

IFM-SEI strategy and work plan 2016–2019

Internal processes To become financially stronger and an important player for children's rights.	Capacity building To make our members and regions stronger.	Migration and refugees To critically analyse migration and support refugees everywhere.	Gender and sexuality To remain at the forefront of gender and sexuality education.	Accessibility To ensure IFM-SEI is accessible for all children and young people	Right-wing extremism To fight against racism and right-wing extremism and for an open society.	Children's rights To educate children about their rights and support them to ensure they are respected.	Peace To raise awareness of children living in conflict and show that we choose peace.	Prevention of sexual violence To create a safer space for everyone and prevent sexual violence in IFM-SEI.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek new funding opportunities • Governance review • Merchandising strategy • Social media strategy • External representation strategy • Implement the code of conduct and support the creation of safe(r) spaces 	<p>Enact a strategy to create active and autonomous regional networks</p> <p>Generate membership campaign resources</p> <p>Support organisations to run European Voluntary Service</p> <p>Deliver Training of Trainers and create a pool of international socialist educators</p> <p>Deliver a growth project to facilitate the creation of new groups and organisations</p> <p>Initiate bilateral partnerships</p>	<p>Study visit to the Western Sahara refugee camps and engage actively in the Western Sahara solidarity campaign</p> <p>Study session on refugees, migration and children's rights</p> <p>Three seminars on: refugees and migration, visas and regional youth work</p> <p>Online training course on migration and refugees</p> <p>Video project sharing negative experiences of migration</p>	<p>101 seminar on challenging gender and sexual normativity and binaries</p> <p>Support a discourse of how to be an ally to tackle homo/bi/trans*phobia</p> <p>Create an IFM-SEI feminist network</p> <p>Develop the IFM-SEI Rainbow Network to be consultants/experts on LGBTQIA* issues</p> <p>Seminar on bodies, body positivity and protecting yourself in public spaces</p>	<p>Study session on disability rights and children's rights</p> <p>Create a guide for making organisations accessible</p> <p>Create an action plan to make all IFM-SEI accessible for people with disabilities</p>	<p>101 seminar on fascism, racism, islamophobia and anti-Semitism</p>	<p>Consultation on children's rights advocacy</p> <p>Create a child participation strategy for IFM-SEI and member organisations</p> <p>Engage with networks and coalitions tackling right-wing extremism</p> <p>Seminar on adultism and child participation with kids and helpers</p> <p>Seminar on challenging the rise of right-wing extremism</p> <p>Create guidelines for tackling racism, islamophobia and anti-Semitism internally</p>	<p>Child-friendly documentary on the situation of children in conflict areas</p> <p>Middle East study visit and peace education seminar</p> <p>101 conflict and peace seminar for kids</p> <p>Study session about Latin America peace processes</p>	<p>Training of trainers on power-based violence and the bystander model</p> <p>Create a prevention of sexual violence campaign and online platform</p> <p>Seminar on masculinity and sexual violence</p>
<p>S Structure and support</p> <p>E Education</p> <p>I Influence</p>								

Cross-cutting themes: ♦ Socialist education and critical thinking ♦ Reflection on IFM-SEI values ♦ Anti-capitalist critique
 ♦ Games and play work ♦ Reflection on environment and sustainability ♦



IFM-SEI Strategy and Work Plan 2016-2019

CAPACITY BUILDING

Our ideals

IFM-SEI is an umbrella movement and a global movement. While all of our member organisations are brought together under our common aims, principles and vision, we realise that our member organisations are diverse and have different needs. We aim to offer as much support as capacity allows to all organisations regardless of size, region or age. We recognise that one size does not fit all and that in order to support and build the capacity of our organisations we must have a needs-based approach. IFM-SEI should take a key role in facilitating the cooperation of IFM-SEI organisations and regions through offering platforms for exchange, having effective communication streams and putting structures into place for organisations to take part in educational experiences. Our aim is to equip our member organisations with the expertise, skills and tools to develop their programmes and reach, and for them to be able to work in partnership with their sister organisations across the globe.

Analysis

While we recognise that many funding opportunities are limited to Europe, we need to focus on building capacity in other IFM-SEI regions. The European Falcon Network and the Middle East Regional Leading Group are the only active regional networks at present. We recognise there was work undertaken to build an active Africa Falcon Network following the International Committee in the region in 2012. However, there wasn't any funding to follow up on this work. In the last mandate, there was a focus on developing the group work in our member organisations. As a follow up of the group matters project, there is funding for team members to work with some organisations to set up new groups and to reinvigorate local, grassroots work. While IFM-SEI lost some organisations in the last two mandates due to a lack of active groups, there has been a new organisation in Slovenia built up in the latter half of the last mandate. This can be used as an example of good practice when setting up a new organisation. We realise that there are individuals in other countries that would like to do the same; this must be rooted in local group work. The Presidium could take a more active role than they have in the past to support member organisations, to identify potential new members and to bring together interested individuals or groups who would like to establish new organisations, as well as looking for new funding opportunities. While IFM-SEI has been recognised as leaders in non-formal education in many platforms, a gap that has been identified in our work is that there is no structured training network in IFM-SEI to train new trainers and, as a result, we have seen a lack of diversity in trainers at our educational events. From 2012 to 2015, IFM-SEI delivered three global European Voluntary Service (EVS) projects. As the projects were incredibly time intensive for the IFM-SEI Secretariat, the decision has been made to focus more on supporting member organisations to deliver

EVS projects than coordinating them through the IFM-SEI Secretariat. This work should be continued in this mandate.

