



**EFECW**

ECUMENICAL FORUM OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN  
FORUM OECUMENIQUE DE FEMMES CHRETIENNES D'EUROPE  
ÖKUMENISCHES FORUM CHRISTLICHER FRAUEN IN EUROPA

# INVITATION

## XII General Assembly & Conference

from 8-13 September 2026

Begegnungszentrum Sonneck, in Marburg, Germany



***Renewal: “Then their eyes were opened...”*** Luk: 24:31

### About the theme

RENEWAL in many forms and under different considerations is the thematic focus of the GA & Conference in 2026.

‘A human being is a story.’ We live in and from a constant flow of other people's lives and experiences. In the encounter with another person's life's situation, something resonates with our own way of living, being, and acting in the world. Here, the individual's story and experiences are intertwined with the relationships and diverse communities of the wider context. Joy, longing, anguish, need, and pain go hand in hand. We are surprised and affected. We engage in self-criticism and allow ourselves to be guided by partly new questions. We re-discover and learn new things along the way.

### **G.A.R.D.E.N. (Gathering Around Religion, Dance, Energy, Nature)**

An environmental project fosters not only our new ways of traveling and coming together but also allows for the participants through interdisciplinary approaches that include drama to develop long-term strategies and activism of how we engage with climate change as a Forum.

## Who is a woman\* today?

Another important discussion under the umbrella of renewal focuses on the emerging question of who is a woman and who is allowed to identify as a woman: As gender plays a significant role in the Forum's identity, it is crucial to reflect and discuss the forum's adjustment to complex, fluid identities and diverse life realities of women\* today.

## About the venue

Begegnungszentrum Sonneck is a faith-based congress and accommodation venue committed to enabling human encounters in sustainable ways (<https://begegnungszentrum-sonneck.de/>).

### WHY MARBURG?

The upcoming GA & Conference in 2026 will be held in Marburg, a central location within Germany and Europe. One goal is to encourage environmentally friendly traveling options to reach the destination. Marburg is centrally located and can be reached by trains, buses, bikes, and by foot.

## About the Conference format

The way the GA & Conference shall be held, holds in itself renewed ways of approaching a pan-European meeting of women of this scale. Unlike previously held practices, we do not encourage the traveling by airplanes and other environmentally less supportable means but we encourage arrivals in the form of pilgrimages that may include the usage of ferries to cross seas where needed, trains, public buses, bikes, and walking. We do not only encourage environmentally friendly means of travelling but also plan on experiencing a pilgrimage together. We will be physically and mentally on a pilgrimage towards new shared mindsets and identities. This is enabled by a new format of the General Assembly itself. The usual space taking business sessions will be held in advance online to allow for more content-based work and exchange during the Conference. Two online GA meetings are planned in May-June 2026, to present and approve reports (activity, finances, etc.) of the last four years and decide on constitutional changes as already discussed during the last 2 years.

## Pilgrimage

In pilgrimage, when we walk, we meet new contexts, new people, and circumstances to which we can relate or find new ways to relate to if we practice openmindedness. In order to be able to renew, we need to understand the environment that makes the Forum's existence to be relevant today to more people and dare to take on more difficult issues. The shared pilgrimage will be inspired by the Elisabeth path (<https://www.elisabethpfad.de/>) and the thematic work.

## Safer Space

During the physical presence in Marburg, working on our individual and common values forms an important basis to enhance self-knowledge and awareness that then enables a common ground and understanding of our work together on national and European level. Those ground rules and shared understanding within the group create a safer space and shall lead to fruitful discussions and engagements.

## Podcast

A series of podcasts *#femalevoices* (<https://www.youtube.com/@EFECW-Podcast>), a project by the young women of the Forum, will be continued through the recording of new episodes during and after the meeting.

## Overall

The General Assembly & Conference of 2026 aims to combine a mix of topics and activities that are transgenerationally of interest to the participants with the goal of having a common understanding of the EFECW vision and developing a long-term strategy.

## Delegates to the GA

Please keep in mind the following:

1. Each national Forum can participate with a maximum of 4 delegates.
2. Women can also register as delegates or participants under individual members.
3. Delegates under 40 will receive 50% reduction or respective Band subsidy. (We kindly ask the NCs to encourage young women to participate.)
4. Maximum 2 delegates per country can apply to the Ruth Epting Fund (REF).
5. If you have any questions regarding finances and scholarships, please contact the treasurer Gabi (Gabriele) Kienesberger, [gabriele.kienesberger@gmx.net](mailto:gabriele.kienesberger@gmx.net).

## Registration

To register please click [here](#). You can also open your browser and paste the following link <https://forms.gle/X9PAueLP7aasKB2QA>

If you are still facing some difficulties to register, please write to [info@efecw.net](mailto:info@efecw.net) and we will assist you in completing your registration.

**Deadline for application: 1 April 2026**

**Participation fee: 500 €**

**Fundraising:** While the CC and the GA preparatory team is exploring and applying for funding, we kindly urge you to do the same at local and national level so that fundraising is a common engagement for the success of our physical meeting in Marburg. E.g. engage a local parish or a national church in funding the travel and/or participation of at least one delegate. In response, you could offer to present the EFECW and the results and spirit of the Conference.

Considering that the membership fee for most of the national Forums is currently very low, we invite you to contribute to the total expense for our GA & Conference by funding your participation.

## Travel instructions

Marburg is well rail connected with Frankfurt and every two hours with Hannover/ Hamburg. From the train station (Marburg-Lahn), you can either take Bus 1 (4 stops) or walk (2.5km).

More detailed travel instructions as well as a travel form will be shared after the registration deadline to all registered participants/delegates.

**We are looking forward to meeting you in Marburg!**

**The Co-Presidents of the EFECW**

Carin Gardbring, Marijana Ajzenkol, Marianna Apresyan