

2020 THE RED BOOK

ANNUAL REPORT WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION



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THE **RED** BOOK WSCF ANNUAL REPORT

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Introduction from the Outgoing General Secretary



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The year 2020 has been one of the most challenging years in our life as a human family. The COVID-19 global pandemic radically altered our lives in unprecedented ways, the extent of which is still unknown. What should have been our general assembly year turned out to be a period of discernment as we grappled with the uncertainties brought about by the pandemic.

With the in-person general assembly postponed and most physical gatherings put on hold indefinitely, the Federation is discovering creative pathways so that it can continue to congregate, finding its way through the uncharted terrain of this so-called New Normal. We must remember that WSCF is a wellspring of hope. As a faith community that has been in existence for 137 years, WSCF has survived two world wars, numerous pandemics and natural disasters, and major global economic and political upheavals. No doubt its journey of faithful witness and service will continue under this existing condition.

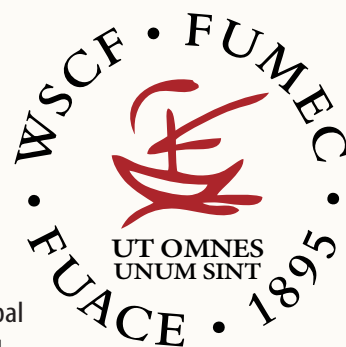
As I end my five-year term as WSCF general secretary in December 2020, I feel that it is proper to begin my final message with words of gratitude and hope. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve the Federation at this time in its history, and to work with extraordinary individuals and teams that served with passion, commitment, integrity, and love for WSCF and what it stands for.

To the members of the Transition Team and officers, Georgine, Bronwyn, Immanuel, Salma, Marco, Pretty, Chris and Salters; to the members of the Executive Committee and the regional committees; to our senior friends in the WSCF Centennial Fund Board, the US Trustees, and WSCF Canada Trustees; to the members of the various Working Groups who shared their time and expertise for the work of the WSCF; to my colleagues in the global staff team, Jean-Luc, Sunita, Elsy, Mira, Marcelo, Luciano, Yenny, Amos, Maxwell, Chris and Natia – to each one of you, my deepest gratitude for the challenging yet profoundly rewarding journey that we shared together.

To our funding partners, I am eternally grateful to you all for the many times you have shown support, understanding and patience, graciously giving advice and constructive criticism without which my job as WSCF general secretary would have been more arduous. May our loving Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his favour.

Since 2015, I have witnessed how a community of believers coming from different generations, faith traditions, and geographic and cultural backgrounds has transcended barriers and committed to remain united as faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ in today's world. It has not been through calm and peaceful waters that we have traveled in this ecumenical boat. It has been stormy, unknown and filled with challenges. But we were never alone in this journey. God has shown us signs of hope, providing the compass that set us forth and guided our ecumenical voyage.

As a sign of our visible unity in mission, we adopted and put in motion what the WSCF had been yearning to do in the previous decades: a Global Strategic Plan to anchor our programmatic life as a federation in all levels. In the past five years from 2016 to 2020,



Introduction from the General Secretary

all the six regional bodies of WSCF have worked together on common strategic themes, in the process creating synergy, stronger presence, impact and tangible results within our constituency – the ecumenical youth and student movement – and enabling us to achieve a common mission and vision with churches and the wider ecumenical movement.

Our advocacy work on Eco-Justice has brought to the UN COP global platform the WSCF's consistent leadership in lifting up the voices of young people from the Global South on the issues of climate justice. Key in navigating this space is networking with ecumenical partners and churches that support youth empowerment and participation. Our capacity-building program in Latin America has enabled our member movements to actively participate in community actions, awareness-building and climate strikes, and to conduct events to respond to the call for climate and environmental justice.

Our IDD work saw two landmark interregional events held in India (2017) and Nairobi (2019) that brought together representatives from our various movements to deepen our biblical and theological understanding and analysis of the contextual realities of sexual orientation and gender

identity (SOGI). Both programs recommended continuing the dialogue and creating more spaces at the regional and national levels in the Middle East and Africa.

We count on these processes to bring us closer to the realisation of our prayer that the WSCF will one day become an inclusive and affirming Christian organisation.

Our Peace-Building Program culminated during this period in two inter-regional events – a conference in Egypt in 2017 and a capacity-building training in Lebanon in 2018 – which focused on peace and overcoming violence in Palestine and the Middle East as a whole. Both occasions placed a stronger focus on our advocacy and solidarity work for Palestine following the Palestine Policy Paper that was adopted during the 35th General Assembly in 2015. We also developed a Peace-Building Curriculum for youth and young adults.

Our Interfaith Dialogue activities have been organised yearly in our Europe and the Middle East regions. Through these activities, members of our SCMs have been given opportunities to engage in face-to-face dialogue with people of other faiths and to discuss common contextual realities and challenges, in particular with anti-multiculturalism, anti-immigration, and right-wing ideologies and propaganda. Campaigns such as Combating Hate Speech have been launched to create grassroots awareness among the youth on these issues.

When we started implementing our Global Strategic Plan in 2016, our goals were modest: we simply wanted to work together towards common thematic goals, our expectations tempered with an acute awareness of the challenges posed by our many diversities. But working within one global programmatic framework turned out to be one of the major accomplishments of the Federation in the past five years.

There is still of course the unfinished business of putting our organisational structure in sync with the Global Strategic Plan, particularly the staff model. From 2016 to 2019, a transitional staff structure was put in place whereby the role of our executive staff – formerly our regional secretaries – in program management and direction was substantially expanded to include strategic programs with a global vision and scope. This experiment proved successful in reorienting our mindset so that our regional agendas become global priorities and our global themes find expression in regional and local campaigns and activities, in the process bringing cohesion and a common strategic direction to our programming across all levels of the Federation.

I pass the baton of leadership to the next team confident that I'll be leaving behind a WSCF united in its grasp of its subjective condition and objective realities, a Federation that has learned to overcome its internal organisational crises by focusing on its mission and vision, a Federation that is truly alive, dynamic and able to face the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic and its aftermath with the resilience that has enabled it to remain uniquely relevant throughout its history.

I dedicate all our efforts and accomplishments to God – the One that made all things possible and the only One that is truly our hope.

In the service of God and People,

Necta Montes
Outgoing General Secretary
December 2020



Introduction from the Incoming General Secretary



**Dear WSCF friends,
brothers and sisters in Christ,**

It is a great pleasure to write these lines addressed to the entire WSCF community, our Senior Friends and partners in mission, who have remained with us for many years and, in 2020 – one of the most difficult years not only in our history as a federation but also as humanity – reaffirmed their commitment to our organisation at the international level.

The COVID-19 pandemic has stricken everyone in every corner of the world. It has caused a health crisis resulting in millions of sick and dead people. It has also exacerbated existing crises such as increasing inequalities, poverty and exclusion, violations of human rights, conflicts and violence. It has affected the employment and livelihoods of millions of people on our planet. All of this, in addition to the substantial changes in our ways of relating, thinking and acting both on an interpersonal and institutional level.

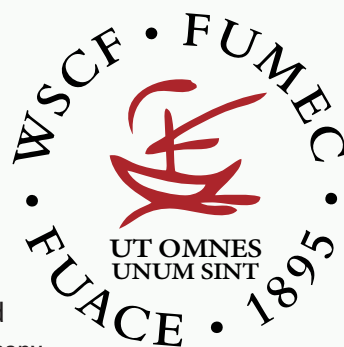
This is my first message as WSCF's general secretary, addressing the entire Federation through our RedBook. For many years I have been regional secretary/executive director for the Latin America and the Caribbean region. And now I have been given the honour of being elected by the WSCF Executive Committee (ExCo) to succeed our dear colleague, Necta Montes, general secretary of the Federation from 2015 to 2020.

