

27. International Migration Conference «Forced Migration»

Call for Papers on the themes **Forced Migration** and **Sustainable Global Social Work and Education**, and also on **current societal challenges in the context of migration**

Sunday 17 to Friday 18 June 2027

Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Applied Social Sciences
Institute for Migration and Diversity, (Germany)

Forced migration is the main theme of the 2027 International Migration Conference, but submissions on current societal challenges in the context of migration, and sustainable global social work and education are also welcome. The conference languages are German and English. Please note that presentations and discussions will not be interpreted.

Call for Papers on the theme Forced Migration

Forced migration has been a subject of heated public debate since at least the 2015 ‘Summer of Migration’. Within migration studies, too, there is much discussion of the crisis of the European borders regime – symbolised by the numerous rules, repeatedly amended of the Dublin Regulation – made apparent by the continuing flow of migrants into Europe. On the one hand, the expansion of the European single market, the Schengen Agreement, and the successive enlargements of the European Union have brought greater prosperity and a new freedom of movement to many EU citizens; on the other hand, these reforms have been accompanied by an increasingly rigid and extreme policy of exclusion towards those states whose citizens are regarded, on the basis of purportedly immutable cultural or national attachments, as incapable of integrating.

The June 2026 reform of the European Union’s Common European Asylum System (CEAS) must be seen in the context of this policy of exclusion. The official aim of the CEAS is to manage and regulate migration in Europe as a whole, to limit ‘irregular’ migration and to uphold humanitarian standards for those seeking protection. The reforms are intended to maintain open borders within the Schengen Area whilst limiting the right to protection and asylum to those fleeing war and persecution from outside it. Asylum procedures are to be standardised throughout the EU in order to enforce clear rules and curb secondary migration. Civil society

organisations such as Pro Asyl criticise this reform for making the flight to EU countries even more difficult and genuine protection for asylum seekers and other persecuted people even less realistic. As early as 2024, PRO ASYL criticised the European Parliament's approval of the CEAS reform as a 'historic low point for refugee protection in Europe'. Now, two years later, the initial effects of this comprehensive tightening of the law on refugees can be analysed and criticised.

Many recent asylum applications have been processed using fast-track procedures that afford limited legal protection and it is to be expected that in future too numerous applications will be inadequately assessed and wrongly rejected. These effects are already devastating for asylum seekers as a whole, but are significantly more severe for particularly vulnerable groups among them, including women, people with disabilities, and unaccompanied minors.

The new rules have led to the systematic restriction of freedoms and the detention of asylum seekers on a scale not previously seen in the EU. This is particularly evident at the EU's external borders, where more people are forced to undergo the Asylum Border Procedure and are, in effect, being detained there. Access to protection within the EU has also become more difficult for persecuted and threatened individuals, meaning that human rights-based support in the forms of legal advice, social work, and civil society groups is becoming both more difficult and more important.

This year's International Conference on Migration is being organised in collaboration with the Cologne Refugee Council (Kölner Flüchtlingsrat e.V.) against the backdrop of these developments. Thus, the conference welcomes not only theoretical and empirical papers on forced migration, but also contributions drawing on practical experiences of social work with asylum seekers, refugees, and other persecuted people.

Call for Papers for the open section: Current social challenges in the context of migration, and Sustainable global social work and education

In the open session of the International Migration Conference, papers about current challenges in the context of migration may be presented. Of particular interest are interdisciplinary and international studies on belonging, participation, solidarity, recognition, and protection.

Papers may also focus on issues relating to (new) minorities – that is, individuals and groups who, whilst not being migrants, are nonetheless portrayed as such in public discourse or in social media. Contributions on sustainable global social work and education, philosophy and migration, and approaches to migration societies oriented towards sustainable development and peace-building are also welcome.

For both parts of the conference, we welcome theoretical and empirical papers based on recent, international and cross-national comparative studies, particularly from countries of the Global South, as well as papers on current migration and refugee flows (e.g. from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Gaza and Lebanon).

