

## Leah Engel

Hello, my name is Leah Engel, I'm 24 years old and I joined EIRENE through my voluntary service in Northern Ireland in 2019. Since then, I have been active at EIRENE in various ways, for example as part of the Eco-Schlunze, which deals with climate justice in the context of seminars. I have been part of the EIRENE Board since 2023 and I am involved in the area of RKVP/climate justice. I hope to be able to continue and deepen this work in the coming Board term in order to think strategically about the organisation, learn new things and make an active contribution.



I'm originally from Swabia, but my studies took me first to Göttingen and then to Frankfurt. There, I am studying for a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies and am looking at various issues relating to peace processes, global structures of injustice and the role of social movements. I am also passionately involved in the climate justice movement and other political movements. In my free time, I love being out in nature, climbing and playing football.

I am actively committed to a peaceful world in which the exploitation of people and nature and all other forms of injustice are history and we can live together in solidarity and without violence. I would like to expand on this as part of the EIRENE Board in order to initiate changes in society as a whole through strategic engagement.

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## Lena Haas

Since my two years of voluntary service at Arche Saint Antoine in France, I have been able to gain many enriching experiences at EIRENE, learn many new things and meet great people. I feel this deep connection especially in the last 5 years, in which I have been active as a volunteer in the seminar context and have helped to organise many different seminars. That is why I am particularly interested in the area of the volunteer programme on the Board and would be delighted to play an active role in shaping its future development. I am also very curious about the work of the Board and look forward to gaining more insight.



In my life outside of EIRENE, I am studying environmental protection in my second master's semester and I am active as a volunteer in the field of environmental education and the climate movement. I've lived in Tübingen for a few years now and I am rarely to be found there without my bike. Since my voluntary service, France has become my second home and I enjoy dancing to a wide variety of music from all over the world. I look forward to your trust and your vote in the board election.

## George William Härtling

My name is George William Härtling. I was a volunteer at EIRENE from 2021 to 2022. I was an international volunteer at the Bonn Brüserberg Youth Centre. I really enjoyed working with the young people. I was able to gain a good insight into German culture and start learning the language. The experience I gained there - especially a workshop on conflict management - motivated me to start a Master's degree programme **in Intercultural Conflict Management** at the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences in Berlin. In my master's thesis (2024), I evaluated EIRENE's "*Strong Neighbours*" project. This, and my involvement as a volunteer supporter of the new Ifdids from Uganda, kept me in touch with EIRENE even after my time as an active volunteer.



On the Board, I am particularly interested in **non-violence (especially in communication), youth work and sustainable development**. My studies have given me strong problem-solving skills. I have experience in implementing human rights projects, empirical research and communicating complex content to diverse target groups in an understandable way - skills that can strengthen EIRENE's commitment to peace, justice and dialogue. I am convinced that sustainable change comes from non-violent cooperation and respect for human dignity. That is why I want to contribute to inclusive participation, fair distribution of resources and peaceful conflict resolution.

P. S.: After I got married, I took my wife's surname, so my name is no longer **George William Ndibarema** but **George William Härtling**.

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## Judith Kaiser

Hello everyone, even though many of you know me by now, I would like to briefly introduce myself. I'm Judith, 34 years old, and from 2010 to 2011 I was a volunteer in Toronto and after that I was always involved with EIRENE as a volunteer in various areas until I stood for the Board in 2016 and have been a volunteer on the Board ever since.

I have been the treasurer of EIRENE since 2019 and would like to continue to support the organisation and work on new financial solutions despite the difficult times. I have also been the contact person for the volunteers programme since 2022 and have felt the energy, courage and will for change in many volunteers programme meetings. We have broken new ground together and I look forward to continuing to support the volunteers programme here.



Apart from that, I live with my small family in southern Hesse, enjoy hiking in the Odenwald and work for an organisation as head of volunteer services in southern Hesse (FSJ, BFD). I look forward to working with you and the Board of Directors over the next few years to continue to drive EIRENE forward. In two years' time, I am looking forward to EIRENE's big 70th anniversary.

## Jonas Laur

Hello dear EIRENE members,

Fight non-violently, resist, be uncomfortably honest, reach out compassionately, strive tirelessly for ambitious solutions and, despite everything, always sit mindfully and seek peace within. Never stop dreaming of a better world and do everything I can to make it happen. That is what I stand for.

What does EIRENE need now? Courage, compassion, creativity, clear words and the determination to tackle challenging paths to change in difficult times. Against the normalisation of violent conditions! For more peace service in the world!

I am currently completing my Master's degree in International Studies / Peace and Conflict Research in Frankfurt. From August 2025, I will be working with Peace Brigades International in Mexico for a year - in solidarity, non-violent protective accompaniment of threatened environmental and human rights defenders. A time of intensive learning and reflection. In the meantime, I would like to continue to support the work of the Executive Board from a distance - honestly with a reduced capacity, but with a clear head and a full heart. After that, I will be back in full force to discuss the principles of EIRENE with you.