My responsibility is great because I am taking over from a tireless, hard-working woman who has worked for the unity of the ecumenical movement and the fight for justice in her work as executive leader of the Federation; always faithful to the historical identity of WSCF and committed to transformation processes in order to adapt WSCF to a new moment in history in which many organisational and strategic changes began. To Necta Montes, our greetings and deep gratitude.

At the time of writing, we continue to live a world reality with very special characteristics. The COVID-19 crisis that has so affected our lives, particularly the lives of the historically most vulnerable people, still continues to be part of our daily reality. As WSCF, we are faced with uncertainties and anxieties, for as an organisation we are used to developing strong territorial and on-site work in projects based on transformation processes focused on our regions and affiliated movements.

The uncertainties that we have encountered with the pandemic have led us as a federation to rethink our ways of working; at times without knowing which methods to use or what actions to take due to uncertainties about the near future. However, we have also found moments in which our decisions are steadier, realising new achievements that allow us to develop new reflection and action. The global uncertainty has entailed that the WSCF walk step by step at the interregional level, reflecting and planning for the short term in programmatic terms, but at the same time thinking about the future of the Federation with a long-term vision.

In this sense, this report gives an account of many of the changes that WSCF has carried out in order to adapt to the global situation, without losing the passion for work, unity and justice that has historically characterized us as a youth ecumenical community.



Introduction from the Incoming General Secretary

The migration of WSCF action into the field of virtuality and the digital world was a necessary and swift step that our organisation – both in terms of governance and programs – has taken in 2020 so that, on one hand, we can move forward with the structural and strategic changes we needed to do, and on the other, so that we can continue journeying together in this suffering world. By doing so, we managed to continue with our main strategies: capacity-building and leadership training for youth and students, solidarity and international advocacy, biblical-theological reflection, ecumenical celebration and communion, and the accompaniment of those movements and members who lived under difficult circumstances during the toughest times of the pandemic.

One of the most important adjustments we had to do was the rescheduling of the assembly of our highest decision-making body, the 37th WSCF General Assembly. This global convocation was initially scheduled for June 2020 but, after a detailed analysis of global sanitary conditions, was postponed to mid-2022.

At the institutional level, the postponement of the 37th GA also meant extending the current strategic plan of WSCF for 2015-2019 up to 2021 and adapting it to the current international situation and the variations that the COVID-19 crisis has caused. It was a decision that was not easy to make, but one that we considered the best course of action in order to continue working in the areas and programs that have been important to the Federation during the last five years: Ecological Justice; Identity, Diversity and Dialogue; Peace-Building; Higher Education; and Interfaith Dialogue.

All the programmatic work of the Federation has been based on these strategic themes, adapted and contextualised to our different regions, traditions and cultures – a strategy that acknowledges a unique feature of the WSCF identity: a diversity engendered by its more than 100 affiliated movements around the world.

TRANSITIONS AND PLANS

Along with the planning of the General Assembly for the year 2022, the WSCF in 2021 will resume and deepen internal structural processes that seek to generate impact on two levels: on one hand, updating our operational work to strengthen our internal processes towards transforming structures of injustice; and on the other, ensuring that such processes facilitate our work abroad and at the international level in order to fulfil our mission.

Firstly, WSCF has decided to organise an online or virtual Extraordinary General Assembly (V-GA) that will take place at the end of July 2021. The task of this Extraordinary General Assembly will be to constitute the Federation's new leadership: the election of officers – chairperson, two (2) vice chairpersons (one of whom shall be a student), and honorary treasurer – and the official confirmation of the new Executive Committee.

In the second semester, WSCF will resume the internal processes that began in 2019, which comprise the main governance tasks of the Federation at the global level: 1) framing the Global Strategic Plan for the 2022-2026 quadrennial period; 2) reorganisation and implementation of the new staff model; 3) and updating and modernising our accountability systems and transparency frameworks. These three major processes aim to strengthen WSCF institutionally and operationally in order to make our internal cooperation as well as our work with our mission friends and partner organizations more precise, dynamic and adapted to the current times.

As our colleague and friend Necta said, WSCF throughout its 137 years of history has been a living testimony and a prophetic voice of resistance in the face of pandemics, world wars, global economic crises and natural catastrophes of great magnitude. It has always been steadfast through the voice and action of the Student Christian Movements.

We live in a complex world full of uncertainty, and as a federation that is renewed day by day, it is our mission to give an account of the testimony of Jesus Christ in our world. Together, from different traditions and cultures, generations, disciplines and regional contexts, we embrace our unique identity to continue being a federation that trains student and youth leaders around the world to stand up and work for economic and ecological justice, for conflict resolution and non-violent resistance, for the rights of all people without distinction, and for biblical reflection and ecumenical community celebration.

We hope that all of you will continue to accompany us in this journey so that together, we can contribute to making another world possible.

Stay healthy,
stay Safe,
stay in Solidarity.

Marcelo Leites
Incoming General Secretary

This program report highlights the outputs and impacts of global and regional activities and projects implemented in 2020 under the thematic programs of Ecological Justice; Identity, Diversity and Dialogue; Peace-Building and Dialogue; and Interfaith Dialogue. These initiatives were carried out to meet the program objectives of the WSCF Strategic Plan.

Ecological Justice

WSCF's Ecojustice Program aims to promote climate justice through public advocacy processes directed at international governance bodies, working in partnership with ecumenical institutions, churches and various stakeholder networks upholding the youth and student voice on ecological issues.

Gender Equality and Human Rights in a time of COVID-19 and Climate Change

SEPTEMBER 22 / WEBINAR

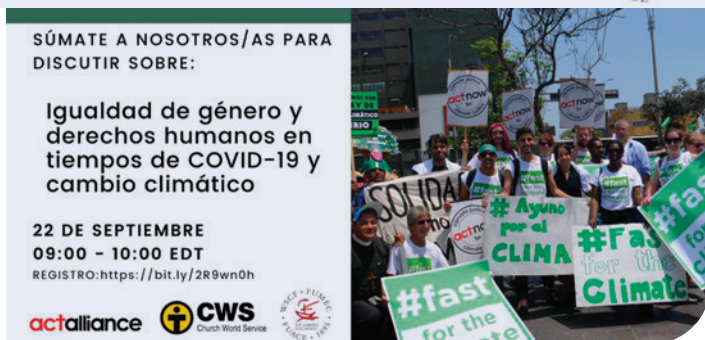
More than 130 activists from around the world gathered virtually on September 22 to discuss the topic, "Gender Equality and Human Rights in a time of COVID-19 and Climate Change". The webinar was organised by WSCF-LAC together with ACT Now for Climate Justice and the Church World Service (CWS).

The panelists represented organisations from different parts of the world: Mary Obiero from CWS Africa, Alexandre Pupo from KOINONIA Brazil, Tara Daniel from Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), and Jasmine Huggins from ACT Alliance/CWS.

Each of the resource persons is engaged in their own contexts in problems related to gender-based, ethnic and racial discrimination. They talked about how these problems are not only the results but also the fundamental causes of environmental destruction and climate disruption. The entrenched structural and systemic inequalities that give rise to discrimination along these lines also explain the



Photo: Albin Hillert/LWF



disproportionate negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on women, indigenous groups, environmentalists, and human rights defenders.

