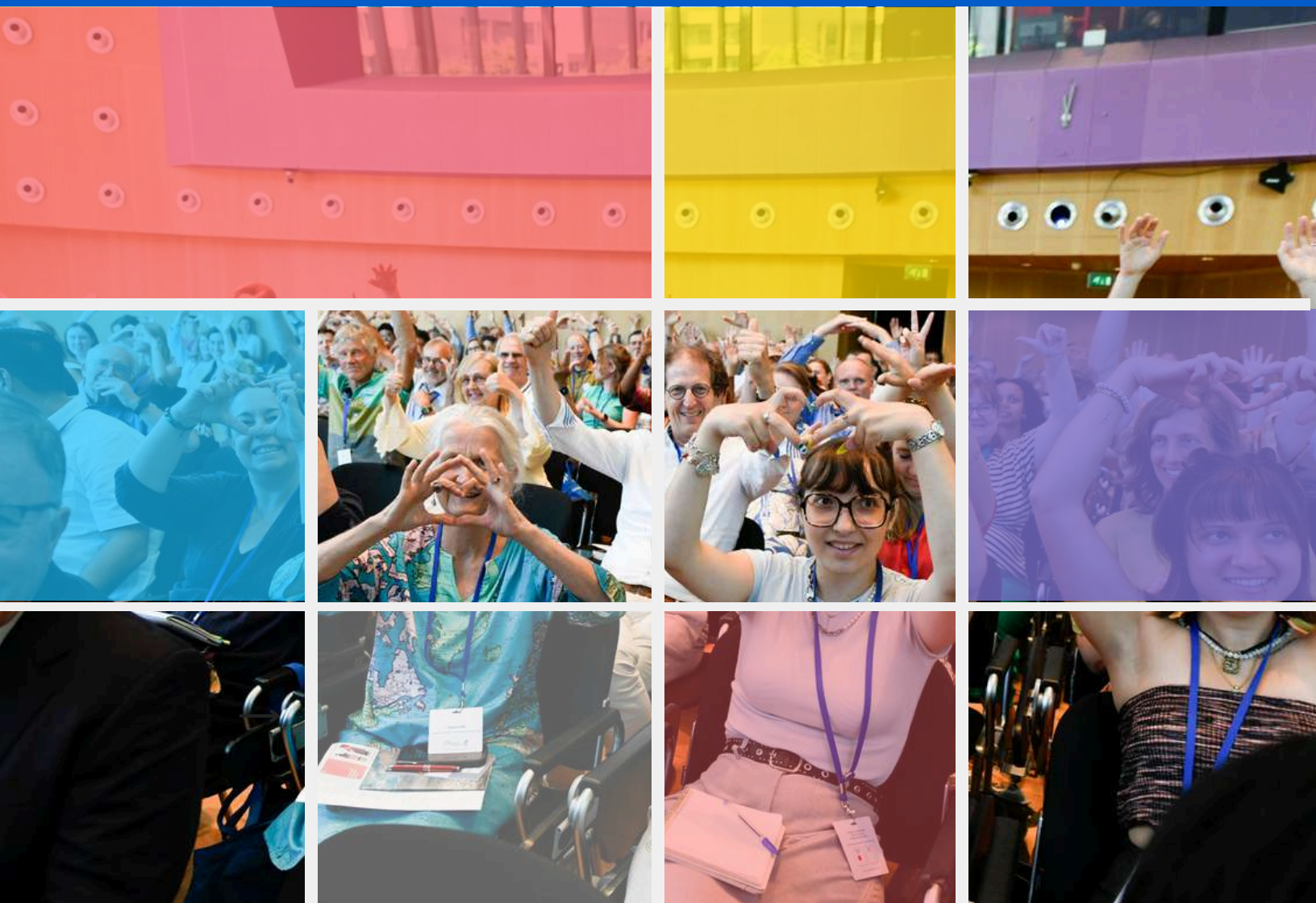
Earth Charter INTERNATIONAL

UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Development with the Earth Charter

unesco Chair

Seeds of Change: Educators Sowing the Earth Charter Vision Across the Globe



Earth Charter Educators

Educators carry the Earth Charter into classrooms, campuses, and communities. Through the Online Certificate Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, they join the Earth Charter Educators Network.