1. Enact a strategy to create active and autonomous regional networks

IFM-SEI members currently have the opportunity to come together on a global level but the regional platforms could be strengthened further to create a space to discuss issues relevant to the respective regions, share successes and difficulties, develop common projects and identify new members with whom to engage. There is a need for regions to be given their own autonomy to develop their own priorities and programmes, to then feed into IFM-SEI on an international level. There will be a focus in this mandate to support face-to-face regional meetings to provide a space for this to happen. One part of this will be to identify potential funding for regular regional network meetings. An expert meeting and an online training course on regional youth work will help members to share experiences and learn more about funding possibilities in their regions. Two face-to-face regional meetings in Africa and Latin America have also already been financed as part of the On The Move project – a European Commission funded global project on migration, visas and regional youth work – which will take place in late 2017 and early 2018 respectively. As part of this project, there will be a seminar on regional youth work.

2. Generate membership campaign resources

IFM-SEI wants to give all member organisations the knowledge and means to actively participate in IFM-SEI activities. While this does not mean that all organisations can take part in every activity or the same number of activities, it means that organisations should not encounter barriers in being active in the international movement and there should be open and equal access to information about opportunities. Membership campaigns and resources will give member organisations and local groups the opportunity to engage with IFM-SEI without having to travel and effective communication tools will ensure that everyone can keep in the loop with our work. These tools can also support sharing of good practice and experiences between member organisations as well as identifying their needs. A member-based approach needs to be taken to engage our less active members and to identify what could motivate them to become more engaged in their international umbrella organisation. The aim is to create a richer, more diverse IFM-SEI whereby all organisations feel ownership over their international organisation.

3. Support organisations to run European Voluntary Service

IFM-SEI will provide tools and information to give member organisations the knowledge and confidence to deliver European Voluntary Service (EVS) projects in partnership with other IFM-SEI sister organisations. This will include support on the Erasmus+ EVS funding scheme, describing the practicalities of hosting or sending an EVS volunteer and outlining the minimum standards and expectations for sending and host organisations.

4. Deliver Training of Trainers and create a Pool of International Socialist Educators

IFM-SEI will facilitate the creation of a Pool of Trainers (the International Socialist Educators), led by members who have already undergone Training of Trainers and/or delivered Training for Trainers courses for IFM-SEI or other organisations. In order to encourage new members to engage with

training, IFM-SEI will deliver Training of Training seminars or longer-term Training of Trainers programmes, aimed at young people. These events will tackle training from the approach of experiential learning and with a focus on socialist education. Participants will be given theoretical and ideological input, tools and skills about how to plan and deliver training sessions and the opportunity to deliver sessions and receive feedback. The trainers will have the chance to try out their new competencies by conducting national trainings on the Sustainable Development Goals, giving them a common topic to work on and support children and young people in critically analysing the SDGs from a children and youth perspective. They will also be offered the chance to be mentored and will be able to join the Pool of Trainers once they have developed the relevant skills and experience. The Pool of Trainers will cooperate with other training networks in our sister and partner organisations to share best practice and to communicate key developments.

5. Deliver a growth project to facilitate the creation of new groups and organisations

Group work is the core work of IFM-SEI member organisations and there is a wealth of experience with regards to group work in the movement. The Presidium and regions will take a lead in supporting the creation of new groups in existing member organisations and the establishment of new organisations, in cooperation with interested individuals in the respective countries. The leaders of the group matters project will visit new or struggling organisations to establish effective groups and a mentoring programme will be initiated. The aim of this work is to increase the reach of IFM-SEI's activities on a global level, reaching a greater number of children and young people with whom to educate about our values and to enact social change.

6. Initiate bilateral partnerships

IFM-SEI will introduce a system to facilitate bilateral partnerships between IFM-SEI organisations or local groups, inspired by the group matchmaking process for the IFM-SEI Camp 2016: Welcome to Another World. The Presidium and Secretariat will play a key role in ensuring that organisations seeking project partners can receive the facilitation to be paired up with suitable partners. Through a global project on the Sustainable Development Goals, IFM-SEI will support member organisations to invite groups from sister organisations to national activities, enabling them to forge bilateral partnerships based on common interests. We will do this to encourage these groups to initiate their own projects that will address the needs of the organisations as well as increase autonomy within IFM-SEI.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEES

Our ideals

IFM-SEI is dedicated to a world where everyone can live in freedom without being bound by war, borders, undemocratic political systems or poverty. However we recognise that many people do not live in freedom and that an increasing number of individuals and communities are being displaced by a number of factors, including war, climate change and economic realities. We believe in a world without borders and without a hierarchy of states, where anyone is able to travel to and live where they wish. Only by coming together as a global movement will we be able to challenge and change the

current world order. We as IFM-SEI strive for equality of all human beings – regardless of their passports. It is a depressing and pressing time regarding refugees and migration. The number of refugees is an urgent reminder of the huge global inequalities. IFM-SEI aims to educate and fight for a freedom of movement, safe routes into the EU, decent accommodation, supply and education for everyone. Our member organisations play a key role to include young refugees in their new society and to give them a voice and the power to fight for their rights. Our activities work towards the principle of solidarity as we can best achieve our aims by learning from each other, working together and supporting each other's struggles in solidarity. We work to include all members of our societies, including young refugees and migrants, and we recognise extra effort must be made to integrate them into our activities in light of the struggles and human rights violations they face.