The participants in turn shared the experiences and solutions of communities on the frontlines of climate change and COVID-19 and explored ways to replicate and broaden these engagements.

Taking off from some action points identified in the webinar, WSCF, CWS and ACT Alliance planned to carry out follow-through initiatives within the framework of the ACT Alliance working group on Gender, Human Rights and Climate Justice, and for the WSCF, the global Eco-Justice Program. Incoming WSCF General Secretary Marcelo Leites and Jasmine Huggins serve as co-chairs of ACT Alliance's Gender Justice and Human Rights team.

A recording of the webinar, which ran for an hour on Facebook, was posted on Vimeo and is available for viewing here:

bit.ly/3B4i2He. ■



[Clockwise from top left] Jasmine Huggins, ACT Alliance and CWS; Mary Obiero, CWS Africa; Tara Daniel, Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO); and Alexandre Pupo, KOINONIA

SCM Nigeria Climate Actions Program: Tree-planting and World Environment Day virtual conference

MAY 20, IBADAN, NIGERIA; JUNE 3 / ONLINE

As part of its Climate Actions Program, the SCM of Nigeria organised a tree-planting activity on May 20 at the Institute of Church and Society in Ibadan, Oyo State. Sixteen participants took part in the exercise, including the general secretary of the Christian Council of Nigeria, The Very Reverend Evans Enamekere. It was jointly organised by SCM Nigeria, the Christian Council of Nigeria, and the Institute of Church and Society.

The movement's executive secretary, Peter 'Dare Ajongbo, considered the event a success but lamented the fact that they had few trees available for planting. Peter stressed the need for funds in order to purchase more tree crops for planting.

Following the tree-planting activity, SCM Nigeria organised a World Environment Day (WED) Zoom conference on June 3.

It aimed to bring the movement's advocacy for a healthy and safe environment and the importance of preserving God's creation in nature to every Christian youth, student leader, and the public at large. The conference was attended by 65 participants.

With the large number of participants, lack of adequate resources such as data and power supply was among the challenges faced by the organisers in holding the virtual conference. The program has yet to reach many other states and sectors represented in the SCM of Nigeria. The movement is keen on replicating the same program in other parts of Nigeria as funds and resources are made available.

Resources permitting, SCM Nigeria is also looking forward to holding a physical conference on climate change and environmental advocacy.

Also part of the movement's Climate Actions Program are the waste management training activities it has organised for students. SCM Nigeria plans to continue with this project in order to help students learn how to manage the excess waste in their environment and use them to generate income for their communities. ■

The executive secretary of SCM Nigeria together with the general secretary of the Christian Council of Nigeria leading the tree-planting activity held in Ibadan, Nigeria on May 20, 2020



Identity, Diversity and Dialogue

WSCF's Identity, Diversity and Dialogue (IDD) Program aims to initiate the process of dialogue, create spaces and develop theological understanding for the SCMs on human sexuality.

المرأة في المفهوم
المسيحي

Women in Christianity

MAY 19 / WEBINAR

On May 19, WSCF Middle East hosted a webinar presented by Rev. Dr. Rima Nasrallah entitled, "Women in Christianity". The webinar was held via Zoom and on Facebook and was attended by 45 participants from the region.

Rev. Dr. Nasrallah is an assistant professor at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon. Her interests include contemporary Eastern Christian studies, the empirical study of lived theology, and the practices of faith in everyday life with special attention to gender, context, and the arts. She is an ordained minister of the National Evangelical Church of Beirut.

Dr. Nasrallah traced the traditional negative position of women in



النساء حول المسيح أصبحن مبشرات
ولا هويات



Christianity and in the churches today to the historically male interpretation of the Bible:

- Blaming Eve as the cause of the Fall for tempting Adam to eat the forbidden fruit; and because of Eve's seduction of Adam, associating the woman's body and sexuality with sin;
- Women's bodily functions from menstruation to pregnancy reinforcing the notion of women's bodies as impure and therefore requiring purification for periods at a time by law;
- The epistles in the New Testament as mandate for male domination over women's bodies, for women's subordination and silencing in the presence of men, justifying women's exclusion from collective worship and limiting their role to marriage under man's authority.

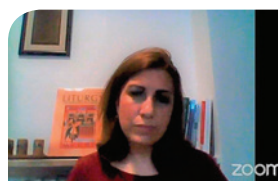
According to Dr. Nasrallah, it is important to acknowledge these notions in Christianity. They call for a revision, which requires understanding the original language of the Bible, the cultural context, the author's intent, and the early listeners.



In order to counter the dominant interpretations that hold negative positions against women, Dr. Nasrallah believes it is necessary to read the Bible through the lens of Jesus and his life. Many examples in the Bible show that Jesus elevated the status of women.

- There were many women in Jesus's immediate circle and apostles, including Mary Magdalene, regarded in the Orthodox Church as the "apostle to the apostles". These women followers were among the earliest preachers.
- Jesus did not consider women's bodies impure, as seen in the story of his healing of the bleeding woman.
- Jesus valued what women have to say, which he demonstrated when he engaged in deep spiritual conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well.

The lack of female leadership within the Church was raised during the discussions. All over the world, there are many initiatives and advocacies to expand women's roles in the Church. In the Arab world, Dr. Nasrallah believes Christians continue to view women through a societal lens and not through Jesus's eyes. She said there are plenty of references and examples within the Christian tradition to restore women's rightful place in the Church and society, but the problem in the Arab world is more cultural in nature.



A recording of the webinar, which ran for almost an hour, was posted on WSCF-ME's Facebook page and is available for viewing here: bit.ly/3kfCyhl. ■



Gender Justice and LGBTQI+

3rd Session: Online Course on “Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms, and the Role of Ecumenical Youth”

NOVEMBER 6 / WEBINAR

Forty students from 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean gathered online on November 6 to participate in a webinar on the topic, “Gender Justice and LGBTQI+”, the second thematic module of the online course, “Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms, and the Role of Ecumenical Youth”, conducted by WSCF-LAC.

The “Gender Justice and LGBTQI+” module was designed within the framework of the global IDD (Identity, Diversity and Dialogue) program of the WSCF. “Eco-Justice” and “Peacebuilding and Non-Violent Resistance” are the two other thematic modules of the online course.

The webinar addressed a range of topics related to “Gender Justice and LGBTQI+” based on contributions from the following panelists:

- Priscila Barredo, a social communicator, theologian, feminist activist, teacher in the area of gender and theology at the Faculty of Theology and Religion AETE, and member of Tepali Network, a network of women theologians, pastors, activists and Christian leaders
- Bob Luiz Bothelo, reverend of the Ancient Church of the Americas, and a missionary in Evangélicxs pela Diversidade
- Ezequiel Hanke, theologian, human rights activist and researcher on secularism, freedom and religious intolerance in relation to gender and human rights

The conversation and exchange took place around the following topics:

- gender perspective in popular Bible reading
- activism of the LGBTQI+ community
- Christianity, the relevance of spirituality and the community of faith for the LGBTQI+ community
- role of ecumenical youth and activism in the construction of a more inclusive and just society with women and diversities
- feminisms and their historical struggles and advances
- importance of feminist theology in our faith communities and churches

The participants interacted via Zoom and Facebook chats, asking questions or sharing experiences within their churches and movements. The conversations among the participants continued post-session via a Facebook chat group created for the participants.