515 *Alumni*



EC Educator

Cathy Fitzgerald

Ireland/New Zealand



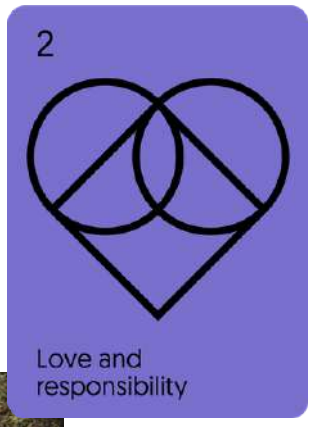
Cathy is an ecological artist and co-founder of Haumea Ecoversity—part of the global Ecoversities Alliance, pioneering ecoliteracy education in Ireland.

In 2021, she became an Earth Charter Educator. What stayed with her was “a profound appreciation for the Earth Charter’s overarching ecological vision to re-enchant education and guide our creativity for a better world."

The Earth Charter provides an ethical compass for all who learn at Haumea University.

Bringing the Earth Charter to cultural workers, Cathy and her co-facilitators also bring ecoliteracy training with the Earth Charter to Irish Local Authorities. She also oversaw the Earth Charter translated into Irish, opening its values to all in Ireland and the world's large Irish diaspora.







EC Educator

Ainhoa Garayar

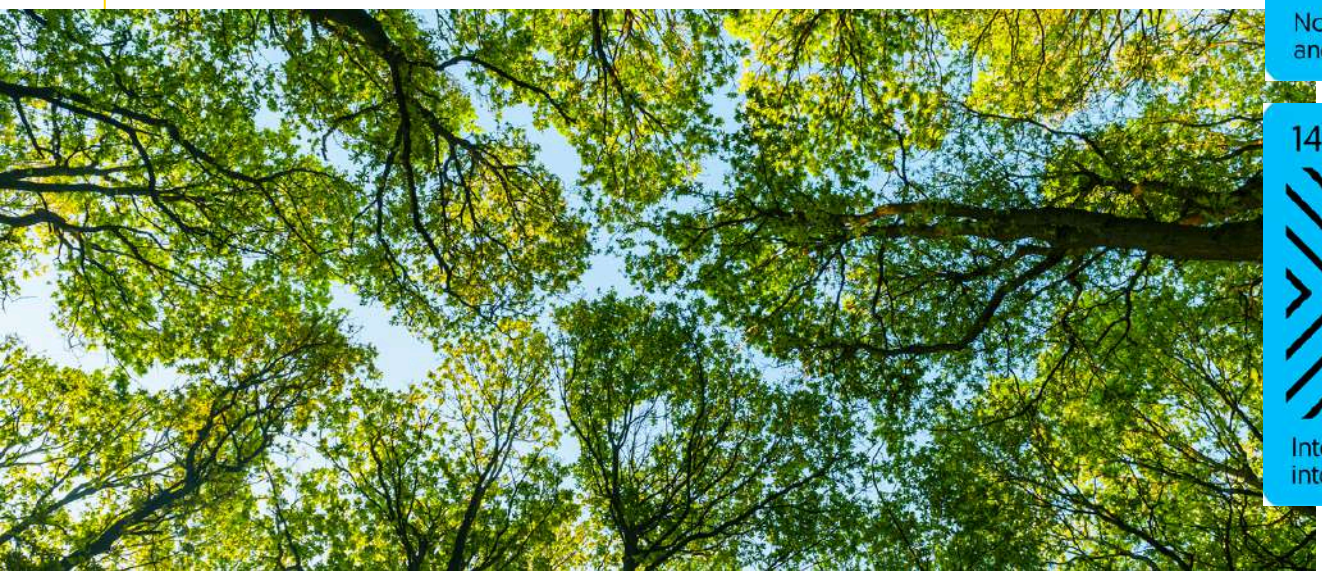
Spain

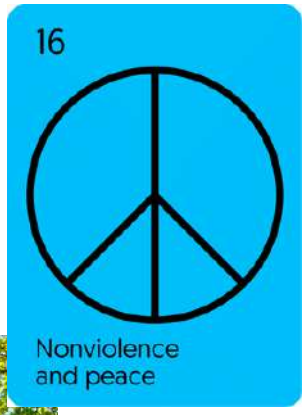


Ainhoa is a professor at the University of the Basque Country and academic director of its Master's Programme in Leadership and Change Management for Sustainability.

