

# How Can We Act in Solidarity With the Global South?

TOWARDS GLOBAL CLIMATE JUSTICE

Mapping Lines  
of Action



**KIPP.  
PUNKT  
KOLLEKTIV**

“Solidarity is  
not an act of  
charity, but  
mutual aid  
between forces  
fighting for the  
same objective.”

–Samora Machel



From June to August 2023, the Kippunkt Kollektiv organized the workshop series “**Garten für Gerechtigkeit - What Kinds of Solidarity Practices Can Help Us Achieve Global Climate Justice? A Common Search for Strategies and Solutions,**” hosted at Prinzessinnengarten in Berlin Neukölln. We collaborated with Global South-led initiatives *Women in Exile, Debt for Climate, Flamingo e.V./ Heilkräutergarten “Hevrîn Xelef”*, who joined us to discuss their perspectives and demands. Together with the initiatives and participants, we explored strategies for solidarity towards global climate justice.

Our discussions, aimed at confronting both **local and global injustices**, sought to construct an understanding of solidarity that challenges the Eurocentrism and structural racism within Global North climate movements. Our focus was on **amplifying Global South voices** and advocating for **joint struggle** for the liberation of us all in the context of the climate, environmental, and social justice crises. We aimed to establish a space for meaningful interactions and to reflect critically on the **responsibilities of the Global North**.

What follows is a list of **principles and actions** distilled from the workshop discussions. Alongside the input of our collaborators, a central reference point was the *People’s Agreement of Cochabamba* and its vision of restorative systemic and planetary justice led by Indigenous demands. While the outcomes outlined here capture a specific moment in our discussions, they naturally remain open-ended and should not be seen as a complete and final collection. We hope they will however provide inspiration for collective action and further necessary debates.

Access the full text of the *People’s Agreement of Cochabamba* [here](#):



## 1

# Spread Awareness of Global South Struggles



Initiate **public awareness campaigns** to hold EU/German companies accountable for exploitation and environmental destruction in the Global South.

This could involve strategic campaigns aimed at impacting their reputation, as well as filing lawsuits.

Reach out to impacted communities and groups in order to center their needs and demands.

Here are some options brought up in our discussions and closely tied to the demands of the initiatives we hosted:

- Launch a public awareness campaign addressing **environmental injustice and exploitation in the flower industry in Kenya**, with a focus on targeting the reputation of companies involved (inspired by *Women in Exile*).
- *If you would like to collaborate with us on this, contact: [anne@kipppunkt-kollektiv.de](mailto:anne@kipppunkt-kollektiv.de)*
- **Advocate against inhumane depictions of refugees** through public awareness campaigns (inspired by *Women in Exile*).
- Engage in social media campaigns to **support the Rojava revolution** and women's movement (inspired by *Flamingo e.V.*)





Advocate for Global North governments and international bodies to **protect all human rights and ensure dignified living conditions** for refugees, including those displaced due to climate factors.

This could include:

- Pressure the German government to include **climate change as a recognized cause of forced migration**.
- Pressure existing climate and environmental justice groups to **include refugee rights in their demands** and platforms.
- **Mobilize against the militarization of EU borders** and support groups that document **human rights abuses** on the border.

Here are a few examples of initiatives you could get involved with:

**Women in Exile & Friends** - initiative of refugee women & activists without refugee backgrounds who support each other and fight for refugee rights and to abolish *Lagers*: <https://www.women-in-exile.net/>

**Medibüro Berlin** - Network for the Right to Health Care for All Migrants, with the goal of improving health care access through political and pragmatic means: <https://medibuero.de/>

**International Women Space** - a women\*’s feminist, anti-racist political group in Berlin fighting against patriarchy and documenting everyday violence, racism, sexism and all kinds of discrimination; IWE also runs a podcast series on migrant women\*’s experiences (IWS Radio): <https://iwspace.de/>

**No Border Assembly** - Berlin/Brandenburg-based weekly meeting space to organize resistance against borders and deportations: <https://noborderassembly.blackblogs.org/current-projects/>