A recording of the webinar was posted on YouTube and is available for viewing here: bit.ly/3y7Jgeq.

Tercera Sesión

Segundo bloque temático: Justicia de género y LGBTQI+
Curso virtual Democracia, DDHH, Fundamentalismos y el Rol de la Juventud Ecuménica

Tercera sesión del curso virtual sobre Democracia, Derechos Humanos, Fundamentalismos y el Rol de la Juventud Ecuménica de la FUMECALC WSCF-LAC

Invitados:

Priscila Barredo Pantti: Mexicana, Comunicadora social, Teóloga, Activista feminista y docente del área de Género y Teología en la Facultad de Teología y Religión AETE

Bob Luiz Botelho: Reverendo de la Iglesia Antigua de Las Américas, sirve como misionero en Evangélicxs Pela Diversidade

Ezequiel Hanke: Teólogo y activista por los derechos humanos. Investiga sobre laicidad, libertad e intolerancia religiosa en relación a género y DD.HH

Modera: **Angelica Tostes** es teóloga e investigadora del Instituto Tricontinental de Pesquisa Social. Trabaja con la teología feminista y el diálogo interreligioso y es parte de la Global Interfaith Network

Organiza: Federación Universal de Movimientos Estudiantiles Cristianos en América Latina y el Caribe

Invitan: UniReformada, AIPRAL, ALC, CONIC, REET, Evangélicxs pela Diversidade, actalianza, SEDI, ConSf, K27

ABOUT THE COURSE

The online course was designed within the framework of “democracy and fundamentalisms”, a main thematic focus of WSCF-LAC for 2020-2025. It addressed the relationships between democracy, human rights and the rise of fundamentalisms, and identified the role of ecumenical youth in promoting transformative practices and political advocacy in the region.

The course, which ran from October 23 to November 14, was conducted in five webinars: an introductory session on fundamentalisms; three thematic sessions on socio-environmental justice, gender justice and LGBTQI+, and on peacebuilding and nonviolent resistance; and a fifth and final session on communication tools for advocacy. An asynchronous thematic session on Christian Zionism and fundamentalisms in Latin America was also held.

Each session was attended by an average of 40 students (29 in synchronous mode via Zoom, and 11 in asynchronous mode) representing 11 countries and different Christian denominations and faith-based organisations in the region. Theologians, students, lawyers, experts in social and natural sciences, political analysts, communicators and experts in advocacy from various ecumenical organisations, churches, universities, and women’s networks participated as facilitators and panelists.

The online course was organised by WSCF-LAC with UniReformada, AIPRAL, Comunidad Teológica de México, ALC Noticias, CONIC, REET, and Evangélicxs pela Diversidade as co-conveners. ■

PROGRAMS

Identity, Diversity and Dialogue



Bangladesh SCM National Cultural Workshop

MARCH 5-7, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

The Student Christian Movement of Bangladesh organised the National Cultural Workshop 2020 on the theme, "Culturalisation towards Transformation", based on Philippians 2:5, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

The workshop was held from March 5 to 7 at the Retreat cum Conference Center of the Church of Bangladesh. The objective of this workshop was to empower the young student leaders

from the units through cultural presentations, performances and biblical reflection.

All in all, 55 members from the nine units of Bangladesh SCM got together to learn and share experiences. On the last day of the workshop, the number of participants swelled to around 110 with students, senior friends and advisers attending the solidarity and fellowship program. ■



Peace-Building and Dialogue

WSCF's Peace-Building and Dialogue Program aims to mobilise the Federation on issues pertaining to overcoming violence and building peace with a focus on the situations in the Middle East and Colombia.

Christian Zionism and Fundamentalisms in Latin America: Ecumenical Perspectives

OCTOBER 2 / WEBINAR

The first webinar on "Christian Zionism and Fundamentalisms in Latin America" was held on October 2 via Zoom. It was organised within the framework of the "Democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalisms" program of WSCF-LAC and the campaign "Cry for Hope" of the Global Kairos for Justice Coalition.

Political, economic and religious fundamentalisms in Latin America – especially in faith communities – reinforce the hegemonic discourse promoted from the world's great centers of political and media power. This contributes to the constant and growing risks that Palestinians have endured for more than 50 years, increasingly intensified by the expansion of apartheid policies and the annexation of the

occupied Palestinian territories by the Israeli government.

Christian Zionism arises from an anachronistic and decontextualised theological vision of the meaning of "the people of God". Supported by

the ideological and economic devices of Israel and its international allies, it contributes to the creation of common meanings and supports the myth of the State of Israel as the chosen people, claiming divine right to eliminate the culture, ways of life, economy, indeed the very existence of the Palestinian people. This is not only a wrong interpretation of the Bible, but also a violation of international humanitarian law and the human rights of thousands upon thousands of Palestinian people who live under military occupation.

This webinar was organised to examine the relationship between fundamentalisms in Latin America and Christian Zionism and their impact on the Palestinian struggle. Different activists for the rights of the Palestinian people and the Christian communities in Palestine made presentations during the webinar:

SEMINARIO WEB

EL SIONISMO CRISTIANO Y LOS FUNDAMENTALISMOS EN LATINOAMÉRICA

Perspectivas ecuménicas

Viernes 2 de Octubre

18:30 Arg/Bra
16:30 Col/Perú/Mex
Vía ZOOM
Inscripción:
shorturl.at/IMNR4

Exponen:

Dra. Nancy Cardoso
Teóloga feminista
Universidad Metodista de Angola

Dr. Prof. Felipe Burela
Teólogo, Pastor y activista

Facilitación y contexto:

- María Landi, Global Kairos por Justicia Latinoamérica
- Marcelo Leites, FUMECALC

Organizan

Kairos
Global for Justice

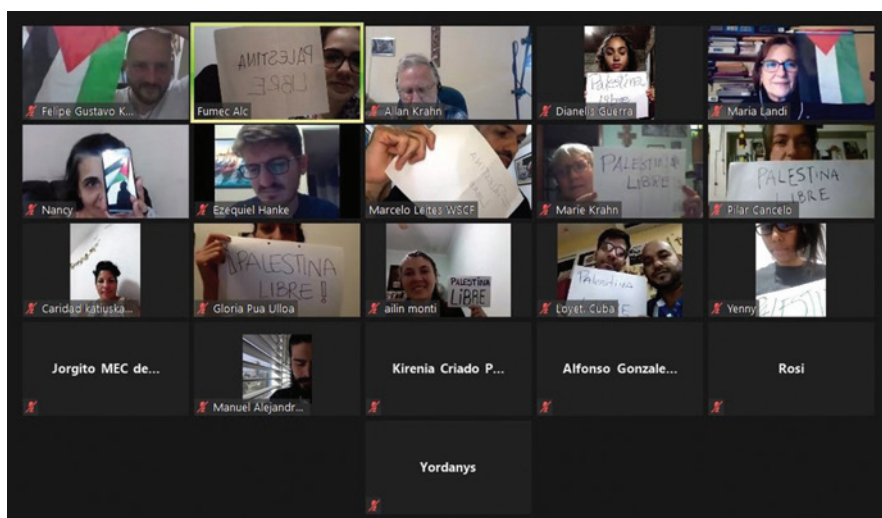
FUMECALC
WSCF LAC

Invitan

alc
Agencia Ecuaménica de Comunicación
Rede América Latina y Caribe

KOINONIA

www.cryforhope.org / www.fumecalc.org



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WSCF Global Talks: COVID-19, its Social Intersections and the Role of the SCMs

JUNE 27 / WEBINAR

WSCF Global Talks

COVID-19, ITS SOCIAL INTERSECTION AND THE ROLE OF THE SCMs

First talk

**Saturday, June 27
13GMT**

Registration here:
shorturl.at/jmoA9

COVID-19 as a global pandemic has its own effect on the health and lives of people. However, the crisis has exacerbated the profound inequalities system that we live with and have presented to us different intersections that impact in the lives of the most vulnerable in different ways: the poor, the informal workers, the women, the youth unemployment, the forced migration, and refugee status, and the weakness of democracies at the time to align the focus of the state to prevent, avert and minimize the impact of COVID and its multiples dimensions and intersections.