Through ECI's professional development programme in Education for Sustainable Development, she found in the Earth Charter an ethical guide for nurturing "wisdom, compassion, and ethical commitment" in her students. She went on to co-design a new master's programme inspired by the Earth Charter.

Today her students tackle real community challenges while exploring their own values, growing in self-awareness, collaboration, and care for the living world.











2

Love and responsibility

David Eduardo Velázquez

EC Educator

Mexico

David is a professor in the Faculty of Dentistry at the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, where he has championed the Earth Charter for twenty years.

After joining ECI's programme in Education for Sustainable Development, he deepened his work placing care for the community of life at the heart of health education. Two degree programmes at his faculty now include a course built around the four pillars of the Earth Charter.

Today, through the ACT4SDGs project, David helps fellow teachers bring sustainability and the Earth Charter into their classrooms, with some 60 syllabi redesigned so far.



EC Educator

Heidy Vega

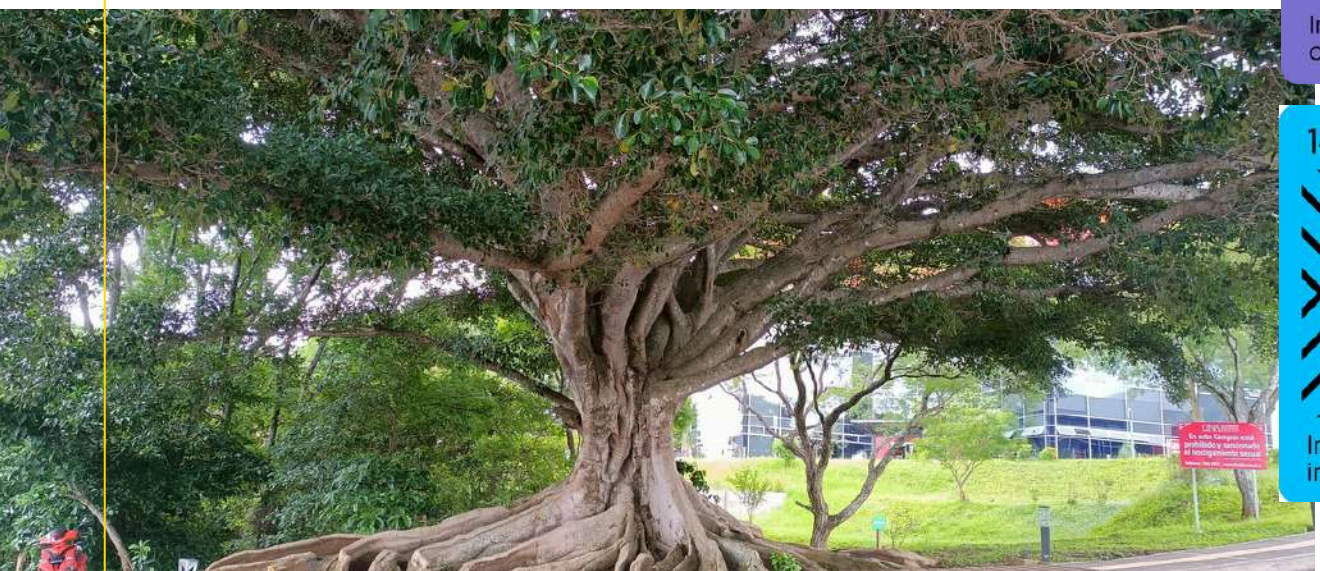
Costa Rica



Heidy is an academic in the School of Humanities at the National University in Heredia, Costa Rica. Since 2005, her course “Ecocitizenship in Action with the Earth Charter” has reached some 3,000 students.

In 2024 she joined the course “Artistic Resources for Playful Learning of the Principles of the Earth Charter.” Through poetry, photography, and movement, a fig tree on campus became her teacher: its roots, her family and learning; its branches, her gifts to society.

Today Heidy weaves story, meditation, and art into her classes, inviting students to find the Earth Charter in everyday places and to care for the living world they belong to.