Analysis

The topic of refugees and migration has become increasingly more relevant in the youth field in the last mandate due to the increasing number of refugees arriving into Europe. While we recognise the topic is not a new one and has only gained traction because of the Eurocentric nature of political discourse, it is an issue that has been identified by our members globally as being something on which IFM-SEI should focus their work. We also are aware of some of our member organisations delivering hands on humanitarian work with refugees and displaced individuals in their local communities as a result of human or natural disasters, and doing educational work about the topic, taking in consideration the different perspective between sending and receiving countries of refugees and migrants, we are also aware that some member organizations have local groups in refugees camps. While some of our member organisations have had the refugee topic as a focus of their education or campaigning work in the past, IFM-SEI's interaction with the topic has fallen under the visa facilitation work and peace education work in the last mandate, without an explicit focus. Due to the current realities in the world at the moment, this will be at the forefront of IFM-SEI's educational work in the next mandate, making sure that we have a global viewpoint on the topic instead of a Eurocentric one.

1. Organise a study visit to the Western Sahara refugee camps and engage actively in the Western Sahara solidarity campaign

IFM-SEI aims to educate our members by different means and approaches. We will work with our Western Saharawi member organisation, UJSARIO – who operate in exile in refugee camps in southern-eastern Algeria – to organise a study visit to the refugee camps. The aim of the study visit will be to give an international delegation of IFM-SEI members the opportunity to learn about the Western Sahara occupation and the perspectives of refugees from the experiences of our members and see the reality of the oppression they face with their own eyes. The study visit will involve meeting members from UJSARIO and the local community, learn about the occupation and its history, to visit the sand wall 'berm' and to experience the realities of living in a refugee camp, for example the infrastructure, democratic and political structures and the internal economy. The study visit will also explore ways in which the international community can support our Saharawi members and those living in the camps.

As a longer-term output of the study visit to the Western Saharawi refugee camps, IFM-SEI will work with member organisations to engage with Western Sahara solidarity campaigns on a local, national and international level. The engagement will allow IFM-SEI to influence the common educational and advocacy work when challenging the occupation of Western Sahara with other campaigning and lobbying groups. It will also offer the opportunity to cooperate with like-minded organisations and individuals.

2. Deliver a study session on refugees, migration and children's rights

In order to explore the topic of refugees and migration further, we will run a study session on the topic from a children's rights perspective, as one of IFM-SEI's key themes. Members will be able to bring their expertise on children's rights to the topic. The study session will focus on unaccompanied minors and will work towards creating joint solutions about how to better support child refugees in our organisations and communities. We aim to invite especially young migrants and refugees who are active in our member and/or partner organisations.

3. Deliver three seminars on: refugees and migration, visas and regional youth work

A core element of IFM-SEI's work in the mandate will be to bring together our experts from organisations in Africa, Latin America and Europe to explore the three topics of refugees and migration, visas and regional youth work as part of the On The Move global project. The aim of these seminars is to explore each topic in light of the experience of members, share projects and initiatives on the given theme and to plan work to multiply the learning to other members and organisations. As a result, the topics will be mainstreamed into the work of IFM-SEI and used as an educational focus on other IFM-SEI events.

4. Create an online training course on migration and refugees

The outcomes from the three seminars on refugees and migration, visas, and regional youth work will be used to create an online training course on migration and refugees for members, which will be time-bound and interactive. The course, which is also part of the On The Move project, will provide opportunities for participants to work on common projects with other participants, provide a space for discussions on a global level and include course elements related to group work and to provide tools for IFM-SEI organisations to integrate refugees and migrants.

5. Video project sharing realistic experiences of migration

There is often a 'grass is greener' approach to migration whereby young people believe a better life is available in other countries or continents, however the reality often does not match their expectations. Young people seeking an alternative life in different countries regularly face discrimination and come up against barriers when accessing basic services such as work, education and healthcare. At the same time, they have to adjust to a different culture while coming to terms with having to leave their family and friends behind. In order to highlight that migrating to another country is not necessarily a magic solution to poverty, socio-economic inequalities and lack of opportunity, IFM-SEI will make a video project that highlights some realistic experiences our young members have faced when migrating with the aim of finding a better life.

GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Our ideals

We are a feminist organisation and an organisation that celebrates sexual and gender diversity. We fight against patriarchy and for equality of all genders. We reject the gender binary and recognise that there are more than two genders. We fight against homophobia, biphobia and trans*phobia and stand as allies with our LGBTQIA* comrades. We do not accept that women, non-binary gendered and LGBTQIA* people still face discrimination on a day-to-day basis in all societies. We want to identify and break patriarchal and heteronormative structures in which we grow up. Therefore we educate for equal rights and awareness of gender stereotypes, heteronormativity, discrimination and privileges and we use affirmative action and tools such as the gender quota in our organisations. We aim to educate all genders by all genders and from the perspective of all genders. Our aim is to empower girls, foster anti-patriarchal work with boys and overcome gender roles.