Bob Luiz Botelho
SCM Brazil

Mira Neaimeh
ME Regional Secretary

Kej Andres
SCM Philippines

Working together for another world possible toward the 37th General Assembly

The Federation held its first global webinar, “WSCF Global Talks: COVID-19, its Social Intersections and the Role of the SCMs”, held via Zoom and streamed live on June 27. Sixty-three participants around the world gathered online to address the topic of COVID-19 as a global pandemic and its effects on the health and lives of people.

The panelists for this webinar – Bob Luiz Botelho, member of SCM Brazil; Mira Neaimeh, Middle East regional secretary; and Kej Andres, member of SCM Philippines – were invited to bring the perspective of SCMs from the global south on COVID-19 and related crises and to show a vivid testimony of the role of SCMs and the ecumenical youth around the world in confronting these crises with prophetic voice and action.

Through their respective presentations, the panelists talked about how the crisis has exacerbated the profound systems of inequalities that exist throughout much of the world, and how the intersections of these systems impact the lives of the most vulnerable in differentiated ways – the poor, the informal workers, the women, unemployed youth, migrant workers and refugees, and minority groups. The talks also addressed the weakness of democracies in aligning the focus of the state to prevent, avert and minimise the impact of COVID-19 in its multiple dimensions.

Based on a contextual analysis of Philippine society, **Kej from SCM Philippines** highlighted three points in his presentation: 1) why the worst impacts of COVID-19 in the country can

be attributed to a system that caters foremost to private profit and interests; 2) how the Philippine government took advantage of the pandemic to impose anti-people policies; and 3) the role that the ecumenical youth movement in the Philippines played in responding to the impacts of the pandemic on the country’s most vulnerable.

Mira, speaking on behalf of SCMs in the Middle East, emphasised how COVID-19 caused death, illness and economic despair all around the region. She remarked that the existing crises in that region did not start with the pandemic. Instead, the pandemic intensified these crises and the measures taken by the governments did not solve any of the people’s needs. In Mira’s words, the old-new problems of the region – such as displacements in Syria, economic crisis in Lebanon, apartheid in Palestine, and COVID-19 – have become, in the context of these Middle Eastern countries, a pandemic of inequalities and injustice. There is also the extra worry for the people in conflict zones, especially in Syria, Iraq and Palestine, where the possibilities of a COVID-19 outbreak are bigger and more dangerous.

Bob, from Brazil SCM, talked about the challenge of COVID-19 in the Brazilian social, political and religious context. Brazil is one of the most unequal countries in the world where the gap between rich and poor is one of the highest. On the periphery of cities where some of the richest people live are the poor people who are doomed to poverty because they lack access to the most basic services such as water and sanitation. From the intersectional perspective of class, race, sex and gender, Bob showed that the COVID problem in this context of inequalities has become even more difficult for the great majorities due to “necropolitics” (a concept very much discussed in WSCF-LAC) as borne out by the barbaric, anti-people and anti-life policies that the ultra-conservative right-wing government of Bolsonaro has taken in Brazil.

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Peacebuilding and Non-Violent Resistance

4th Session: Online Course on “Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms, and the Role of Ecumenical Youth”

NOVEMBER 11 / WEBINAR

Forty students from 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean gathered online on November 11 to participate in a webinar on the topic, “Peacebuilding and Non-Violent Resistance”, the third thematic module of the online course, “Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms, and the Role of Ecumenical Youth”, conducted by WSCF-LAC.

The “Peacebuilding and Non-Violent Resistance” module was designed within the framework of the global Peace-Building and Dialogue program of the WSCF. “Eco-Justice” and “Gender Justice and LGBTQI+” are the two other thematic modules of the online course.

The webinar addressed the question of peace not as a simple absence of conflict or war but as the construction of just societies in which human rights and the dignity of individuals and peoples are guaranteed. Contributing their insight and expertise on the subject were:

- Viviana Machuca, manager of inter-institutional relations of World Vision Colombia and member of the gender team of the Inter-Church Dialogue for Peace (DiPaz), and
- Milciades Púa, vice president of research and innovation in postgraduate courses at the Reformed University.

Both speakers shared their reflections, experiences, and work around peace-building in Colombia in a context in

which fundamentalisms have a huge social and political influence. Viviana shared the case of Colombia with the 2016 plebiscite for peace and the role of fundamentalist movements in the unexpected victory of the “No” vote, which rejected the ratification of the peace agreement between the Colombian state and FARC-EP guerillas.

After the session, the students shared and interacted via Facebook with examples of fundamentalist movements against human rights in their countries. A replay of the webinar is posted on YouTube and is available for viewing at: bit.ly/3y80vfq.

REFLECTIONS FROM A PARTICIPANT

“Through this class I understood that fundamentalism is a literal and strict interpretation of the scriptures, usually associated with conservative and fundamentalist streams of religion that repress heterodoxy, despise diverse dialogue, and represent a unilateral position that has penetrated political, social and environmental life as a violent return to religion.

“In the case of Latin America, the immersion of fundamentalisms in the political decisions of recent times is evidenced in such cases as the Plebiscite for Peace in Colombia, the coup in

Cuarta Sesión

Tercer bloque temático: Construcción de paz
Curso virtual Democracia, DDHH, Fundamentalismos y el Rol de la Juventud Ecuménica

Invitadas:

Viviana Machuca: Bachiller Superior en Teologías y Licenciada en Ciencias Teológicas, (c) Maestría en Filosofía Latinoamericana, con estudios en Género, feminismo y Construcción de Paz. Actualmente es Gerente de Relaciones Inter-institucionales de World Vision Colombia e integrante del equipo de género del DiPaz.

Milciades Púa Gómez: Vicerrector de Investigación e Innovación y postgrados de la Corporación Universitaria Reformada; Abogado (Universidad Simón Bolívar); Magister en Artes en Estudios Teológicos (Seminario Teológico McCormick); Ph.D. (c) en Educación (Universidad de la Salle, Costa Rica).

Módula:

Julio González: Profesor universitario e investigador. Trabaja con la juventud ecuménica en el proceso de reactivación del Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano en Venezuela. Formación en temáticas de Derechos y Construcción de Paz.

Organiza: Federación Universal de Movimientos Estudiantiles Cristianos en América Latina y el Caribe

Invitan: UR REFORMADA, AIPRAL, alic, DIPAZ, actalianza, SEDI, Conefe, KIN, NIA, EVANGÉLICO, PELA, ORSOLA, DIPAZ, actalianza, SEDI, Conefe, KIN, NIA.