1

Interdependence of all life

14

Integrate values into education





14

Integrate values into education

Mahmoud Harkouss

EC Educator

Lebanon

Mahmoud is a Migrant Training Specialist with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Lebanon. Through his work preparing migrants for resettlement in new countries, he supports intercultural understanding and helps people navigate new cultural environments.

For the Online Certificate on Education for Sustainable Development, he assessed Monte Lebanon Montessori School. He found a food forest, beekeeping, peace education and water conservation already woven into daily life.

The Earth Charter gave the school words for what it already lived, and gave Mahmoud a new lens. Today he notices how people relate, how nature is present, and whose voices are heard. “The project ended, but the curiosity did not.”



EC Educator

Paula Seymour

United States

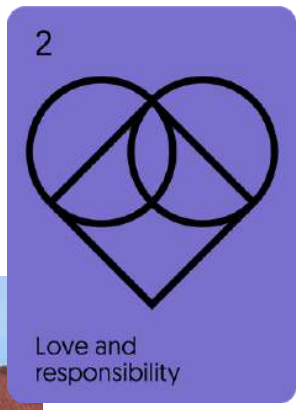


Paula is an educator at Flagler College in the United States, with twenty-seven years of teaching and a doctoral background in philosophy and spirituality.

Through ECI's Online Certificate Program on Education for Sustainable Development, she came to see wonder, grief, awe, and love as the "very engine" of sustainability education. For her final project, she co-designed her college's first Earth Charter Campus Chapter, building it hand in hand with students Ethan Sacks and Cameron Groome.

Today the chapter is officially recognized on campus, and Ethan and Cameron have carried their leadership to the Earth Charter Youth Summit alongside peers from more than twenty countries.







EC Educator

Ruohan Zhong

China

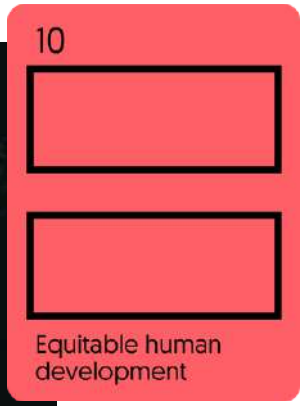


Ruohan Zhong teaches at the Business School of Liaoning University in China, with a long-held care for sustainability, ethics, and the student experience.

Through ECI's Online Certificate on Education for Sustainable Development, Ruohan found in the Earth Charter "a practical compass for turning values into pedagogy, and pedagogy into responsibility." For the final project, Ruohan redesigned a Corporate Governance course around the four pillars of the Earth Charter, opening space for deep ecology, intergenerational justice, and accountability to every stakeholder.

Today Ruohan's students ask bigger questions: Who does the corporation serve? Whose voices are missing? What do we owe future generations? To fellow educators, Ruohan offers a simple invitation: "Begin with one course, one question, one pillar."







EC Educator

Nicole Jirón Beirute

Costa Rica



Nicole met the Earth Charter at 17, promoting its consultation process within the student movement of the University of Costa Rica (UCR). The Earth Charter was still being written, and she helped shape the conversation.

In 2001 she served as the first Youth Coordinator for Earth Charter International. That path led her toward peace, democracy, and dialogue as a sociologist and certified mediator.

Today she teaches at UCR, where the Earth Charter invites her students to imagine a science that cares for life. Her chapter in Springer's Handbook of Ecological Civilization presents the Earth Charter as a pedagogical opportunity to imagine a "bio-civilization."



8

Share knowledge

13

Transparency and participation

EC Educator

Silvia Ferrero Latham

Italy/United Kingdom



Silvia is a UK-based anthropologist and transformational coach, facilitating personal growth and sustainability workshops across charities, schools, and businesses.

Through the ECI's Education for Sustainable Development program, Silvia grounded her commitment in the principle that true sustainability begins from within. She designed her final project as a transformative workshop model offering participants experiences of personal growth and sustainability as intertwined processes, translating self-love, self-compassion, and self-respect into concrete sustainable actions.

Today, as a transformational coach, EC Educator, and School Seal Verifier, Silvia expands this vision through talks and 'Walk and Talk' sessions for charities, offering a gentle space to reconnect with nature supporting emotional wellbeing and care for our shared living world.