Analysis

In the last three mandates, the work IFM-SEI has undertaken on gender and sexuality has been far-reaching and comprehensive. The All Together and All Together 2.0 strategies on the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities has been a main pillar of our work since 2007, aiming to include more young people with fewer opportunities in our activities and structures. The projects have included training courses, the production of educational materials and study visits. Rainbow Resources, the manual for gender and sexuality education with children, has had a second edition published and is available in six languages. IFM-SEI members have been involved in the team and participation of the annual Queer Easter seminar on LGBTQIA* rights. The topics of trans*, asexuality and intersex have become more widespread through this work and should be explored further in the next mandate. We recognise the Rainbow Network has the scope, support and active membership to be more active outside of Queer Easter and IFM-SEI camps. Although the network also has members from our African, Middle Eastern, Asian and Latin American region, the regional scope could be increased. Feminism and LGBTQIA* rights is one of IFM-SEI's strongest thematic areas however it is important for a continued focus on these topics as we recognise sexism, misogyny and homo/bi/trans*phobia still occur in our organisation and that we want IFM-SEI to be leaders and experts in this field. We aim to continue working on this topic with all our member organisations, no matter their starting point or circumstances.

1. Deliver a 101 seminar on challenging gender and sexual normativity and binaries

While a great deal of work has been done and much achieved on the field of gender and sexuality, there is a gap in our work with tackling the binary assumption related to gender and sexuality. We recognise that there is a need to offer an introductory, 101 programme on gender and sexuality for members who are new to the topic, including children. The aim of this seminar is to introduce the basics of gender and sexuality, to reflect on how to deal with these topics in conservative and traditional societies, and to explore gender and sexuality as fluid concepts that exist on a continuum, rather than the binary of man-woman and homosexual-heterosexual. The seminar will look at gender as a social construct and the deconstruction of sexualities, looking at how these concepts can be used with the children and young people we work with. The seminar will be open to children and young people and will produce recommendations about how IFM-SEI can be more accepting and open to gender and sexual diversity in our work on all levels.

2. Support a discourse of how to be an ally to tackle homo/bi/ trans*phobia

Coming out of the seminar challenging gender and sexual binaries, a focus group of IFM-SEI members will look at ways to be an ally and actively support people in our organisation who may be oppressed or discriminated against on the basis of their sexuality or gender identity. The aim of the group is to tackle homophobia, biphobia and trans*phobia in an educational and empowering way in IFM-SEI by creating a value-based action plan on how to be an ally.

3. Create an IFM-SEI feminist network

IFM-SEI has undertaken a number of projects in the past three mandates on gender equality and feminism through educational processes, the creation of tools, campaigns and women's quotas. We realise there is a great deal of experience and expertise in our organisation, as well as a lot of interest in the topic of feminism from both a theoretical and practical approach. Therefore this mandate will see the creation of a feminist network to lead the on-going feminism work on the topic and to complement the Rainbow Network. The network will be open to all members and will be self-governed, with a Feminist Network Coordinator recruited to organise the network.

4. Develop the IFM-SEI Rainbow Network to be consultants/ experts on LGBTQIA* issues

The Rainbow Network was established officially in 2007 and has been key in leading on the LGBTQIA* work of IFM-SEI and delivery of Queer Easter. Due to the high number of individuals involved in the network, the large amount interest in being actively involved and the expertise that the members have, we will look at developing the Rainbow Network in the next mandate to undertake more outreach and external work than it currently does. The Rainbow Network will influence other networks, bodies and institutions on LGBTQIA* education, particularly in relation to children and young people. The aim is for IFM-SEI to be a frontrunner that other organisations come to for advice and support as consultants or experts on children, young people and LGBTQIA* issues and education. We furthermore aim to expand the network inside IFM-SEI, including more young people from all world regions and supporting members to establish Rainbow networks inside their own organisations.

5. Seminar on bodies, body positivity and protecting yourself in public spaces

In an age of growing media and objectification of women's bodies, girls and young women are becoming more self-conscious of their bodies and have increasingly unrealistic expectations of what a women's body should look like. At the same time, girls and young women are being judged on their appearance in school, on the internet and on the street. Girls and young women face everyday sexism when receiving unsolicited comments on their appearance, being catcalled in the street and being touched in public places without permission. This seminar give space for women and girls the chance to reflect on the construction of what we are told bodies should look like, explore tools to challenge harassment in public places and celebrate body positivity together in a safe and empowering environment.

ACCESSIBILITY

Our ideals

We educate and campaign for an inclusive and equal society. Therefore we combat any kind of discrimination such as fascism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, trans*phobia and misogyny within and outside of our organisations. However making our organisation and activities inclusive is more than eradicating discrimination but is about creating an environment where everyone is able to participate, where people's individual needs are considered and where additional measures are put in place for those who need them. We need to create a culture where a 'can do' positive attitude and approach is taken with regards to diversity and, in particular, the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities.

Analysis

IFM-SEI has implemented a wide range of programmes in relation to inclusion in a broad sense and in particular regarding sexism and homophobia. However we recognise that many IFM-SEI activities are not inclusive for members with disabilities, whether physical, sensory or cognitive. We recognise that we often resist when challenging ourselves on topics we are not familiar with or confident discussing, such as disability, due to a fear of getting it wrong. We need to overcome this fear and recognise that we learn from our mistakes, therefore fear can't be used to avoid tackling difficult topics. Thanks to feedback, we have been able to reflect on our shortcomings when it comes to supporting members with disabilities. As the first step to working on how we can better include children and young people with disabilities, we have created a partnership with ENIL (European Network on Independent Living) to deliver a joint study session on disability rights and children's rights. IFM-SEI will use this as a springboard to prioritise the broadening of our access and inclusion work in this mandate.