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Christian Zionism and Fundamentalisms in Latin America

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- Pilar Cancelo, director of SEDI (Evangelical Diakonia Service), narrated a testimony lived in her own flesh in Palestine;
- María Landi, an activist with many years of work in solidarity with the Palestinians, brought contextual and historical elements to the session;
- Dr. Felipe Buttelli, theologian and activist, helped deconstruct the myth about the hegemonic imaginary of biblical Israel and the differences with the modern State of Israel, and;
- Dr. Nancy Cardoso, feminist theologian and activist for the rights of peoples, led in a discussion of how Christian Zionism is positioned in the political, religious and economic fundamentalisms in Latin America, and how to build international solidarity among the peoples to combat economic, political and military powers from the community level.

The webinar mobilised 46 participants and generated 1,399 views since it streamed live on Facebook. Representatives from the Consejo Nacional de Iglesias de Brasil (CONIC - National Council of Churches of Brazil), ALC News, and Koinonia Ecumenical Presence and Service also attended the webinar.

A replay of the webinar is available for viewing at: bit.ly/3D6n1SV. ■

WSCF Global Talks

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The three panelists brought to the conversation different perspectives on how COVID-19 and its social, political and economic intersections has exacerbated the health crisis into one that is more of a civilisational crisis, and a crisis of democracy and human rights where the most vulnerable are the most affected. Beyond this, the presenters' collective message was also a refreshing testimony on how the SCMs are working despite persecution, illness and lockdowns.

Hope and prophetic action were the key words that stood out throughout the talks – how hope could lead into a new possible world that goes beyond the so-called “new normal”, a post-COVID society moulded by people of hope and goodwill. At the end of the webinar, the message was clear that young people have an important role, from individual responsibility towards collective reflection and action, and that the Federation has played and will continue to play a vital role in promoting new young leadership to build this “new possible world”.

A replay of the webinar is available for viewing at: bit.ly/3sF9hR5. ■



Peacebuilding and Non-Violent Resistance

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Bolivia, the presidential elections in Brazil, among many others. These are true examples of the power of certain religious groups that want to impose a moralising discourse on politics based on fear.

“Given that we are social beings and therefore political, we must overcome this hegemony of religious thought where we are presented with a sword on one hand and the cross on the other. We need to focus on building increasingly inclusive and equitable societies – built from diversity and not from censorship – which allow for the weaving of fellowship bonds.

“It is worth dreaming of different societies and churches where peace, ecology, solidarity, economy, respect for sexual diversity and popular politics are not seen as a utopia. It is worth rethinking our reality.” – Nancy Elena David Tordecilla, Presbyterian Church of Colombia

ABOUT THE COURSE

The online course was designed within the framework of “democracy and fundamentalisms”, a main thematic focus of WSCF-LAC for 2020-2025. It addressed the relationships between democracy, human rights and the rise of fundamentalisms, and identified the role of ecumenical youth in promoting transformative practices and political advocacy in the region.

The course, which ran from October 23 to November 14, was conducted in five webinars: an introductory session on fundamentalisms; three thematic sessions on socio-environmental justice, gender justice and LGBTQI+, and on peacebuilding and nonviolent resistance; and a fifth and final session on communication tools for advocacy. An asynchronous thematic session on Christian Zionism and fundamentalisms in Latin America was also held.

Each session was attended by an average of 40 students (29 in synchronous mode via Zoom, and 11 in asynchronous mode) representing 11 countries and different Christian denominations and faith-based organisations in the region. Theologians, students, lawyers, experts in social and natural sciences, political analysts, communicators and experts in advocacy from various ecumenical organisations, churches, universities, and women's networks participated as facilitators and panelists.

The online course was organised by WSCF-LAC with UniReformada, AIPRAL, Comunidad Teológica de México, ALC Noticias, CONIC, REET, and Evangélicos pela Diversidade as co-conveners. ■

Interfaith Dialogue

WSCF's Interfaith Dialogue Program aims to engage the Federation in creating and providing an interfaith platform for youth and students to dialogue and work with young people from other faiths on environmental, migration and refugee issues.

On November 15, WSCF Europe and five partner faith-based organisations issued an interfaith "Call for Action on Climate Justice", a joint statement addressing climate change and calling on religious communities and broader society to acknowledge shared responsibility and take action.

The statement, released in both written form and as a video, was a product of collaboration among religious youth in Europe representing six organisations of diverse faith traditions: European Interfaith Youth Network (EIYN), Soka Gakkai International (SGI), Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO), Junge Buddhistische Union (JBU), Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe (EYCE), and WSCF Europe. The World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the Council of European Churches, and the European Christian Environmental Network also supported the initiative.

Compelled by the need for interfaith dialogue and cooperation at a time when humanity is facing the double existential crises of a virulent global pandemic and a climate emergency, WSCF Europe initiated the coming together of its partner faith-based organisations to take a stand on the current situation and issue a call for action.

At the very opening of the joint call, the six signatory organisations



Interfaith Call for Action on Climate Justice

NOVEMBER 15. EUROPE-WIDE

clarified their common position on what they deem "these days of uncertainty":

"The COVID-19 pandemic we are currently facing is an immediate threat to lives and livelihoods across the world. However, we must not forget that the climate crisis, too, is a pandemic of epic proportions, threatening the very existence of the Earth and all that depends on it for survival."

The statement was sent out to all partner organisations involved in the initiative, other ecumenical and faith-based groups and institutions as well as civil society organisations. The SCMs and members of the partner organisations promoted the statement within their local communities, eliciting responses from young people from diverse religious communities in Europe who voiced their concerns on climate change. WSCF Europe also reached out to European institutions and policy-makers at the European level to promote the statement and the voice of religious young people.

CLIMATE JUSTICE THROUGH INTERFAITH COOPERATION

WSCF Europe undertook this initiative to reaffirm its commitment to address climate change effectively and to continue this endeavour in cooperation

with ecumenical and interfaith partner organisations in all levels in the region. The joint call strengthened interfaith collaboration on climate justice and encouraged young people from different faith traditions in Europe to work together to amplify vital youth voices on this common concern. The statement also contributed in creating more positive influence on religious communities and society in general in their approach to the environment.

Within the Federation, WSCF Europe has taken the lead in implementing the global program on Interfaith Dialogue – creating interfaith platforms with the aim of empowering Christian students to engage in dialogue, positive interaction and collaboration with people of different faiths and beliefs. This strategic priority is grounded on the belief that building an inclusive, just, and peaceful society is possible by enhancing religious and cultural understanding, building respect and trust, and pursuing avenues for cooperation at individual and institutional levels across religions.

The full text of the statement is posted on the WSCF Europe website (bit.ly/2XOVxrB), and the video version is available for viewing on YouTube: bit.ly/3kcUvgt. ■

Bible and Theology

A Palestinian-Christian Reading of the Old Testament

JULY 14 / WEBINAR

WSCF Middle East hosted a webinar titled, "A Palestinian-Christian Reading of the Old Testament" on July 14 via Zoom. Leading the talk was Fr. Jamal Khodor, a Palestine-born ordained priest and director of the Latin Patriarchate Schools in Palestine. He obtained his early training at the Minor Seminary in Beit Jala and later took advanced theological studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

According to Fr. Khodor, Palestinian-Christians tend to react to the Bible in the following ways:

- Spiritualising the text, that is, separating scripture from everyday life, which negatively impacts daily commitment to the faith
- Accepting only the New Testament, preferring its loving God over the wrathful God of the Old Testament
- Replacing or removing controversial words such as "Israel" because it causes confusion and discomfort

When reading the Old Testament, Fr. Khodor proposed keeping in mind the following theological principles:

1. God is for everyone and each person is made in His image. Claiming that God is of one particular nation or people, such as the Israelites, is falsehood.
2. God is just. Understand how justice is mentioned in the Bible. Using the Bible to justify the oppression of people like the Palestinians is to turn the Book from a bearer of good news to an ominous harbinger; to turn God's words of life into words of death.
3. The Holy Bible is one book that comes in two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Neither part is to be read separately from the other, otherwise the message one gets would be incomplete.
4. The "messianic reading of the Old Testament" means reading the difficult parts through the eyes of Jesus.

