



Let the Conversations Begin!

Welcome to the International Folkemøde for Educators—a gathering of curious minds, open hearts, and bold ideas!

This isn't your typical conference. It's a *folkemøde*: a meeting of people, perspectives, and possibilities. Think of it as a global learning village, where teachers, facilitators, and dreamers come together to ask big questions, listen deeply, and build something new—together.

This is a collaborative gathering where everyone brings something to the table — whether it's a session, song, question, or story. *We are all learners; we are all teachers.*

Within this programme, you'll discover workshops to engage in, shared knowledge sessions to join, and moments to pause and reflect. Some things are planned. Others will emerge.

So, bring your voice, your questions, and your authentic self. We're thrilled to have you here and excited to see what we will create together!

Monday, July 14th

10.00 Arrival and Check-In

12.45 Lunch in Dining Hall

14.00 Welcome Ceremony and Introduction

Hosts Julie and Mette will warmly welcome everyone and introduce the overall programme, vision, and objectives. Icebreaker activities to follow.

15.30 Break

16.00 Introduction to the Association of World Education
Reghu Rama Das (Principal, Mitraniketan People's College, India; Co-Chair of the Association for World Education)

This session will introduce participants to the Association for World Education (AWE), an international NGO with consultative status at the United Nations. They will be hosting their Annual International Council Meeting alongside our folkemøde and joining us in a number of activities throughout the week.

16.30 Icebreakers & Mingling
IFFE and AWE participants together

18.00 Dinner in Dining Hall

19.00 Opening Keynote Address
Rev. Allyn Maxfield-Steele (USA)

Allyn is a movement educator, facilitator, and minister at the intersection of spirituality, justice, and collective liberation. As Co-Executive Director of the Highlander Research and Education Center in Tennessee, he helps steward a legacy that has trained generations of change-makers, from

Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks to today's grassroots leaders. In his keynote address, Allyn will ground us in shared purpose and invite us to dream, connect, and act, bringing vital perspectives from one of the world's enduring folk education movements.

"We're not preparing people to survive oppression, we're helping them imagine, build, and defend a world where we all get to be free."

20.00 Let's Sing Together!
Facilitated by Jael Nordbek Azoulay (Denmark) and Hanna Lee (South Korea)

This session offers a warm and inviting space for participants to come together on our first night and enjoy the simple pleasure of singing. The session will feature a mix of songs from various traditions, encouraging everyone to join in and create a sense of community.

Tuesday, July 15th

On Day 2 of the folkemøde, participants will embark on a full-day excursion to explore the living legacy of folk high school education in Denmark — past, present, and future.

7.15 Breakfast and Lunch Box Preparation in Dining Hall

8.00 Departure from IPC, Entrance A

8.15 Krogerup Højskole

After a short bus ride, participants will arrive at our first stop of the day, Krogerup Folk High School, where Clara Nepper Winther — teacher and folkemøde participant — will lead a talk and guided tour. Clara's courses on activism, democracy, and global justice empower students to challenge structures of inequality and become active change-makers. At Krogerup, participants will gain insight into a bold, democratic approach to education, deeply rooted in the legacy of founding principal Hal Koch.



10.00 Departure for Copenhagen

11.00 Introduction to Vartov Culture House

In the heart of Copenhagen lies Vartov — the historic site of N.F.S. Grundtvig's church and life's work. Here, we'll be welcomed by Vartov's Communications Manager and folkemøde participant, Sara Mortensen, who will guide us through the church and library and share new project ideas.



11.45 Lunch in Vartov Courtyard

12.30 Lecture: *What would Grundtvig tell us today?*

Ingrid Ank (Director, Grundtvig Academy; Editor-in-Chief, Grundtvigsk Tidende, Denmark)

"A society with only one room and one way of thinking is a totalitarian society. A society where the different rooms are disconnected is a soulless society." - Ingrid Ank

Ingrid Ank is a leading Danish scholar on the legacy of N.F.S. Grundtvig. As Director of the Grundtvig Academy and editor of *Grundtvigsk Tidende*, she works at the crossroads of education, culture, theology, and democracy, thoughtfully reinterpreting Grundtvig's ideas for the complexities of today's world. During her talk, Ingrid will share her thoughts and reflections on what Grundtvig's imagined advice might be for our current moment.

13.30 Free Time

14.30 Guided Tour of the Gobelins

The Gobelins at Christiansborg Palace are 17 vibrant tapestries by Danish artist Bjørn Nørgaard, created for Queen Margrethe II's 50th birthday. Woven in Paris and installed by 2000, they depict 1,000 years of Danish history—including Grundtvig, the folk high school movement, and the rise of democracy. A visit and guided tour of this exhibition offers a unique modern expression of art rooted in an ancient weaving tradition, offering insights into 1,000 years of Danish and world history, art, and royal architecture.