**Respect Berlin** - group focused on migrant women in domestic work, advocating for labor and human rights regardless of residence status: <http://www.respectberlin.org/wordpress/>

# 3

## Educate Ourselves and Others on Historical Anti-colonial and Ongoing Global South Struggles





- Interrogate how the persisting legacies of colonialism continue to block Global South efforts for emancipation. **Advocate for decolonization in all its dimensions** — economic, political, and cultural.
- **Foreground the voices of marginalized groups**, recognizing the significance of their demands even when they challenge established Global North values.
- Familiarize ourselves with essential texts from thinkers such as Walter Rodney and Frantz Fanon, who offer profound insights into **colonial histories and liberation struggles**.
- Educate others about the **structural racism deeply embedded within our global economic system**. This dynamic subjects specific, racialized populations to intensified exploitation, while conferring relative privileges upon others.
- Support **independent media outlets** that report on social movements and give voice to Global South perspectives.

**People's Dispatch** - an international media project with the mission of bringing to you voices from people's movements and organizations across the globe: <https://peoplesdispatch.org/>, <https://www.youtube.com/c/PeoplesDispatch>

**African Stream** - a pan-African digital media organisation focused on giving a voice to all Africans both at home and abroad through cutting-edge, African-centred content: <https://africanstream.media/>

**Podcast "Südblicke - Perspektiven aus dem Globalen Süden"** - a podcast series based on conversations with politically engaged people from the Global South: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/suedblicke>

# 4

## Organize: Solidarity Is Joint Struggle



**Participate in collective action** by aligning with groups that organize for climate and social justice, as well as the decommodification of essential goods and services.

- Prioritize **collective over individual solutions**. Corporations, media, and Global North climate education promote individualization of responsibility and action, which sustains existing power relations and distracts from building political power.
- In the context of your group, educate yourself on the **Global North's reliance on the exploitation of the Global South**. Use this awareness as a foundation for devising effective actions within the Global North.

## 5

# Mobilize for Debt Cancellation and Advocate for Climate Debt Payments



- Deepen your understanding of the debt burdens carried by specific countries within the Global South, how these **debts perpetuate patterns of historical colonialism and exploitation, and how they contribute to climate and environmental injustice.**
- In addition to debt cancellation, pressure Global North governments to acknowledge their historical responsibility for the climate crisis and **pay their climate debt.**
- Act to **include climate debt as a central demand** in the platforms of climate and social justice groups and movements within the Global North.
- **Educate others on the importance of climate debt** in achieving climate justice. Draw inspiration from the principles outlined in the *People's Agreement of Cochabamba*, a pivotal document in the fight for climate justice.

Get involved in **Debt for Climate, a Global South-led campaign for debt cancellation** in order to enable a just transition: <https://www.debtforclimate.org/>

Refer to **Jason Hickel and Andrew Finney's** recent study "**Compensation for Atmospheric Appropriation**" (2023), which calculates the debt owed by over-emitting Global North countries to the Global South.

## 6

# Build Bridges Between the Climate Movement, Workers, and Other Movements





Create connections between climate advocacy and organized, as well as not-yet organized labor movements, recognizing the historical **significance of mass mobilizations** in securing the rights we enjoy today.

- Organize to promote dialog and understanding between climate activists and working class communities. Reach out to **diverse worker groups, including organized labor, migrant workers, care workers, transportation workers, gig economy workers, and others.**
- Enter workplaces and engage in conversations with individuals, listen to their concerns, and demonstrate the **connections between their interests and the pursuit of climate justice.**
- Initiate discussions **within your own workplace** to agitate for climate justice awareness and action.

Take inspiration from previous labor/climate mobilizations from this list compiled by *United for Fight*. See their website: [Praxisbeispiele aus dem Bereich Klimagerechtigkeit und Arbeitskämpfe](#)

*United for Fight* is an educational collective supporting movements, unions and political groups with practical know-how on organizing, strategy development, campaign planning and social analysis. They empower people to stand up collectively for the improvement of their living and working conditions.