Fr. Khodor discussed the fourth principle in greater depth. He said that when one adopts a messianic reading of the Old Testament, certain concepts gain clarity. For example:

- God is for all people. God's chosen ones aren't chosen on the basis of privilege but rather on the basis of the message in need of spreading. Jesus's first instruction to his disciples was "Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel" (Matt. 10:6), but his last was, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).
- There is a gradual development of consciousness between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Violence starts as an act of vengeance: "If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times" (Gen. 4:24); then it becomes an act of getting justice to the equal degree of harm inflicted: "eye for eye" (Ex. 21:24). By Jesus's time, violence is shunned altogether: "If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also" (Matt. 5:39).
- Worship is not a matter of location. To the Samaritan woman who spoke about worshiping on the mountain or in Jerusalem, Jesus said, "a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. [...] the true worshipers

will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth" (John 4:21, 23). Worship is not associated with a plot of land; it matters more that it be true and honest.

Fr. Khodor stressed that the Christian message is one of inclusivity rather than exclusivity, a message especially pertinent in the Palestinian context. Israel's claim that the holy land is only for the Jews is an act of exclusion and cancellation of the Palestinians. In reality, the land hosts three religions and two nations. The land is the land of God and it includes everyone.

In response to a participant's comment on how the Hebrews viewed God, Fr. Khodor said the view of God in the Old Testament is very much from the human perspective.

Another participant said the God in the Old Testament is the same God in the New Testament, the difference being Jesus's introduction of the idea of "sacrificial love". This, according to Fr. Khodor, is exemplified in Jesus's commandment to "love your enemies" in addition to the commandment to "love your neighbour", which also appears in the Old Testament. It further clarifies the Christian message of inclusivity in that love goes beyond what one considers close ("neighbour") but includes those who are considered enemies.

A video recording of the webinar is available for viewing at: bit.ly/3gk4uzu. ■



Rejoice in Hope: 2020 Universal Day of Prayer for Students

FEBRUARY, GLOBAL

The 2020 Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS) was envisaged to usher in a milestone year in the life of the WSCF with the celebration of the Federation's 125th founding anniversary coinciding with the 37th General Assembly planned in June in Berlin, Germany. The UDPS thus carried the 37th GA theme: "Rejoice in Hope", based on Romans 12:12:

*Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.*

The GA, however, had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the Federation found the theme to be even more relevant for the events and challenges that unfolded and gripped the world in 2020. As the introduction to the 2020 UDPS Liturgy reads, "Romans 12:12 reminds us that unity in Christ Jesus is our hope in times of challenges and difficulties. ... We are to be THE hope in today's world. As young people, WSCF offers the message of hope in the context of the suffering of the world today. It is our reason for being."

The 2020 UDPS Liturgy was jointly prepared by WSCF-IRO and the Middle East regional office. Each year, one of the six regions of WSCF takes charge in preparing the UDPS liturgy. The Day of Prayer itself is usually celebrated on the third Sunday of February. The liturgy format changes each year, but always maintains the strong intercessory focus envisaged by its founders. Each year's liturgy is translated into the three official languages of the Federation: English, French and Spanish.

LITURGY FOR 2020 UDPS

The 2020 UDPS Liturgy invokes the "Theology of Hope" that German Reformed theologian Jurgen Moltmann introduced to the WSCF in 1968 as continuing to be relevant in discerning WSCF's mission in today's world. Moltmann then wrote, "Those who hope in Christ can no longer put up with reality as it is, but begin to suffer under it, to contradict it. Peace with God means conflict with the world, for the goad of the promised future stabs inexorably

into the flesh of every unfulfilled present. [Such hope] makes the Church the source of continual new impulses towards the realisation of righteousness, freedom and humanity here in the light of the promised future that is to come."

The suggested liturgical order for the 2020 UDPS follows the Armenian church tradition and was prepared by Archdeacon Garen Yosolkian from the Armenian church in Lebanon. The 2020 UDPS Liturgy also features the two theme songs composed for the 37th GA. The first song entitled "Rejoice in Hope" is by Julia Schwab, Daniel Wanke and Bettina Ssymank from ESG in Bavaria, Germany. The closing song is "¡Alegres en la Esperanza!" composed by Dianet de la C. Martínez Valdés and Alison Infante Zamora from SCM Cuba.

CONTEXTUAL REFLECTION ON ROMANS 12:12

Dianet Martínez also wrote the reflection for the UDPS guide. From her perspective as a Cuban young woman involved in the Church and the ecumenical movement, she articulates an understanding of Paul's three-part exhortation in Romans 12:12 updated to current realities with the following propositions:

1. We cannot live in hope without recognising, naming, those who live in situations of hopelessness.
2. We cannot be patient in tribulations without denouncing the injustices that provoke them.
3. We cannot persevere in prayer without also having a transforming praxis.

Her third proposition, which moves towards some general considerations for the 37th GA, shows that the unique kind of hope WSCF brings to the world lies in its identity and praxis – WSCF youth



are not only social activists but people of faith in personal and communal connection with the Transcendent God and committed to Jesus Christ's project of healing, restoration, transgression and transformation; and the way WSCF establishes "an interrelation between grassroots movements, regional articulation, and global integration... shows an alternative to a world whose proposals are increasingly homogenising, vertical, monological and centralised."

LINKS TO 2020 UDPS RESOURCES

2020 UDPS Liturgy: bit.ly/3B4afsY

37th GA theme songs

(lyrics with sheet music/guitar chords are also in the 2020 UDPS Liturgy):

"Rejoice in Hope" by Julia Schwab, et. al.
Recordings: bit.ly/2WfkdbU, bit.ly/380P9zo
Sheet music: bit.ly/3sE6uaO

"¡Alegres en la Esperanza!"
by Dianet Martínez and Alison Infante
Recordings: bit.ly/3ka4iUC, bit.ly/3AZpqni
Guitar chords: bit.ly/3j833pz ■

Regional Report

Striving to empower African youth



PROGRAMMING FOCUS

We have designed our regional programs towards building the capacity of youth to fulfil their roles in their schools, churches and communities. These programs have empowered youth with participatory skills that help them to surface climate injustice issues in their respective locations. Topical debates and discussions at the local, national and international levels have stimulated youth participation on a wide range of justice issues affecting youth and other vulnerable groups. These programs have also spurred young people's engagement with government and other civil society organisations.

As part of our movement-building efforts, we revived the Female Commission Desk to enhance girls and women participation by advancing their agenda. Through the various programs we have organised, there has been increased awareness in the region about the Federation and how it operates.



CYAMA Female Commission

GLOBAL THEMES

In 2020, WSCF Africa had been engaged in **eco-justice** with SCM Nigeria's Climate Actions Program (see report on page 8) and SCM Malawi's tree-planting activity. We conducted advocacy and skills training activities on waste management and climate change, youth rallies in schools and communities on environmental issues, and media engagement and advocacy promoting climate change policies among duty-bearers and decision-makers.

We also engaged in **interfaith dialogue** with fellow Muslims, partnering with them in mobilising resources and donating equipment for persons with albinism and similar projects. Albinism is a public health issue in Africa considered to be both a medical and social emergency.

