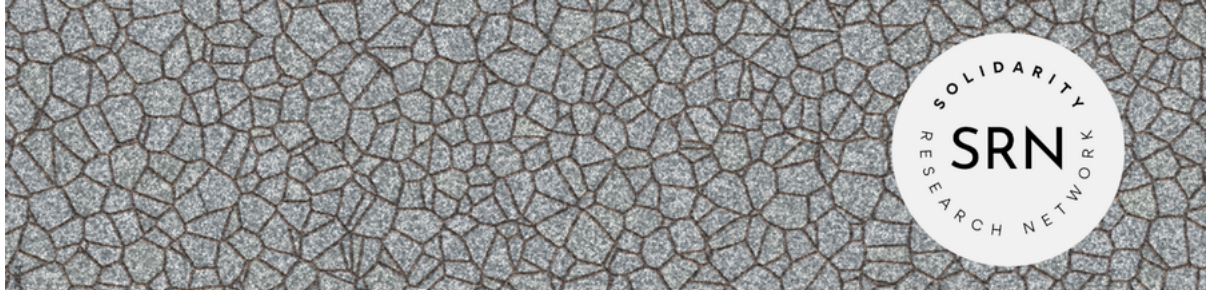


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University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Northwestern Switzerland



Solidarity Research Network (SRN) Newsletter

Dear colleagues and partners,

How does solidarity emerge, evolve, and respond to the challenges of our time? Across continents, disciplines, and communities, this question continues to inspire our collective work within the Solidarity Research Network.

This edition reflects the growing strength and diversity of our network. We celebrate important milestones, including preparations for the 2nd International Solidarity Research Conference in Cluj-Napoca, the launch of the SRN African Chapter, and the many collaborations, seminars, and workshops that continue to connect scholars and practitioners around the world. Together, these initiatives demonstrate that solidarity is not only an object of research but also a practice that shapes how we learn, collaborate, and respond to global challenges.

We thank all members, partners, and contributors for their commitment, creativity, and engagement. We hope this newsletter inspires new connections, fresh ideas, and opportunities for collaboration across our growing international community.

Warmest regards,

[The SRN Team](#)

[→ Watch video](#)





Interview with Dr. Viorela Ducu Telegdi Csetri

Highlights from the Network

2nd International Solidarity Research Conference (2ISRC)

We are delighted that our [2nd International Solidarity Research Conference \(2ISRC\)](#) will take place on 5–6 November 2026 at the [Babeş-Bolyai University](#) in the beautiful city of Cluj-Napoca, Romania, with the possibility to participate both on-site and online.

We would be delighted to welcome you in Cluj-Napoca or online!

The Call for Papers is still open!

Submit your abstract [HERE](#)

[Learn more](#)

This conference would not have been possible without the initiative and commitment of [Dr. Viorela Ducu Telegdi Csetri](#), who attended our 1st International Solidarity Research Conference in Olten in October 2025. A heartfelt thank you, Viorela, for offering to host the next edition and helping us continue to grow this international community of researchers!

Strengthening Global Collaboration: New SRN Structure and Launch of the African Chapter

The Solidarity Research Network (SRN) has introduced a new collaboration structure based on sociocratic principles of shared governance, equality, and collaborative decision-making. The network is organized through a Management Committee,

thematic working groups, and regional circles, creating new opportunities for participation, co-creation, and international exchange.

[→ Learn more](#)

A major milestone in this development is the establishment of the [African Chapter](#), founded in 2026 as a self-organised regional circle within the SRN. The chapter brings together scholars, practitioners, and early-career researchers committed to advancing solidarity research from African perspectives, with a focus on Ubuntu, social justice, and African intellectual agency.

Core Founding Members of the [African Chapter](#):

- * [Dr. Poppy Masinga \(Interim Founding Chair\), The South African College of Applied Psychology, South Africa](#)
- * [Moleboheng Mamolefi Mamiky Phiri, University of Pretoria, South Africa](#)
- * [Dr. Daniel M. Muia, Kenyatta University, Kenya](#)
- * [Dr. Basilius Kasera, University of Namibia, Namibia](#)
- * [Dr. Sandile Ntethelelo Gumbi, University of Mpumalanga, South Africa](#)
- * [Dumile Mthethwa, Department of Social Development, South Africa](#)
- * [Thembeke Mongwane, Social Work Practitioner and PhD Candidate, South Africa](#)
- * [Dr. Agrippa Mabvira, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa](#)
- * [Muriel Dlamini, The South African College of Applied Psychology, South Africa](#)

We warmly welcome the [African Chapter](#) and look forward to future collaborations, joint research initiatives, and knowledge exchange that will further strengthen the global SRN community.