1. Deliver a study session on disability rights and children's rights

IFM-SEI and ENIL will deliver a seminar called 'All in – creating inclusive and empowering spaces for all' in partnership with the Council of Europe, which will share experiences between IFM-SEI on children's rights and ENIL as a disability rights movement. The seminar will explore what inclusiveness and accessibility mean in practice, raise awareness of the multiple discriminations faced by children and young people with disabilities and explore the challenges faced by children with disabilities in accessing human rights. We will also look at how to adapt non-formal education methods in children's and youth organisations so that they are accessible for children with disabilities and develop strategies to include more children and young people with disabilities in our work.

2. Create a guide for making organisations accessible

Using the outcomes of the study session on disability rights and children's rights, IFM-SEI will work on creating a guide for IFM-SEI and other organisations about how to make voluntary organisations and their activities accessible and inclusive. This will not only be with reference to people with disabilities, but with a wider inclusion approach, by considering the participation of people of different genders, sexualities, socio-economic backgrounds, language groups/abilities and ethnicities for example. Focus will be put on distributing the guide externally as well as within IFM-SEI.

3. Create an action plan to make all IFM-SEI accessible for people with disabilities

We realise that IFM-SEI activities could be much more inclusive of people with disabilities than they are at present. Therefore, we will use the learning and outcomes from the study session with ENIL to

create a long-term action plan to make all IFM-SEI activities accessible to children, young people and leaders with physical, sensory and cognitive disabilities. This will be implemented in all global activities and member organisations will be engaged in order to encourage them to also employ the recommendations.

RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM

Our values

We are an organisation for child and youth-led movements all over the world, educating on the basis of our values of equality, democracy, peace, co-operation, solidarity, friendship and social justice. We believe that right-wing extremism contravenes these ideals and is based on ideology that undermines the fundamental human rights of all and aims to divide society through demonising and discriminating about minority and marginalised groups. We do not accept violence in any form – emotional, psychological, verbal or physical – and we stand against the behaviour and actions of right-wing extremist groups across the globe.

Analysis

We can see a worrying trend across the world of far-right parties and groups gaining increased support, both in election results and on the streets and backrooms. Right-wing extremism uses scape-goating to try to explain the negative effects of capitalism on communities and right-wing radicalism is gaining more momentum as people get more desperate. This is supported by the way the media chooses to report on certain topics. IFM-SEI organisations and members have been at the hands of attacks from right-wing extremist groups and the left youth movement is still coming to terms with the mass killing of young people at the AUF summer camp in Utøya in 2011. We also recognise that many other countries across the world are dealing with the effects of right-wing extremist violence. Aside from terror attacks, the right-wing's politics threaten the financial situation of all socialist youth movements and systematically destroy the financial base of our work. IFM-SEI delivered a seminar against right-wing extremism for European members in 2013, however the seminar was a one-off activity that did not have much follow up. IFM-SEI will focus on educational work around the topic, as IFM-SEI has not focused on fascism, racism, islamophobia, anti-Semitism as much as other forms of discrimination in the past. Although there are some member organisations that work with the topic and have expertise on it, we aim to mainstream this topic in our work and to encourage members to engage with the topic.

1. Deliver a 101 seminar on fascism, racism, islamophobia and anti-Semitism

We will explore the topics of fascism, racism, islamophobia, and anti-Semitism by looking at the structure behind and the experience of those discriminated on grounds of their ethnicity, background or religion, exploring historical and present anti-fascist and anti-racist movements, and discussing how fascism and racism affects us as member organisations and IFM-SEI members. We will also look at how racism manifests within our own organisations and how we can tackle this. The topic will be approached from a child-focused perspective and will look at how fascism and racism affects our children and young people and look at strategies to inform and educate about the topic in our organisations, as well as tackling racism within our movements and in IFM-SEI.

2. Engage with networks and coalitions tackling right-wing extremism

In order to learn from other organisations and input with IFM-SEI's perspective on tackling right-wing extremism, we will make steps to get involved in networks and coalitions tackling right-wing extremism, also using networks that some of our member organisations already have. This will happen not only on a regional and global level; IFM-SEI will facilitate and encourage member organisations to establish links with organisations and networks in their area.

3. Deliver a seminar on challenging the rise of right-wing extremism

The seminar will provide a platform to share experiences and self-reflect and look at the rise of right-wing movements in our own societies and regions. We will look structurally at how we are in the midst of a global move to the right at present and discuss how capitalism fuels far right sentiment. We will look at how youth activism can be utilised locally to combat right-wing extremism and come up with our own action projects to stand up to right-wing extremism in our communities.

4. Create guidelines for tackling racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism internally

We have identified a need to look at how we can tackle instances of racism, islamophobia and anti-Semitism within IFM-SEI and our member organisations, and how to create a culture where there is a zero tolerance approach to these forms of discrimination. In the past similar work has been undertaken with regards to sexual violence, sexism and homophobia and this can be used as a starting point for this work. The outcomes and learning from our seminars on right-wing extremism, fascism, racism, islamophobia and anti-Semitism will be used to create the guidelines.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Our ideals

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a key document in all our work. According to the UNCRC, a child means every human being below the age of 18. Through peer education, we aim to educate children and young people about their rights and support them to ensure they are respected. Children's rights are at the core of IFM-SEI and our member organisations. We are well recognised as an expert movement for child rights on regional and national level and take strong actions for children's rights through advocacy and particularly through empowering children to fight for their rights. We aim to enhance the sharing of experiences between members on children's rights education and will speak out against children's rights and human rights violations. We take a strong stance against children's rights and human rights violations happening in society and we feed into political debates and strongly criticise practices such as corporal punishment, child labour and homophobia.