16.00 Explore Copenhagen

Enjoy free time to wander the streets, visit the National Museum, or take a boat tour of the city.

18.00 Depart Copenhagen

19.00 Dinner Back at IPC

20.00 Evening Social organized by the Association of World Education

Wednesday, July 16th

Get ready to roll up your sleeves! On Days 3 and 4 of the folkemøde, we will dive into hands-on workshops and collaborative sessions, sharing stories and insights that illuminate the rich legacy of folk education. These days are dedicated to meaningful engagement, where we will explore practical applications and foster connections that inspire collective growth.

7.30 Breakfast

8.30 Morning Fellowship

Come ready to listen and share. Morning Fellowship focuses on real stories, not a slideshow—exploring the heart of folk education through the lived experiences and reflections of participants, guided by the spirit of Grundtvig's "Living Word." (Also come ready to sing 😊)

9.15 Shared Knowledge Session I: *Enlightenment for Life*

Facilitated by Jonas Søvik (Denmark), Louise Mycroft (UK), and Lars Højland (Denmark)

This session sets a personal foundation for participants, encouraging self-reflection and exploration of individual values and purpose. It establishes a mindset of personal growth that is essential for engaging in the subsequent topics.

10.45 Break

11.00 Shared Knowledge Session II: *Democratic Edification*

Facilitated by Lene Andersen (Denmark), Jacob Hundt (USA), and Chris Palmer (Canada)

This session builds on the personal insights gained in the previous one and connects them to the broader context of active citizenship and self-governance. It emphasizes the importance of individuals engaging with their communities and society, which is a natural progression from personal development.

12.45 Lunch in Dining Hall

14.00 Practical Workshops and Open Spaces

Practical workshops offer interactive and hands-on learning experiences. Open spaces are informal, self-organized meetings on topics of shared interest, allowing for spontaneous collaboration and networking. Both will run all afternoon.

18.00 Dinner in Dining Hall

19.00 Folk High School Debate

Rooted in the spirit of dialogue and democratic learning, a folk high school debate emphasizes listening, curiosity, and mutual respect over competition. Participants bring diverse perspectives and lived experiences, engaging in thoughtful conversation that encourages reflection, shared understanding, and critical thinking. Rather than sharp opposition, the goal is to illuminate different viewpoints and deepen collective insight.

20.00 Evening Social Around the Bonfire (weather permitting)

Thursday, July 17th

7.30 Breakfast

8.30 Morning Fellowship

9.15 Shared Knowledge Session III: *Building Community*

Facilitated by Stine Hofman Eilers (Denmark), Melissa Boucher-Guilbert (Canada), and Mette Højland (Denmark)

This session focuses on the practical aspects of fostering connections and collaboration among individuals. It reinforces the idea of community as a vital component of democratic engagement and personal growth, creating a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

10.45 Break

11.15 Shared Knowledge Session IV: *Sustainable Education*

Facilitated by Melanie Lenehan (UK), Mette Skamris (Denmark), Sara Mortensen (Denmark)

This session ties together the themes of personal growth, democratic engagement, and community building by addressing the pressing challenges of our time. It encourages participants to think about their roles in creating a sustainable future, linking individual actions to collective responsibility for both people and the planet.

12.45 Lunch in Dining Hall

14.00 Practical Workshops and Open Spaces

Practical workshops offer interactive and hands-on learning experiences. Open spaces are informal, self-organized meetings on topics of shared interest, allowing for spontaneous collaboration and networking. Both will run all afternoon.

18.00 Farewell Dinner in Dining Hall

Meet in Common Room for apéritifs and group photo.

20.00 Closing Keynote Address *Jennifer De Coste (Canada)*

Jennifer is a community innovator from Nova Scotia, Canada, dedicated to building strong, connected communities. She founded Life.School.House, a global network of barter-based folk schools that foster grassroots skill sharing and reduce social isolation. Her latest venture, FireLoch, is a forest retreat space supporting the mental health of nonprofit changemakers. In her closing keynote, Jennifer will address the mental health of community builders –

a vital topic for the sustainability of folk high schools worldwide.

21.00 – Evening Social in the Lounge

Friday, July 18th

On Day 5 of the folkemøde, we will come together to reflect on our experiences, discuss next steps, and express gratitude as we conclude our gathering.

7.30 Breakfast in Dining Hall

8.30 Morning Fellowship

9.15 Reflection and Future Work

In this session, we will focus on brainstorming ideas and visions for enhancing international collaboration in various areas, including pedagogical training and development, collaborative research initiatives, cross-cultural exchanges, policy advocacy, collaborative learning, knowledge sharing, and more.

10.45 Break

11.00 Plenary Review & Concluding Remarks

Following the morning Open Space Session, participants will engage in a plenary review to reflect on the ideas generated and discuss next steps for implementing these collaborative initiatives.

12.45 Lunch in Dining Hall

14.00 See-You-Laters & Departure

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