

Call for your contributions to the 40th BUKO Congress

BUKO 40 : End all colonialism!

- Recognition, Resistance, Reparations -

02-05 October 2025 in Kassel

Even if the era of colonialism appears to be over and anti-colonial struggles have led to formal independence in most countries, we encounter colonial or neo-colonial patterns everywhere:

- In the exploitative structures of the global economy, which ensure that four-digit billion amounts of debt service or profit repatriation flow from poor countries to the banks and corporations of rich countries every year.
- In extractivism, which plunders resources in former colonies, also in the context of a supposedly ecological energy transition. It does this without regard for nature or local communities, also in the interests of the imperial way of life.
- In a patent system that reserves vital vaccines for the wealthy.
- In a state system that denies people the right to mobility and at least an attempt at a better life who had the misfortune to be born in plundered rather than plundering states.
- In settler colonialism that refuses to recognise historical injustice and persists in claiming and dominating land that it has forcibly stolen from people exclusively and nationalistically - e.g. in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, but also in Palestine, Western Sahara, Tibet and Kurdistan.
- In a politics of remembrance that, for example, still only recognises the genocide of the Herero and Nama as a second-class genocide.
- In subtle everyday racism that still reflects colonial stereotypes - be it in voluntary services in which white 18-year-olds without qualifications 'help' African children, or in police racial profiling.

We realise that solutions are not always easy, and that not every struggle against colonial structures is already a struggle for a liberated society for all people. But we say: enough is enough! All forms of colonialism must be ended and the self-determination of all people everywhere must be respected equally.

We invite you to discuss, analyse and plan actions with us, especially in the following areas:

Recognition: Any kind of colonialism was and is a regime of injustice that is incompatible with equal rights for all people. However, neo-colonial practices (legal and democratically legitimised) also continue capitalist exploitation after independence and must be named and ended as such. This applies to all actors, not just those from the West.

Resistance: Countless people have resisted all forms of colonialism on all continents to this day. With weapons or civil disobedience or by building alternative forms of coexistence, politics and economics. Global networking strengthens resistance.

Reparations: The plundering of resources over five centuries, the enslavement, murder, expulsion and deportation of countless people, the destruction of civilisations, cultures and languages and, ultimately, the basis of life on the planet cannot simply be repaired. But Europe and its settler colonies have a moral duty to pay reparations for the wealth created through theft and enslavement. To those who paid for this prosperity but were never allowed to benefit from it.

Global capitalist structures that perpetuate the exploitation of people and nature must be dismantled and alternatives found. Current settler-colonialist land theft must be ended. The same applies to legal structures that perpetuate global asymmetries.

What is the BUKO?

The Federal Coordination of Internationalism (BUKO) www.buko.info is a network of undogmatic, left-wing groups for whom the struggle for liberation must be international. BUKO has been organising congresses that are more than just academic conferences since 1977. They aim to combine critical debates and political action with networking.

At the 40th BUKO Congress from 2-5 October 2025 in Kassel, we will take a closer look at global colonial history and today's colonial influences and structures. We want to recognise colonialism as such, relearn how to deal with it, show resistance and bring about change.

Through a wide variety of programme formats and insights into various sub-topics, we want to offer opportunities for discussion and networking at the congress.

Can you imagine offering a programme contribution at the 40th BUKO Congress?

We hereby cordially invite you to submit programme proposals for the congress programme!

A programme proposal should not exceed one page and contain the following information: Title, topic description, rough schedule and time frame, maximum number of participants, format (e.g. lecture, workshop, exhibition, performance or completely different ideas), information about your person/group, language of the programme item (is a translation required).

Please send us your programme proposal by 11 May 2025 to buko40@buko.info

Thank you very much