We believe that children and young people should be able to take part in decision-making at all levels in meaningful and inclusive ways. Children and young people should be involved in all levels of decision-making in our movement, from their local groups to the world congress. It is our firm belief

that children are able to make decisions and have valid opinions on a wide variety of issues from a local to a global level but they need to be heard in society. We provide the space for children to develop their knowledge, attitudes, values and skills to secure their equal participation in the democratic process and we make sure that adequate spaces for participation are provided.

Analysis

Being child and youth led is the main characteristic that brings together our organisations and IFM-SEI should be seen as a global player in children's rights. Many of our member organisations are recognised by external partners as experts in the field of child and youth participation and are active in children's right networks. While we strive for the active involvement of children in every aspect of our work, from project planning to statutory meetings, this has not been evident in IFM-SEI, but first steps have been taken in the last mandate. We included self-reflection workshops on our own practices in IC meetings and organised the IFM-SEI Congress right after the IFM-SEI Camp, allowing more children and young people to get involved. In 2014 the Partnerships for Participation project was delivered, which brought together member organisations to looks at child participation in their own organisations and in local decision-making. We need to act on our critical analysis and work further to include children in our activities in a meaningful way. IFM-SEI also needs to work to push IFM-SEI into a position where we are recognised as experts in children's rights globally. We realise that it would be beneficial to compile information about our member organisations' participation in external children's rights networks and the scope of their advocacy work on the topic in order to progress in this field.

1. Deliver a consultation on children's rights advocacy

In order to create a clear picture of the existing children's rights advocacy work taking place in IFM-SEI, we will deliver a consultation to identify with which external children's rights coalitions and networks our organisations are already working. This will provide us with the information to identify strengths and gaps in our reach and create a cohesive strategy on children's rights advocacy for IFM-SEI.

2. Create and enact a strategic plan on children's rights advocacy

With the aim of being global experts on children's rights and being the go-to contact for international organisations and institutions on the topic, IFM-SEI will create a strategy on children's rights advocacy to create new links for IFM-SEI's involvement in children's rights networks on a global scale. This will be supported by our organisations already working on the topic. An internal network of experts within IFM-SEI on children's rights advocacy will be created to support this work.

3. Deliver a seminar on adultism and child participation with kids and helpers

Adultism is the theory of bias towards adults and can result in the discrimination of children and young people. This can affect children and young people in education, youth work, access to services and decision-making structures. It has a strong link to attitude and culture. Children's and youth organisations can be key in challenging adultism through giving children and young people their own space, autonomy over their own programmes and by facilitating interactions between children and adults. We aim to challenge adultism through delivering a seminar on the topic in relation to child participation, bringing together children and adults in one space and also sharing experiences with child participation in our movements.

4. Create a child participation strategy for IFM-SEI and member organisations

We recognise that the majority of IFM-SEI activities and statutory meetings are not planned and delivered with the involvement of children or attended by children for the most part. We need to include them more in our programmes and activities than at present to put our ideals into practice. We will focus on developing structures to ensure the active participation of children in our work, both in educational work and decision-making processes. This should be based on good practice of our member organisations and will include a campaign that will allow all IFM-SEI member organisations to feel ownership over this topic and to be empowered to improve their own child participation record.

PEACE

Our ideals

Peace is more than just the absence of war. Even if you are not in a violent conflict, you are not in peace. We choose peace and are dedicated to a world where everyone can live in a non-violent environment free from abuse, war, bullying, discrimination, exclusion and fear, that is healthy and stimulating and where conflicts can be peacefully transformed. IFM-SEI undertakes peace education and promotes peace initiatives whenever and wherever possible. Peace education must always criticise reality. Peace will only be really achieved when all forms of exploitation cease.

Analysis

Based on our understanding of peace and the widespread violence all over the world, it is important for us to continue our important work on the topic of peace, offering further educational opportunities for our members, and standing in solidarity in order to achieve the world we want. IFM-SEI has a history of peace education and conflict resolution with children and young people and it is one of the key themes in IFM-SEI's work historically. IFM-SEI in the Middle East Region is continuing to work together on a common peace project between Palestinian and Israeli young people and the majority of our member organisations in the region are closely cooperating with each other. In the last mandate, IFM-SEI successfully organised two parallel seminars on the topic; one on the reasons for conflict and war and the other on mediation and peaceful conflict resolution. Following this, a blog was created to share experiences of children in conflict and a peace education handbook was produced, which is available in six languages. However, we recognise that child-based violence is still very present in our societies – for example through the presence of child soldiers and corporal punishment – and children and young people are extremely exposed to violence in their everyday life through ‘games’, media and television. We are aware that a number of our member organisations also operate in conflict zones.

1. Create a child-friendly documentary on the situation of children in conflict areas

To continue the work undertaken in the last mandate compiling the experiences of children in conflict zones through the blog, we would like to explore the topic further of children in conflict zones. The documentary will facilitate storytelling and sharing real life experiences. The project will bring together

members who have both experienced conflict first-hand and those who have not, in order to share experiences.