6th Conference on Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Shared struggle, shared future - the need for global solidarity

We warmly invite you to attend and participate in the [6th Conference on Afghanistan at the University of Education Freiburg](#) on 10th to 11th July 2026 - online and onsite.

This conference is grounded in the understanding that the suffering of the Afghans is not only their own problem. It is a human tragedy whose consequences can extend far beyond Afghanistan's borders. Supporting Afghans inside and outside the country requires an evidence-based understanding of their challenges and a global solidarity.

[→ Learn more](#)

Recap: Multiple Activities of our ESWRA Special Interest Group (SIG) "Solidarities and Social Work"

[2nd SIG Workshop 'Concepts and Practices of Solidarity and Social Work'](#)

At our SIG workshop 'Concepts and Practices of Solidarity and Social Work', on 17. April 2026 at the Robert Gordon University, during the 16th European Conference for Social Work Research in Aberdeen, international perspectives from research and practice came together – and demonstrated once again how central solidarity is to

social work.

Through different theoretical approaches, critical and decolonial perspectives, as well as empirical findings from research in various regions of the world, it became very much clear that:

👉 Solidarity is a lived practice.

👉 Not every form of group cohesion is solidarity

👉 Solidarity opens up new avenues for social interventions, policy and collaboration.

The interdisciplinary dialogue and the diversity of contributions – from Europe to Africa, Latin America, North America and the Middle East – were particularly enriching.

A big thank you to all the speakers and participants for the exciting discussions and insights!

🌟 We are feeling very inspired and are already looking forward to the third SIG workshop on the **5. May 2027** at the [16th European Conference for Social Work Research in Bukarest!](#)

[SIG Seminars online](#)

We hosted already 3 insightful online seminars exploring solidarity in contemporary Social Work.

In a first seminar, [Prof. Dr. Thomas Geisen](#) introduced the concept of relational solidarity, arguing that solidarity—understood as the everyday practice of “standing up for each other”—offers important intersectional and decolonial perspectives for strengthening Social Work research and practice.

[→Video](#)

In 'Relocated Solidarity', [Prof. Dr. Sui Ting Kong](#) and [Hei Chow](#) examined how the Hongkonger diaspora in the UK redefines solidarity through political activism in exile and community-building efforts. Their presentation highlighted how social workers can act as bridges, advocates, and community innovators beyond a narrow safeguarding focus.

[→ Video](#)

