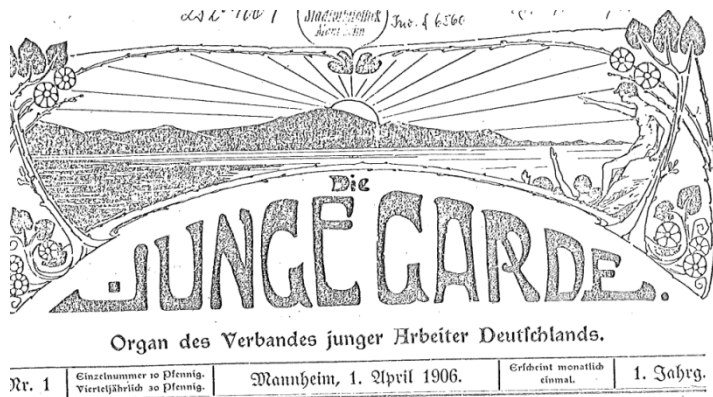


# The history of IFM–SEI in context to political and social influences of the 20th century

International Falcon Movement  
Socialist Educational International

Sabine Troitzsch  
[sabine.troitzsch@sjd-die-falken.de](mailto:sabine.troitzsch@sjd-die-falken.de)

# The roots of the workers youth movements in western and central Europe at the Beginning of the 20th century



Newspaper of young workers in Mannheim, Germany in 1905

Founding conference of the  
Socialist Youth International  
(1907) – today IUSY



# Foundation of the Socialist Educational Youth Movement

- ▶ In 1922, representatives of socialist educational organisations from Switzerland, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria and Czechoslovakia met in Austria to discuss the role of socialist education.
  - ▶ They founded the 'International Committee of Socialist Educational Organisations'
  - ▶ [Trailer of IFM's last big international Summercamp of IFM-SEI in 2016](#)
- 



Above: Elections in a children's republic (1932)

## Values of socialist Education:

- Self-organisation of young people
- Democratic structures
- (International) solidarity
- Equality (between genders, ages, ...)

## Influenced by:

- Scout movement
- Young nature Friends
- Social democratic parties
- Party youth and trade unions
- Secular school movement
- progressive educational movement
- In distinction to the catholic church




Left: Children's republic „Solidarity“ in Draveil, France (1932)



# During World War II and the dictatorship of Nazi Germany

The establishment of fascist regimes in Germany and Europe weakened the SEI because its member organizations were often outlawed. The international office moved from Vienna to Paris. From 1939 on international activities were not possible anymore.

Two anecdotes of international solidarity:

- Near the end of a summercamp in 1933 “Kinderfreunde” already had great problems with the fascist dictatorship in Austria. They asked the Flemish “Rode Valken” to keep their flags safe for them until they would be free again to use them in Austria. These flags remained hidden in Belgium during the war and were handed back over afterwards in 1945.
  - Woodcraft Folk, the IFM member organisation from Great Britain organized a so called “Kindertransport”, rescuing Jewish children from Nazi Germany and Slovakia after an international summercamp.
- 

# From 1946 on: Refoundation and big debates



Memorial Tours to Auschwitz  
Education about the Holocaust  
in the late 1950s

Falken State „Young Europe)  
in Germany (1952)

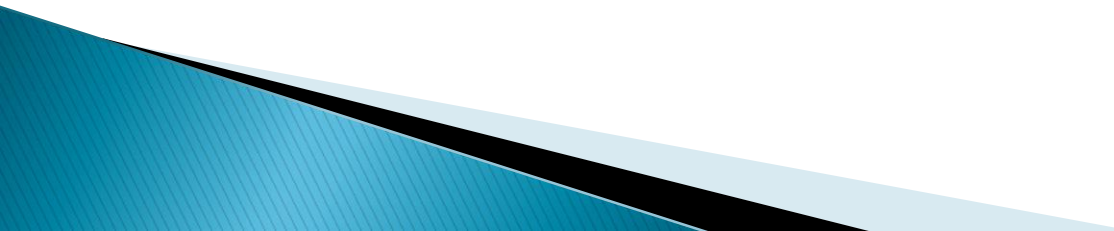
In 1946 the Woodcraft Folk from Great Britain hosted an international camp in Brighton.