Please assign your paper to one of the following subject areas and indicate this in your proposal:

CFP1 Forced Migration

1. Definition and concept
2. Forced migration research
3. Theoretical and historical developments
4. Refugees and politics
5. Refugees and belonging
6. Refugees and participation
7. Refugees and solidarity
8. Refugees and recognition

CFP2 Current challenges in the context of migration

9. Education
10. Sustainable global social work
11. Philosophy of migration
12. Culture of remembrance
13. Migration and minorities
14. Solidarity

Submission and format of proposals

1. Proposals will only be accepted online. The address is: www.migrationskonferenz.ch.
2. Your proposal must include the title of the presentation, a brief biography, and contact details (email, telephone, postal address), and must not exceed the specified length.
3. Please specify to which of the listed subject areas your contribution should be assigned.
4. Please indicate in which of the two languages (English preferred) the presentation and discussion will take place.

Deadlines

The proposals, in either German or English, must be received by 15 January 2027

Deadline for replies: February 2027

Further information is available at: <https://migrationskonferenz.ch/en/>

Participation as a speaker at the conference

Speakers are required to pay a fee to attend the conference. Once your paper has been accepted, you will be asked to register for the conference and to pay the fee. Only registered speakers will be included in the conference programme.

- Conference hosts/organisers
- Institute for Integration and Participation at the School of Social Work, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) (Olten, Switzerland)
- Saarland University of Applied Sciences (htw saar), Faculty of Social Sciences (Saarbrücken, Germany)
- Institute of Educational Science and Educational Research and the UNESCO Chair in Global Citizenship Education – Culture of Diversity and Peace at the Alpen-Adria University of Klagenfurt (Austria)
- Centre de Documentation sur les Migrations Humaines (CDMH) (Dudelange, Luxembourg)
- Key Research Area of the Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences devoted to Migration and Inclusive Societies, University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg)
- Competence Platform for Migration, Intercultural Education and Development (KOPF) at the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, Cologne University of Applied Sciences (Germany)

Programme Committee members

- Muharrem Acikgöz, Gaziantep University (Turkey)
- Yasemin Ahi, IRM, Istanbul (Turkey)
- Isabelle Abert, University of Luxembourg MIS (Luxembourg)
- Christel Baltes-Löhr, University of Luxembourg and IRM (Luxembourg)

- Jasmin Donlic, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt (Austria)
- Schahrzad Farrokhzad, Cologne University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- Dieter Filsinger, Saarland University of Applied Sciences (htw saar) (Germany)
- Thomas Geisen, School of Social Work, FHNW Olten, and IRM (Switzerland)
- Andreas Groß, Cologne University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- Sylvia Hahn, University of Salzburg (Austria)
- Andrea Janßen, Esslingen University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- Maria Bernadetta Jastrzebska, School of Social Work, FHNW, Olten (Switzerland)
- University of Luxembourg MIS (Luxembourg)
- Thomas Kunz, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- Heidi Rodrigues Martins, Documentation Centre for Human Migrations (Luxembourg)
- Lorenz Jonas Meyer, School of Social Work, FHNW Olten (Switzerland)
- Stan Nadel, Salzburg (Austria)
- Markus Ottersbach, Cologne University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- Tomás Báscolo Oudot, University of Luxembourg MIS (Luxembourg)
- Hans Karl Peterlini, Chair in General Educational Science and Intercultural Education, Alpen-Adria-University Klagenfurt, (Austria)
- Sonja Preissing, IU International University, Cologne (Germany)
- Antoinette Reuter, IRM (Luxemburg)
- Lisa Rosen, Rheinland-Pfälzische Technische Universität Kaiserslautern-Landau (RPTU) (Germany)
- Caroline Schmitt, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- Hannah von Grönheim, Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- Ulrike Zöllner, Saarland University of Applied Sciences (htw saar) (Germany)