

Call for your contributions to the BUKO Congress 39:

**Global Change? SYSTEM CHANGE! Global Solidarity.**



10.-13.06.2021

*The congress will be held mainly in German with translations where possible. However, the original language of the events will depend on the speakers.*

Recent years have seen crises, disasters, catastrophes without end and, on top of that, the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also seen partly successful struggles by large social movements from the left: our world is changing rapidly. Yet the systemic violence, exercised by everything that structurally endangers life - capitalism, racism, patriarchy, ecological destruction and other crap - is still going much too strong. We need profound systemic change, urgently. through and for global solidarity. What exactly does this mean and how can we make it work?

At the BUKO Congress 39 we want to have an intense exchange with you and internationalist activists about emancipatory visions of society and about the meaning of the call for "system change". We want to talk about solidary practices towards global autonomy and equality for all and to make plans together for a good life for everyone! Many things have to change. The question is, how? And in what direction? And what role can leftist, emancipatory movements play in this? This is a discussion about the bigger picture! And it is where you come into play, with your perspectives and contributions!

### **What's it about?**

All signs are pointing to a storm: from Hong Kong to Lebanon, Sudan to Chile - in many places around the world, democracy and social movements have taken over the streets in recent years. Predominantly young people are striking for climate justice around the world. Starting in the U.S., BIPOC are taking over the streets worldwide in resistance to racism and police violence. Along coal supply chains, global bonds of resistance against destructive extractivism are being created. Women and non-binary people are fighting back against patriarchal violence and exploitation. New alliances and support structures are emerging against the "normalcy" of being left to die in the Mediterranean and for the right to freedom of movement. In various places around the world and in all kinds of ways, people are resisting an exploitative system and fighting for a good life for all and for fundamental social change.

But the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging protest and opposition, even slowing some of them down, at least in part and for the time being. This is because crisis responses are aimed at restoring the seemingly irreplaceable order of capitalism and oppression, at getting "back to normal" as quickly as possible. But we do not accept a "return" to such a way of life! For what kind of "normality" is it, in which the much-invoked solidarity is limited by national borders or one's own garden fence? In which people can expect to earn social recognition through racist, anti-semitic and anti-feminist attacks? In which the prosperity of some is based on the exploitation of many? In which military force is used to defend the imperial way of life? In which corporations and states enrich themselves by consuming natural resources as if there's tomorrow?

A solidary change of system from below is sorely needed! And it depends on how well we can network and coordinate ourselves as emancipatory movements. That's why the BUKO Congress 39 is designed to be a space, where we can get into an exchange about these questions, for example:

- How can global power relations and chains of exploitation be attacked effectively?
- How can struggles be connected transnationally and also locally? What can serve as common point of reference, point of attack and perspective?
- How do we deal with positions of power and privilege within and between movements?
- What kind of social infrastructure does a transnational movement of movements need today? Which of the already existing infrastructures can be expanded and how?
- What steps do we take next in order to start to (self-)determine our future in solidarity and radical justice now?

### **System Change Now: Why? How? What into? - Your contributions are needed!**

At the BUKO Congress 39 we want to bring together different emancipatory perspectives on the questions of why we need a global system change and how this can look like. Above all, we want to discuss jointly how we can get closer to a fundamental transformation from below, which would facilitate a good life for everyone in a world of solidarity. The BUKO Congress 39 shall offer space to network and to address these questions from different perspectives. Perspectives such as socio-ecological and queer-feminist struggles, anti-militarist as well as anti-racist movements, etc. Always with an eye to local and transnational organizing worldwide and in critique of any relations of domination and discrimination.

Whether you are part of the local antifa group or the nationwide climate justice group, whether you are a newcomer or an old hand, we are looking forward to your ideas and perspectives! As in the past, the BUKO Congress 39 will reflect the diversity of people in inter- and transnationalist and emancipatory struggles. That's why we invite you to help shape BUKO Congress 39 with your contributions - be it interactive workshops, exchange spaces, skill share offerings, cultural contributions, or something else entirely! With the rise of technology for online conferences, international contributions can be realized via internet stream more easily than before. We especially welcome international contributions for which we will prepare simultaneous interpretation into different languages. It is important to us that we reduce barriers regarding the congress and that we keep them as low as possible and we are doing our best to achieve this. We are always available and of assistance for you in this regard.

If you have a specific idea in mind, please contact us with a few words on the topic and the form of your contribution.

If you are interested, please write to us by 25th of April 2021: [mail@buko.info](mailto:mail@buko.info)

If you would like to contribute to the organization of the congress, please contact us at the above address and write a few words about yourself and your motivation.

At the moment, unfortunately, we have to assume the congress will be held online or as a hybrid event (online with a small attendance part). Please consider this in your ideas.

By the way: Registration for participation in the congress is also possible for free\*.

The BUKO Congress can only be what we make it together!

More info at [www.buko.info](http://www.buko.info)

\* As always, the BUKO motto applies: Participation should not fail because of money, but neither should fail the BUKO. Accordingly, we are happy about voluntary contributions. This also applies the other way around for honoraria, accommodation and travel expenses. If these are needed, we do our best to finance them. This has always worked out so far.