the Human Rights and the Rights of Nature framework, social work deepens its moral and legal mandates by recognizing ecosystems as rights-bearing entities with intrinsic spiritual value. This human-ecological perspective denounces exploitative practices that produce social injustice through irreversible environmental abuse.

By defending nature's right to life and its capacity to regenerate and evolve, social work contributes profoundly to intergenerational and planetary social justice. Integrating the Rights of Nature strengthens social work practice by moving beyond harm mitigation toward structural transformation. It empowers communities—especially Indigenous peoples and environmental defenders—to protect their territories, knowledge systems, and ways of life.

Ultimately, social work's commitment to human rights is incomplete without recognizing that human flourishing depends on a pluriversal human-ecological system.

## ARRIVAL & WELCOME

*April 19, 2026 (SUNDAY)*

### Meet and Greet of Delegates

- Coordination of arrival schedules
- Airport and train reception services
- Train connections and accompaniment to Saint Joseph Seminar House, Hoheneck, Ludwigsburg
- Meal arrangements (breakfast or lunch) based on arrival times

### Welcome Dinner

Lowen Restaurant, Hoheneck

(Walking distance from Saint Joseph Seminar House)

## DAY 1

*April 20, 2026 (MONDAY)*

### MORNING

Welcome students, teachers, and international delegates to the EHL 2026 International Assembly

#### OPENING REMARKS

1. Prof. Dr. Andrea Dietzsch

Creation-Centred Spirituality - "That all creation may live in peace"

2. Prof. Dr. Heike Stammer and Prof. Dr. Jens Müller  
Education and Ecological Justice

3. Chancellor Thomas Erler  
Challenges in Institutional Transition

**A Rejoinder from Students:** Open reflection, Q&A with students, teachers, and delegates

#### Campus Guided Tour

History of Social Work in Germany and the Contested Participation of the Institutional Church in National Socialism

### AFTERNOON

#### Transnational, Transdisciplinary, Transcultural Exchanges

Teacher delegates from different universities engage in dialogical sharing about their academic teaching, research projects, and practice-based work.

#### Contributions from participants can be derived from:

- Previously delivered conference papers
- Short workshops
- Lectures
- Project, research, or publication presentations

**Delegates are invited to submit their inputs by February 13 for inclusion in the final program. Please see page 5 of this document for suggested thematic areas.**

## INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS AND INSPIRATIONS

International delegates participate as guest lecturers or resource persons in classes, seminars, and lectures. Sessions may repeat contributions from afternoon of April 20 with students' direct participation.

Coordination will be aligned with on-going class schedules and delegate availability.

### Suggested Thematic Areas

We invite our university partners to offer contributions in the form of lectures, case studies, workshops, discussions along these broad topics. Opportunities for a one-time or repeat presentations are scheduled morning and afternoon of April 21 and morning of April 23.

#### 1. Spirituality and Social Ethics

- Relationalworldviews and creation-centred Spirituality
- Foundations in social ethics and intergenerational justice

#### 2. Human Ecology and Environmental Justice

- Environmental exploitation as violation of social, economic, cultural and collective rights
- Colonial extraction, capitalist exploitation and ecological collapse

#### 3. Indigenous Peoples, Communities and Collective Rights

- Indigenous cosmologies and the origin of the Rights of Nature
- Indigenous resistance, food sovereignty and land defense
- Territorial rights, cultural survival and traditional knowledge systems
- Indigenous leadership in defending land, water, life
- Case studies in community care, resistance, resource stewardship
- Democratic Commons and Ancestral Land Rights

#### 4. Interactive Practices and Learning Spaces in Social Work, Human Rights and the Rights of Nature

- Strengthening solidarity with young people and families in community work
- Practice, education and policy advocacy
- Deep democracy and reclaiming participatory power
- The rise of democratic commons in environment resource use and allocation

## STUDY TOUR

### The Prinzhorn Collection in the City of Heidelberg "The Psychology of Incarcerated Art"

This is a guided study tour in a museum holding a collection of art created by psychiatric patients since 1840. Also on display are works created by supposed psychiatric inmates incarcerated by the national socialist regime between 1933 to 1945.

Delegates will also have the chance to stroll around the medieval quarters of the city, visit shops, and other places of historic interest.

## MORNING

Continuation of guest teaching and lecture sessions

## AFTERNOON

### Interactive Practice and Learning Spaces

International delegate will be joined by EHL colleagues in developing forward looking strategies and potential action areas

- Networking
- Project conceptualization
- Joint research planning
- Publication initiatives
- Teaching and supervision exchanges

This session also serves as a space for reflection and feedback about international academic partnerships.

### Early Evening

Closing Program - Organized by EHL Kulturbrücke and the SoSe 26 International Exchange Students

**DEPARTURE  
DAY**

*April 24, 2026 (FRIDAY)*

**Train Station and Airport**

## Participating Universities

Benguet State University - Philippines  
University of British Columbia - Canada  
Rajagiri University - Peru  
Makarere University - Uganda  
Saint Mary University Arequipa - Peru

## European Partners

University of Gdansk - Poland  
Vives University - Belgium  
Others

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