2. Deliver a Middle East study visit and peace education seminar

We recognise that the topic of the Palestine and Israel conflict is a contentious and strong topic in IFM-SEI therefore there is a need to offer a space to discuss the topic led by those in the region experiencing the realities and hearing about the oppression our members in both Palestine and Israel face. The aim of the study visit is for IFM-SEI members to be given a real-life experience of the impact of war in the Middle East and the struggles faced by our partners working to challenge nationalism and right-wing extremism in the region. It will also look at the consequences of colonialism and post-colonialism. The educational seminar will look at conflicts in the Middle East and around the world and explore conflict resolution and peace education on a theoretical level.

3. Deliver a 101 conflict and peace seminar for kids

While conflict and peace has been a topic of focus for IFM-SEI historically, we recognise that the focus is usually towards adults and on the theme of the Palestine-Israel conflict. There is a need to educate our children on peace and peace education, developing a generation of peacemakers and advocates. This seminar will give the children the space to think about what peace means to them, whether they are from conflict zones or not, and how to promote peace globally.

4. Study session about Latin America peace processes

In order to diversify the focus of the peace education work in IFM-SEI and to look at an geographical area of the world on which we don't usually focus, we will host a global seminar on conflict and peace in the Latin American region, particularly in relation to peace processes and what we can learn in the region and globally from these struggles for peace.

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Our ideals

At the beginning of each activity in IFM-SEI, we inform people taking part in IFM-SEI activities about the no means no policy of our movement; people taking part in IFM-SEI activities must not engage in any sexual activities without obtaining explicit and informed consent of all persons involved or present at every step. Members need to be aware that personal boundaries may be different for each person and are defined by themselves only: respecting them is absolutely necessary. We realise that saying 'no' does often not happen through using this word, so it is absolutely important to educate that members must wait for clear consent and agreement of the other person. We make it clear that violating this policy will lead to the immediate exclusion from an activity.

Analysis

The emphasis of the prevention of sexual violence work in the last years has focused on no means no and active consent, being centred on the perpetrator and victim/survivor. While this has made an impact on our events, we recognise that there have still been recent cases of sexual violence that have taken place on IFM-SEI events and other approaches must be tried out. The IFM-SEI Presidium wrote and distributed a letter recognising sexual violence had occurred in the organisation and started a campaign on prevention of sexual violence from a power-based approach in the final months of the last mandate. In order to approach the topic from a different perspective, the 'I act' campaign has been developed for this mandate. It is based on the active bystander model of violence prevention. It aims to educate IFM-SEI members to identify situations that could lead to sexual violence and then be an active bystander by intervening to prevent it. Each individual action might not seem like it will make a difference but if we all choose to act, it can create a much bigger change. Each green thumb print represents one person who has said 'I act'.

1. Deliver training of trainers on power-based violence and the bystander model

A training of trainers will be delivered looking at patterns of sexual violence, thinking about how to identify sexual violence, analysing power structures in relation to sexual violence, exploring the bystander model as a preventative approach and coming up with methods about how to put the model into practice. The study session will work with experienced leaders and trainers to develop ideas for the 'I act' campaign online platform and virtual campaign and also to give them the skills, tools and inspiration to create their own actions plans to tackle power-based violence in their organisations. The IFM-SEI code of conduct will be a fundamental tool in this study session. Each of these tailored action plans signify an organisational needs-based approach to the prevention of sexual violence.

2. Create a prevention of sexual violence campaign and online platform

A focus group will work to develop an online training and sharing platform on the 'I act' campaign and bystander model. The online training course will equip leaders and members with the tools about how to be an active bystander and equip them with the training and confidence to be multipliers in their own organisations, youth groups and peer groups. The online platform will give space for members to mark on a map their green thumbprints, where they have chosen to act and intervene to prevent sexual violence, and mark where people have engaged in training on the bystander model. This will create a visual mapping of the campaign and the impact it has had globally. An international action day will be coordinated on the 25 November 2017 or 2018, the day of the elimination of violence against women, where all organisations will be motivated to run activities on the 'I act' campaign on the same day across the world.

3. Deliver a seminar on masculinity and sexual violence

We realise that discussions on masculinity happen rarely in IFM-SEI and when they do, they often only involve men or are majority men. It is important to us that we give space for our members to critically reflect on masculinity and the effects masculinity has on children and young people of all genders, and the link between masculinity and sexual violence. We will explore gender as a social construct and the importance of feminism in our organisations to tackle masculinity being a catalyst or excuse for sexual violence and violence in general.

INTERNAL PROCESSES

1. Seek new funding opportunities

IFM-SEI relies on membership fees, operating grants and restricted project funding to operate. While this has been enough to sustain the Secretariat in the last mandate, it meant getting rid of the Project Officer due to a lack funding, who previously supported the Secretary General. Therefore the Secretariat consists only of the Secretary General and a part-time Office Secretary, plus a European Voluntary Service (EVS) volunteer. We recognise that a decrease in member organisations or an unsuccessful operating grant application could mean that IFM-SEI could struggle to operate or IFM-SEI has to make significant concessions in support offered to member organisations and/or in its governance. Therefore, additional sources of funding in line with our values - particularly unrestricted income - need to be explored in order to safeguard IFM-SEI and to make steps towards creating a sustainable financial model. This is not only the responsibility of the Secretariat but also every member of the Presidium. Member organisations and regional networks should share knowledge of funding opportunities.