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## Karla Mendez

I am 25 years old and have been living in Germany for about six years. My vision is a fairer and more peaceful world. My mission is to do something good and to stand up for my fellow human beings in Latin America. I have known EIRENE since I was 15 years old. In 2015 I meet an EIRENE peace worker in Nicaragua, with whom we initiated social projects together. In April 2019, I came to Germany with EIRENE and completed my International Peace Service (IFDiD) here. Since then, I have been in close contact with EIRENE. **I am particularly interested in international peace work - especially cooperation with Latin America.**

I bring a wide range of experience with me: I know the realities of life in Latin America very well. In addition to my training at GEPA mbH, where I learnt a lot about fair trade, I was able to expand my knowledge of international cooperation through my current work in a coffee collective that campaigns for fairer prices for coffee farmers, among other things. I am also a volunteer with the Jinotega City Friendship Association. I would be very happy to be part of the board of EIRENE. I am very keen to continue my commitment to a more peaceful and just world.



## Dr. Koffi Emmanuel Noglo

I got to know EIRENE in 2018 when I was looking for meaningful work in development cooperation. I got to know the "**racism-critical organisation**", worked for it (2018-2022), among other things as the person responsible for the "Peacebuilding Programme in the Sahel" and have been a member (out of conviction) since 2022.



Current socio-political developments worldwide reveal totalitarian tendencies that we thought were outdated just a few decades ago. I would therefore like to express my commitment even more concretely in the association (as a board member).

I have gained a lot of experience in project implementation and committee work in other organisations ("Brot für die Welt", "Norddeutsche Mission", "GIZ", etc.), which can enrich the Board. I will help to tackle issues such as "climate change", "decolonisation of international power structures", especially with regard to "**intersectionality (women-related)**", etc.

My expertise in project-related research work was expressed via EIRENE in 2019 (*NOGLO, K. Emmanuel: Vertrauensarbeit, wie verantwortliche Menschen, neben "notlindernden Maßnahmen fördern", in "Auf dem Weg zu einer Kirche der Gerechtigkeit und des Friedens, ein friedentheologisches Lesebuch, i. A. des Präsidiums der Synode der EKD ed. Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, Leipzig, 2019, pages 31-106"*). This would also enrich the Executive Board. I hope that my candidature would meet with interest.

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## Martina Richard

I joined EIRENE in 1998, worked here for 10 years as a Latin America consultant and lived in the house with my two daughters. So we have a long history together.

Professionally, I have travelled as a specialist in international cooperation, working in various countries in Central America and the Caribbean, and in recent years I have mainly been involved in remembrance work as part of the Civil Peace Service.

As part of the Board of Directors, I would like to get involved in peace cooperation in the South. I am convinced that EIRENE's work is pioneering in its specific approach and can make a good contribution to a better world.



## Tahirou Sy

I am Tahirou SY, a member of EIRENE since 2010 and a deputy member of the Executive Board since 2023.

I have been involved with EIRENE in various ways since 2002. First with the GENOVICO project and network in Niger, then as a peace expert in Mali, Burkina and as Regional Coordinator in the Great Lakes Region from 2012 to 2019.

From August 2019 to March 2022, I worked as a consultant for Nicaragua, consultant for planning-monitoring-evaluation and science management and RKVP coordinator in the EIRENE head quarter in Neuwied.



I bring with me all my experience from my work in all regions of EIRENE and also my knowledge of crisis prevention strategies and conflict management. My wish is to contribute to strategic considerations on the positioning of EIRENE, especially in Africa. I am also interested in supporting internal changes within the organisation.

I come from Mali and Niger and have been living in Germany for five years. I currently work as a Senior Programme Manager for Chad and Burkina Faso at a German foundation, Facilité-Sahel, which supports peace work in the Sahel region.

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## Solveig Velten

My connection to EIRENE goes back to 2014, when I was able to spend a few weeks as an intern at EIRENE. This was followed by participation in the thematic team and voluntary work in various positions and finally as a multiplier in the editorial team of the EIRENE newsletter. The highlight of my time at EIRENE was the voluntary service in Nicaragua after my studies and the subsequent seminar work, which led me to orientate myself professionally towards educational work. I have now been working professionally in various NGOs for six years and can contribute this experience, global learning and the diverse insights I have gained to seminar work.



I would be delighted to represent EIRENE on the Board and to be able to make a contribution to the important work (now more than ever). Thanks to my various positions at EIRENE, I can imagine working in many different areas. I am most interested in the volunteer programme and the communications department. I like to spend my free time in nature, especially in the mountains.