## 7

# Mobilize to Abandon Fossil Fuels and Decarbonize



- **Hold fossil fuel companies accountable** for their historical and ongoing contributions to the climate crisis, as well as their decades-long promotion of climate denial and ongoing attempts to hinder political solutions. Participate in campaigns that **target the reputation of these companies**.
- Support efforts against **repression and criminalization** faced by activists challenging fossil fuel corporations, especially those from and in the Global South.
- **Resist false solutions**, such as carbon capture and storage, electric vehicles, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), and the commodification of nature. These lines of action delay the urgently necessary transition away from fossil fuels. Furthermore, their reliance on land grabs in the Global South exacerbates the dispossession of subsistence farmers and Indigenous communities, advancing a new, green colonialism.

## 8

# Value Indigenous Knowledge and Global South Perspectives



- **Include Indigenous and Global South knowledge, storytelling and science in educational curricula**, from primary to higher levels, particularly (but not exclusively) in the context of promoting environmental stewardship, sustainable practices, and cultural preservation.
- **Advocate to develop teachers' education curricula** with direct input from Indigenous and Global South communities, scholars and activists.
- Campaign to exert **pressure on governmental bodies to make tangible commitments**, for example by ratifying the *International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 169 on Indigenous Peoples*. This treaty acknowledges the **right of Indigenous Peoples to self-governance, economic development, and cultural preservation** within the framework of the states in which they live.

## 9

# Support Migrant and Refugee Communities and Spaces





- **Create space, provide space, fight for the preservation of existing spaces** that empower refugee and migrant women\* and/or other marginalized groups.
- **Fundraise to support and maintain safe spaces** for marginalized communities, as well as resist repression.
- Inspired by the example set by *Heilkräutergarten* “*Hevrîn Xelef*”: **Donate your time and labor to actively support spaces.** In our workshop with Zilan from Flamingo e.V., we collectively built a sitting circle from clay and straw. Consider how you could similarly support spaces that hold symbolic and practical value for refugee women\*.

**Flamingo e.V.:** <https://flamingo-berlin.org>

Here are just a few initiatives for people without refugee backgrounds to support:

**Solidarity City Berlin** - network of organizations and individuals trying to secure access to city services for people with restricted or undocumented legal status: <http://solidarity-city-berlin.org>

**Bürger\*innenasyll** - an initiative in different cities that encourages people to open up their apartments to people threatened with deportation: <https://aktionbuergerininnenasyll.de/#initiativen>

**Neue Nachbarschaft / Moabit e.V.** - neighborhood initiative with daily activities, a social platform for exchange and learning from each other and social interaction without hierarchies: <https://neuenachbarschaft.de/>

**Über den Tellerrand Netzwerk** - facilitates personal exchange between people with refugee experience and without, through cooking, creative, and sporting events: <https://ueberdentellerrand.org>

# 10

## Promote Agroecology, Land Rights and Food Sovereignty



"For a colonized people, the most essential value, because the most concrete, is first and foremost the land: the land which will bring them bread and, above all, dignity."

– Frantz Fanon

- Promote agroecological food systems in the Global South to ensure **local self-sufficiency, respect for Indigenous practices, and essential ecosystem services**. Agroecology not only supports subsistence agriculture but also **absorbs carbon**, mitigating climate impacts.
- Stand with subsistence farmers by **advocating for their access to and control over the land they rely on**. Support movements like *La Via Campesina*, fighting for small-scale farmers' rights and agroecological practices.
- **Develop Global North productive capacities** that move away from exploitation of the Global South and unequal exchange, including decommodified local agroecological food systems that enhance biodiversity and provide ecosystem services.

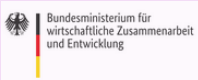
**La Via Campesina** - an international grassroots movement which coordinates peasant organizations of small and middle-scale producers, agricultural workers, rural women, and indigenous communities from Asia, Africa, America, and Europe:  
<https://viacampesina.org>

**Ernährungsrat Berlin** - Berlin Food Policy Council, a broad coalition of citizens and local and regional actors that promotes a just transformation of the food:  
<https://ernaehrungsrat-berlin.de/the-berlin-food-policy-council/>



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