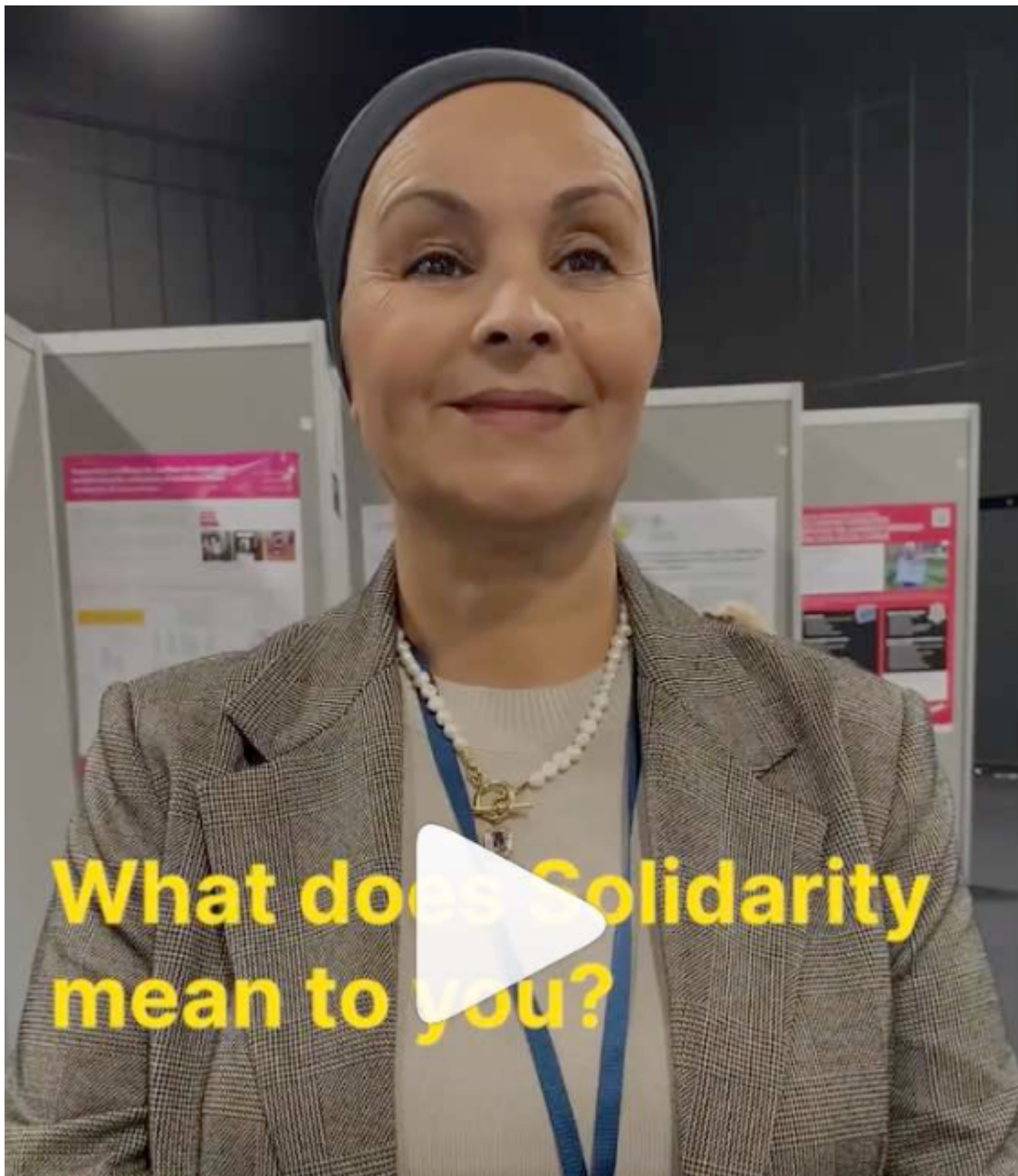
The seminar "Ecosystem of Reintegration of Veterans and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Times of Crisis: Coordination of Efforts Between the State, Communities, and Civil Society" of [Dr. Anastasiia Shcherbakova](#), Associate Professor at the Department of Management and Public Governance, National University of Water and Environmental Engineering provided a timely and insightful discussion on the reintegration of veterans and internally displaced persons in Ukraine during times of crisis. We especially appreciated the strong focus on solidarity, cross-sector collaboration, and practical coordination strategies between the state, communities, and civil society to support long-term social cohesion and

recovery.

→ Video coming soon

Impressions from the 2nd SIG Workshop 'Concepts and Practices of Solidarity and Social Work' at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland

→ [Watch video](#)



Interview with [Prof. Dr. Nuzha Allasad Alhuzail](#), Sapir Academic College, Israel



Workshop Participants



Solidarity Collages by Pat Cox, Thomas Geisen, Petro Mozolevskyi and Maria Jastrzębska

Created during an amazing creative workshop of Prof. Dr. Lynne Cairns, 'What does solidarity look like, feel like to you?'

[→ Read more](#)



See you in Bucharest!

From right to left: Alaa Abu Ghalioun, Pat Cox, Petro Mozolevskiy, Scottish Piper, Thomas Geisen, Maria Jastrzębska, Nuzha Allasad Alhuzail

Upcoming events and activities

Conferences

6th Conference on Afghanistan
"Afghanistan: Shared struggle, shared
future - the need for global solidarity"

[→ Learn more](#)

10- 11 July 2026

**University of Education Freiburg,
Freiburg, Germany and online**

SHiFT Final Conference on 'Urban &
Regional Transformation. Between Local
Solidarity and Trans-Local

Responsibility', organised by the COST
Action CA21166 "Social Sciences and
Humanities for Transformation and

27-28 August 2026

University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Climate Resilience (SHiFT)''

[→Learn more](#)

2nd International Solidarity Research
Conference (2ISRC)

"Limits of Learning and Solidarity",

[→Learn more](#)

5 - 6 November 2026

**Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca,
Romania and online**

!Save the Dates! SIG Seminars Online

• **14 October 2026:**

14:15 - 15:45 (BST)/

15:15-16:45 (CEST)

• **9 December 2026:**

14:15 - 15:45 (BT)/

15:15-16:45 (CET)

SIG Workshop

3rd Workshop of our ESWRA Special
Interest Group (SIG) 'Solidarities and
Social Work' on "Co-Creating Solidarity
in Times of Crises: Kinds, Practices and
Functions" at the 16th European
Conference for Social Work Research
(ECSWR)

[→Learn more](#)

5 May 2027, at the Bucharest

University, Bucharest, Romania

International Workshops and Activities

International Workshop 'From Asia to the
EU: Labour Migration and Social
Protection'

Hosted by the CASTLE Centre for the
Study of Transnational Families,
organised within the project 'Caring for
the Vulnerable – Transnational Social
Protection of Bangladeshi Migrants'
Families in the EU (CASTLE 2)'

[→Learn more](#)

3-4 November 2026

**Babeş-Bolyai University, FSPAC2
building, str Minerilor 85, Cluj-Napoca,
Romania**


We warmly recommend!

