

# **International Members' Forum Initiative:**

## **Working group “Initiative for the future and further development of members' forums at an international level”**

For decades, important topics related to the Anthroposophical Society have been brought to the Annual General Meetings of the General Anthroposophical Society (GAS) through motions and thereby have been dealt with in the legal sphere. Anyone who has regularly taken part in such meetings will have felt how, in such a context, the topics could never really be adequately considered and discussed – also due to the lack of time – in such a way that a sufficient ground for judgment could be reached for voting. The members' forums that developed in Dornach after the 2023 Annual General Meeting can be seen as a start and as a healthy step forward in this sense.

For years there have also been considerations about how members of the Society worldwide could be included in the voting process, since many members are not able to travel to Dornach. However, an integration of members worldwide solely for the purpose of voting, in a purely virtual form, without sufficient information and an adequate exchange, is not an optimal solution for the issue we are trying to address.

**A working group of members from various countries** has now been formed with the initiative to create members' forums worldwide.

### **Aims of the initiative:**

- To create a suitable space for the free spiritual life in the General Anthroposophical Society in which all relevant topics can be dealt with worldwide, and thus to enter into a process that enables us to develop well-founded judgments and also action-oriented approaches.
- Through the forums, to involve the periphery in a process in which topics related to the Society are dealt with. And, in this way, to connect the periphery with the center and the center with the periphery in a way that goes beyond just the Annual General Meetings.
- The relevant topics for the forums would also include those topics that concern not just the Society but the Anthroposophical Movement. In this way, the Anthroposophical Movement would be involved, with the intention of working towards its integration into the Anthroposophical Society.

On the one hand, we are designing a viable process that can enable this exchange, based on the international cooperation that has already begun. On the other hand, we are collecting topics that are in urgent need of global exchange.

Everyone is welcome to make suggestions and to participate regularly!

**On November 2nd, 2024**, we are organizing our first International Members' Forum, to which you are also warmly invited. You can find more details below.

# Invitation

*Dear members of the Anthroposophical Society, dear friends in the different countries:*

We would like to invite you to the first **International Members' Forum** organized by members of more than 10 different countries:

**November 2nd, 2024**

**9am – 1pm Eastern Time (USA) | 15:00 – 19:00 Central European Time**

**via Zoom<sup>1</sup>**

In smaller and larger social circles, Rudolf Steiner spoke strongly, in the spirit of the Christmas Conference, about the need to develop a higher sense of responsibility and a truly anthroposophical community consciousness:

«It should be possible that a unified consciousness develops in the society» (To all members V. Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts. GA 260a, p.50)

«The life that takes place in the individual groups must be able to come alive in the consciousness of the Society as a whole (...) Only if members in New Zealand can experience what happens in a group in Vienna will such a common conscience be possible.

But this must not be the only thing. What happens in the spiritual life of the present outside the society should also be included in the common consciousness.» (Newsletter from 27 January 1924. GA260a, p.163)

Does this common, unified consciousness exist in the Society at present? And if not – or if not enough – then how could we work together to achieve it?

This initiative wants to contribute to this common consciousness and mutual perception in the Society. In addition, the impulse is to create a suitable space for the free spiritual life in the General Anthroposophical Society. In such a space, all relevant topics can be dealt with worldwide, and we can start a process that enables us to develop well-founded perspectives and also action-oriented approaches.

In the gathering of November 2nd, we will focus on the situation of the Anthroposophical Society and Anthroposophy in the various countries worldwide (see the first questions in the invitation below). And we will try to identify three or four central topics out of this overview

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<sup>1</sup> Here you can see what time it will be in your country:

[https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html?iso=20241018T180000&p1=268&p2=232&p3=233&p4=163&p5=tz\\_vet&p6=51&p7=250&p8=41](https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html?iso=20241018T180000&p1=268&p2=232&p3=233&p4=163&p5=tz_vet&p6=51&p7=250&p8=41)

which we as a Society want to work on. In one part of the gathering, country-based groups will be created, where people can speak in their own language. For the mixed/international groups and the plenum, the language will be English. There will be translation into Spanish. If a country wants to offer a translation into another language, we will check to see if we have the technical possibility to integrate it.

Please contact us at: [contact@initiative-memberforums-worldwide.cl](mailto:contact@initiative-memberforums-worldwide.cl)

**You can register and find more information on our website:**

**<https://initiative-memberforums-worldwide.cl/>**

Please help us to make this Forum known among the members of your country!

*For the organization: Christoph Moritz (Germany), Csernay Roberta (Hungary), Cristina Etchegaray (Uruguay), García-Cuerva Tatiana (Switzerland), Jaramillo Lohengrin (Colombia), Kiss Bernadett (Hungary) Langella Jérémy (France), Michielli Amalia (Brasil) Ponce Victoria (Canada), Seress Attila (Hungary), Tovar Jenyffer (Venezuela) Vidales Pablo (Chile), Wittenberg Daniel (Argentina).*

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## **Themes to Be Discussed at the International Members' Forum of November 2, 2024**

**9am—1pm Eastern Time (15:00—19:00 Central European Time)  
via Zoom**

Anthroposophy is present in many cultures and countries. Members, like us, of the General Anthroposophic Society or its country organizations are striving to contribute towards a humane world by means of Anthroposophy, facing various obstacles. Therefore we propose the following questions for our first International Member Forum:

### **Current situation**

1.) How do you see the current situation of the GAS (General Anthroposophical Society) and what are the burning issues for Anthroposophy or the Anthroposophical Society in your country?

### **Tasks**

2.) Which tasks and concrete actions arise from this assessment of the current situation for the Anthroposophical Society as a whole and in the different countries (in the periphery and in the center)?

3.) What are three main tasks that you see? Where do you want to be active and engaged?

## **Original intention**

4.) What task was the Anthroposophical Society given by Rudolf Steiner at its foundation? Where do we stand in relation to this task today? What responsibilities arise for us as members of the Anthroposophical Society to help the Society fulfill its task?

5.) Given the fact that the current statutes of the General Anthroposophical Society are not those created by Rudolf Steiner at the Christmas Conference of 1923, but rather those of the company that built the second Goetheanum (the “Bauverein”), which in 1925 was renamed “General Anthroposophical Society,” how do you think this situation has been affecting the Anthroposophical Movement during the last 99 years?<sup>2</sup>

- We invite you to this online forum to create a mutual understanding of issues and tasks and thereby to strive to bring periphery and center into relation with each other.

- Do we see similar patterns around the world? Or do certain locations have specific challenges and opportunities?

The forum is organized by members from at least 10 countries. You can experience the multitude of perspectives in the variety of questions above. We, as an organization-group, have a connection to the Members’ Forums that take place in Dornach (Switzerland) and would like to do something similar but at an international level.

For more information, please visit: <https://initiative-memberforums-worldwide.cl/nov2024>

Contact: [contact@initiative-memberforums-worldwide.cl](mailto:contact@initiative-memberforums-worldwide.cl)

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<sup>2</sup> You will find an article with information about this issue and further information in on our website: <https://initiative-memberforums-worldwide.cl/>