Different ideas of socialist education  
have been discussed in the late 1940s  
and 1950s.



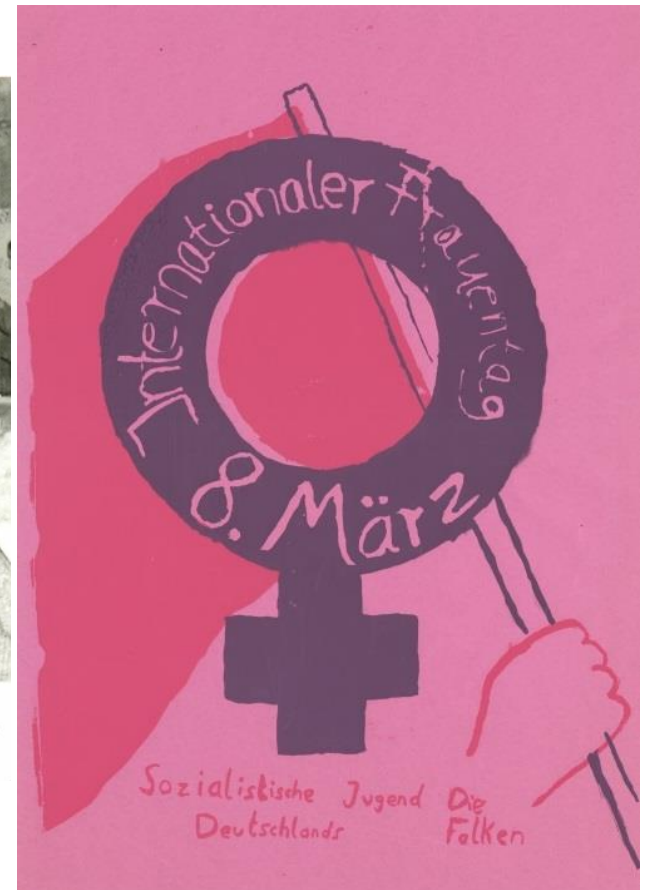
# IFM–SEI as a global movement

## IFM–SEI Congress 1963 in Vienna:

- ▶ Full recognition of the challenges of the global south
  - ▶ Looking for socialist educational organisations in the different regions of the world
  - ▶ Decision to co-operate more with IUSY
  - ▶ Headquarters of IFM moved back from Amsterdam to Vienna
  - ▶ Adoption of IFM educational principles
- 
- ▶ In 1972: IFM became □ IFM–SEI in recognition of new MOs (International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International)
- 

# The influences by the student's movement in the late 1960s

- Establishment of feminist structures
- Progressive sex-education





# Solidarity campaigns in the 1970s and 1980s

- Against the military dictatorships in Chile and Nicaragua
- Against the apartheid in Southern Africa
- Supporting the strike of the British miners

**Aufruf des Falkenringes für die Gruppenarbeit im Jahre 1975**

**An alle Falkengruppen – an alle Falkengruppen**

**„SOLIDARITÄT ist unsere WAFFE“**

Unter diesem Motto ruft der Bundesvorstand alle Falkengruppen auf, verstärkt in diesem Jahr „SOLIDARITÄT“ in den Mittelpunkt ihrer Gruppenarbeit zu rücken. Wir meinen, daß für unsern Verband „SOLIDARITÄT“ das wichtigste Lernziel überhaupt ist, wenn wir zur Politisierung unserer Gruppenarbeit beitragen wollen.

„SOLIDARITÄT“ beschränkt sich aber nicht allein darauf zu behaupten, wie wichtig solidarisches Verhalten sei; oder wie man sich solidarisch mit der Arbeiterklasse in der ganzen Welt fühlt; sondern „SOLIDARITÄT“ kann nur durch aktives Einsetzen für die Benachteiligten und Unterdrückten in unserer Gesellschaft und in der Unterstützung unserer Genossen in allen sozialistischen Organisationen erlebt und erlernt werden.

Deshalb fordert der Falkenring Euch auch auf, die „Solidaritätsaktion für Lateinamerika“ der IFM/SEI, unserer internationalen Dachorganisation zu unterstützen und alles zu tun, damit unsere Genossen in Lateinamerika, die unter viel schwierigeren Umständen als wir zur gesellschaftlichen Veränderung beitragen wollen, arbeiten können.