2. Governance review

The IFM-SEI Presidium has never been as active as would be expected from the core governance body of an organisation and have not taken ownership over the strategy and work plan and financial accountability of the organisation. This has led to a lack of accountability of the Secretariat and decreased internal democracy. Therefore a governance review will be implemented over the first 2.5 years of this mandate in order to review the governance structures to see if a proposal can be developed for Congress 2019 to increase the effectiveness and accountability of our statutory bodies. To increase transparency and accountability, the first Presidium meeting will agree specific accountability measures to report to each International Committee meeting and Congress.

3. Merchandising strategy

While a limited amount of IFM-SEI merchandise was produced in the last two mandates, it has not been an income generator for IFM-SEI and there have been a limited number of garments produced due to lack of capacity to explore other options. Effective merchandising can not only generate income but can create a sense of identity for members. Therefore the next Presidium will look into a merchandising strategy in consultation with the wider membership.

4. Social media strategy

The increased Facebook presence, through a fan page and a well-utilised discussion groups means that IFM-SEI has a strong platform on the social networking site. However, IFM-SEI must expand its reach and engagement with new social media platforms that are relevant to, and used by, children and young people. Therefore a youth-led social media strategy will be created in the next mandate to make the most of other social media platforms outside of Facebook.

5. External representation strategy

IFM-SEI has developed a name on the international level in the last three mandates in the fields of non-formal education and children's rights in particular. However IFM-SEI's external representation would benefit by being more cohesive than it is at present as part of a larger strategy. The Presidium and Secretariat will develop an external representation strategy to increase the impact of our work externally. This will involve the input of member organisations to share information about their existing participation in networks to date and will look strategically at which platforms IFM-SEI could influence to spread our key messages and ideals. The new external representation strategy should emphasise our unique contribution as the socialist educational international.

6. Implement the code of conduct and support the creation of safe(r) spaces

We recognise that IFM-SEI reflects the societies in which we live; therefore it is not possible to create a safe space free of violence, privilege and inequity. However, we will support the creation of safer spaces on our events, whereby marginalised, minority or discriminated groups can have a space for themselves, for some or part of an event, where they can have space to discuss, share experiences, socialise or relax without the presence of a dominant or oppressing group. This means offering safer spaces to women and trans* people, LGBTQIA* people, children and people discriminated on religious or faith grounds. We will also discuss in our activities what it means to make IFM-SEI itself a safer space for its members. This work will be grounded in the IFM-SEI code of conduct and will provide a platform to put this document into action. We recognise the need to discuss the code of conduct on activities and with member organisations, as well as regularly reviewing the document to enable it to be a live document. We recognise there is a need to have compulsory workshops on events regarding the topics in the code of conduct, in reference to the prevention of sexual violence.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

1. Socialist education and fostering critical thinking

We believe that education cannot be neutral – through education we aim to overcome domination, oppression and the capitalist society we currently live in. Education means for us not just acquiring knowledge but to be there for one another, to exchange ideas, and to learn, organise and fight together. This means promoting the fight against competition and instead fostering solidarity between people of all ages. Our socialist utopia is the cornerstone of our educational work. Everybody is included in the decision-making, is encouraged to contribute and help to shape our international movement. We don't want unquestioned hierarchies but to enable young people to critical-thinking and self-organisation.

2. Reflection on IFM-SEI values

We recognise that many IFM-SEI members are not familiar with IFM-SEI aims and principles and have not had the opportunity to discuss and debate what their international organisation means to them. This is true of those who are active within IFM-SEI as well as those only involved within member organisations on a grassroots level. Therefore, at every IFM-SEI activity in this mandate, time will be assigned to giving a space to discuss IFM-SEI values to foster a better understanding, and increase ownership of IFM-SEI.

3. Anti-capitalist critique

The capitalist system that our society is based on creates inequality. Capitalism is global, therefore our struggle against the capitalist society must also be an international struggle. Among those suffering the most from inequality are children living in poverty who lack opportunities to develop their potential. We recognise the power that neoliberal ideology still yields – despite ongoing financial and economic crisis. Through IFM-SEI as socialist movements we encounter international solidarity. We want to learn from each other across borders and won't allow that states use us against each other. In our work, we challenge the notion that competition is a characteristic of human relations and fight for alternative economic models that will bridge the gap between rich and poor and emphasise solidarity, dialogue and partnership. IFM-SEI undertakes critical education to understand the capitalist mechanisms and advocates for an alternative system, as we are only able to eradicate all forms of exploitation and end poverty once capitalism is defeated. We aim to include everyone in our activities no matter their economic means. Anti-capitalist critique serves as a red line through all of our educational processes.

4. Games and play work

In IFM-SEI we play many games and promote play work, and our work is deeply entrenched in non-formal education. However, these two elements don't always fit hand-in-hand and often make up two separate parts of our programmes. In order to make our educational methods and approaches more inclusive and dynamic to children, young people and adults alike, we must attempt to integrate games and play work into our educational processes on IFM-SEI activities and events.

5. Reflection on environment and sustainability

Environmental sustainability is a core principle of IFM-SEI. We recognise that without considering the environment, sustainable development and climate change the world we want to change will cease to exist. In the shorter term, we will see both the environmental and human cost of climate change as a result of the world's resources being diminished and exploitation of natural environment unless the global approach towards the environment is enacted. We will promote and consider the sustainability of the world in an ecological, social and economic sense throughout the work of IFM-SEI in order for all inhabitants of our planet to live in a healthy and secure environment.