Exploring collage as a solidarity
practice in social work research

**Prof. Dr. Lynne Cairns,
'What does solidarity look
like, feel like to you?'**

[→ Learn more](#)

Calls & Opportunities in the Network

 **Call for Papers for the 2nd International Solidarity Research Conference (2ISRC)** on 5-6 November 2026 at the Babeş-Bolyai University, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania and online.

The conference focuses on the 'Limits of Learning and Solidarity'.

Submission Deadline: 30th June 2026


[Call for Papers and Submission](#)

[Registration](#)

 **Call for Papers - International Workshop: From Asia to the EU - Labour Migration and Social Protection** on 3-4 November 2026 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, and online.

Submission Deadline: 30th June 2026


[Call for Papers](#)

 **Call for papers for the Special issue 2027 of the international online Journal Social Work and Society** 'Solidarity Research and Social Work. Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives.'

Submission Deadline: 30th June 2026

[Call for Papers](#)

[Mandatory Submission Template](#)

 **Call for Reviewers for the Special issue 2027 of the international online Journal Social Work and Society** 'Solidarity Research and Social Work. Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives.'

 Requirements:

- Ability to review scientific contributions in English
- PhD
- Flexibility and prompt responses

Disciplines: social sciences, philosophy, social work.


Interested? 📩 **contact:** mariabernadetta.jastrzebska@fhnw.ch

Call for Contributions for our SIG-Seminars online

Dates:

- 14 October 2026: 14:15 - 15:45 (BST)/ 15:15-16:45 (CEST)
- 9 December 2026: 14:15 - 15:45 (BT)/ 15:15-16:45 (CET)


Interested?  **Contact:** mariabernadetta.jastrzebska@fhnw.ch


 **Call for Proposals for the 3rd Workshop of the ESWRA Special Interest Group (SIG) 'Solidarities and Social Work'** on "Co-Creating Solidarity in Times of Crises: Kinds, Practices and Functions" at the 16th European Conference for Social Work Research (ECSWR) on 5 May 2027, at the Bucharest University, Bucharest, Romania


Submission Deadline: 15 October, 2026


[Call for Proposals](#)


Publications in the Network

 [Allasad Alhuzail, N./ Mahajne, Ibrahim \(2026\). Solidarity as a value, emotion, and practice: Arab social work students' perceptions in a multicultural society. *International Social Work*.](#)

 [Allasad Alhuzail, Nuzha \(2026\). Solidarity in the Shadows: Bedouin Support for Undocumented Migrant Workers in Israel. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*.](#)

 [Mabvira, Agrippa/ Pillay, Roshini/ Masinga, Poppy \(2024\). Engaging with migrant learners as co-researchers through photovoice: guidelines for transforming social work research. *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*.](#)

 [Mabvira, Agrippa/ Masinga, Poppy/ Pillay, Roshini \(2025\). Reflexive insights from participatory action research with immigrant adolescents in South Africa: Transforming Social work research. *African Journal of Social Work*.](#)

 [Mabvira, Agrippa \(2026\). Ubuntu as a Framework: Affordances Experienced by Immigrant Adolescents in South African Schools. *African Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies*.](#)

 [Mabvira, Agrippa \(2026\). Ubuntu. In: Kassner, J.J., Chatterjee, D.K. \(eds\) *Encyclopedia of Global Justice*. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.](#)

 [Mabvira, Agrippa \(2026\). Radical and Ethical Social Work Responses to Xenophobic Violence in South Africa. *Routledge International Handbook of Radical Ethical Social Work*.](#)

Network & Partners

Thank you to our [network partners](#) and collaborators for their support and active engagement!

Join us!: Send your **photo**, **link to your profile**, **e-mail address** and a **short statement on why solidarity research is important to you** to mariabernadetta.jastrzebska@fhnw.ch

 Stay connected

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School of Social Work: Institute for Integration and Participation & Institute for the Study and Development of Social Work as a Profession

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