Ein Name soll uns dazu ein besonderer Ansporn sein: **ALCIDES MOLINAS** dieser Mann verdient unsere ganze Solidarität. Er sitzt immer noch ohne Anklage in Asunción/Paraguay in Haft.

**HELFEN WIR IHM!**

Helfen wir damit der IPAN, der Organisation, dessen Präsident er ist.

Helfen wir damit allen unseren Genossen in Lateinamerika, die die Unmenschlichkeit dort überwinden wollen durch ihre Arbeit.

**RUFEN WIR NICHT NUR AUS** „Solidarität mit Lateinamerika“, sondern arbeiten wir mit, daß der Kampf der lateinamerikanischen Genossen **„VENCEREMOS“** – wir werden siegen – Wirklichkeit wird.

Der Bundesvorstand  
Bundesvorsitzender  
Falkenringleiterin

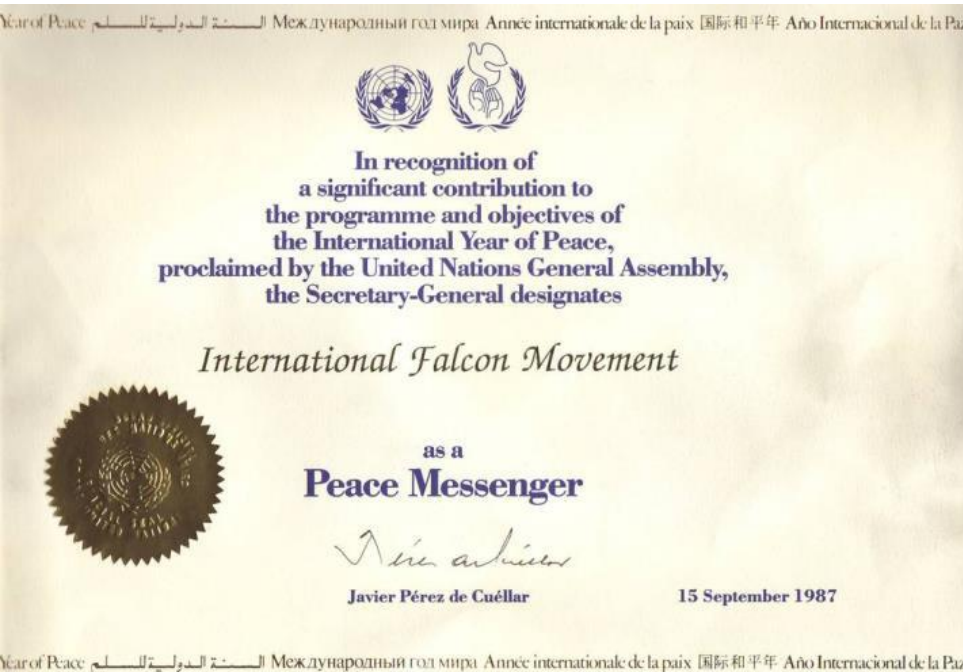


**Deine**

**Solidarität mit den britischen Bergarbeitern**

# Activities against the Cold War in the 1970s and 1980s

IYNF (International Young Naturefriends), CIMEA (International Committee of Children's and Adolescents' Movements), WOSM (Scouts), WAGGGS (Girl Guides) and IFM–SEI formed an International Cooperation called CAIC.



CAIC organised common youth activities between Western and Eastern Europe in the spirit of peace, friendship, cooperation, children's rights, understanding and mutual respect

# Peace education with member organisations from Israel and Palestine

- ▶ In 1985, the IFM–SEI Secretary General handed over a letter to the UN, written with blood by Palestinians.
- ▶ The IFM–SEI decided to encourage peace activities among member organisations in the Middle East.

In the 1990s and 2000s, yearly peace camps and seminars were held in the Middle East and in Europe in the framework of IFM's Peace Project Association and the Middle East

Since 2007 MOs from Israel and Palestine co-operate in the Willy–Brandt–Center in Jerusalem





# Attempt to form a strong European region in the 1990s

In the 1990s, a series of seminars was organised to strengthen the Eastern European regions of Europe. They focused on different topics (campaigning, strengthening participation, etc) and were aiming to establish a network of organisations in Eastern Europe.