We held **peace-building** meetings in conflict areas to promote restoration, trauma-healing and reconciliation through long-term investments, especially in countries where affected communities have little access to livelihoods.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

A continuing priority for the Africa Region is **gender-based violence** (GBV). To this end, we conducted workshops for youth group leaders on GBV and the related topics of stigma and discrimination, child abuse, and trafficking. We held skills training activities on leadership, project management, advocacy, and resource mobilisation. We also provided technical support to youth groups to encourage them to initiate creative programs that address GBV in their respective areas.

Another on-going priority for Africa is the issue of **sexual and reproductive health and rights** (SRHR). We have lobbied for youth to be involved in decision-making, especially on policies that have to do with SRHR for young people. We also organised SRHR sensitisation activities for youth and awareness meetings on access to quality sexual and reproductive health services.

PANDEMIC: IMPACTS, RESPONSE, LESSONS

Partial lockdowns across the region literally stopped most activities and communication with our stakeholders. There was a lot of uncertainty



"Be The Hope" WSCF-AF message poster on COVID-19 safety protocols, released in May 2020

and panic among the people. The global pandemic affected the number of activities we could organise, the number of participants, and the reach of these activities. There were cases when we had to postpone activities because of government-imposed restrictions, and also because the people were afraid to gather.

Although we were in the midst of COVID-19, we managed to conduct physical meetings with young people, especially members of SCM Malawi, in various schools and communities to share information and experience.



Invitation poster for WSCF-AF Bible Reflection on "Being the Light and Salt in this World of Challenges" held online on Sept. 30, 2020



Invitation poster for WSCF-AF Bible Reflection on "Living for Christ" held online on Dec. 23, 2020



Invitation poster for WSCF-AF Webinar on "Youth, Politics, Human Rights and Governance" held on Dec. 2, 2020



"Be safe, do right" WSCF-AF message poster on hand-washing, released in March 2020

We have taken the following measures and changes in the way we conduct activities to respond and adapt to the limitations brought on by the crisis:

- Reducing the number of participants in keeping with government directives
- Ensuring that meetings included previously unbudgeted items such as PPEs (face masks, sanitisers, soap, and buckets of washing water)
- Use of spacious rooms to allow for social distancing
- Developing a COVID-19 Workplace Policy
- Conducting meetings remotely through Zoom and other social media platforms
- Taking the meetings closer to the people to avoid long distance travels

We have learned the importance of communication and social media during times of crisis like this. We have learned that small groups are more effective than large groups. We took advantage of the pandemic to spread the message and promote our advocacies, which showed us that even in the midst of a pandemic, there are opportunities to interact with people. These interactions helped to take stress away from the people. ■



Message from WSCF-Africa Regional Executive on COVID-19, released in March 2020

Project Highlight

SCM Malawi Project on Gender-Based Violence



WSCF-AF campaign poster for World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, 2020

Gender Based Violence (GBV) – such as rape, forced marriages and domestic violence, which mostly affects women – perpetuates the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa and passivity in development especially among the female population. According to 2019 figures, around 56% of the adult population with HIV are women (NAC report). The impacts of GBV on health in turn promote suffering in society and derail the development of young people in Africa. Unless the status quo is changed, there is no way young people's lives can improve.

SCM Malawi's GBV project was developed to support government strategies in general and, in particular, the National Youth Policy (NYP) and the efforts of faith-based organisations (FBOs) in African countries in promoting awareness among the youth on GBV and the dangers of HIV/AIDS and STDs.

The project was mainly conducted in the Traditional Authority (T/A) Masula in Lilongwe district in the central region of Malawi and T/A Machinjiri in Blantyre district, southern region of Malawi. Both students and out-of-school-youth members of SCM Malawi and other like-minded young people participated in the project activities. The project benefitted young people between the ages of 10 and 35 years in the targeted areas – at least 450 youth leaders directly, and 1,200 youth indirectly.

OBJECTIVES

1. Lobby for youths to be considered in decision-making positions and committees such as the Global Fund's Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM), which in most cases are composed mostly of adults, so the young people can get funding to implement HIV/AIDS interventions.

2. Engage with policy-makers such that youth, adolescent girls and young women's voices and ideas are heard and they are given the opportunity to shape the policies and programs that affect them.
3. Conduct sensitisation meetings for youths to be involved and considered in decision-making positions at the community level such as in Village Development Committees (VDCs), Area Development Committees (ADCs) and other committees that decide HIV and AIDS programming in Malawi.

ACTIVITIES

Lobbying for youths to be considered in decision-making positions was carried out through a training that helped young people, adolescent girls and young women understand how committees such as CCM work. Also invited were community, church and youth leaders as well as representatives from the local government. Participants were oriented on the Global Fund process and given the opportunity to come up with a position statement that we shared with CCM representatives and published through social media.

The participants developed an advocacy action roadmap and joint working plan within T/A Masula on how to open spaces for young people to be part of decision-making processes and development at various levels. The plan also aims to ensure that issues of young people especially adolescent girls and young women are heard and put on the agenda. The training focused on life skills education, which equipped girls and young women with the knowledge and skills they can use to make informed life choices and decisions.

Engagement with policy-makers was carried out through an interface meeting for young people's voices and ideas to be heard. We had information on national policies, strategies and plans that helped assess Malawi as a country in terms of policies and strategies that supported youth friendly health strategies and other issues discussed in the meeting.

Sensitisation meeting for youths was another training aimed to build capacity and make available the necessary tools for them to make responsible sexual decisions to protect their health and that of future generations. The main objective was to find an entry point

for young people to be involved in decision-making at the community level, especially where it concerns their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Few girls and young women receive adequate preparation for their sexual lives, leaving them vulnerable to coercion, abuse, exploitation, unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV. This training was held to address the lack of comprehensive sexuality education, which, combined with the lack of an inclusive health and social protection system for girls and young women, increase their chances of falling into poverty and perpetuating the cycle.

IMPACTS

- Affirmative behaviour change among young people with regard to prevention of HIV/AIDS and related health issues
- Greater capacity and confidence among young people in exercising their choice on the available resources
- Improved effectiveness among young people in addressing issues affecting them in their youth groups, communities and schools
- Greater creativity among young people in addressing HIV/AIDS and GBV-related issues in their groups, communities and schools
- Increased ability in developing their capacity and skills to identify and act upon goals and greater commitment to goals that will have lasting impact

CHALLENGES

- Need to lobby for changes in policies and laws that hinder chiefs and policy-makers from doing their job to protect the rights of young people
- Limited financial resources to accommodate the large number of young people including adolescent girls and young women who want to be involved
- Difficulty in isolating adolescent girls and young women especially during sensitisation meeting
- Failure to publicise the project on social media and thus promote its replication in other areas ■



SCM Kenya campaign poster for the sanitary towel donation drive marking World Menstrual Hygiene Day on May 28, 2020



A group photo for college students at the Kamuzu Institute for Sports before taking off to Masintha Ground

SCM Spotlight

CYAMA joins 50:50 Campaign Malawi launch

SCM of Malawi, also known as the Christian Youth Association of Malawi (CYAMA), joined the launch of the 50:50 Campaign Malawi at Masintha Ground in Lilongwe on March 4. The campaign aims to raise awareness among the public on the need to increase the women representation in politics for the re-run elections in Malawi in June 2020.

The results of the 2019 elections were nullified by the Constitutional Court in February 2020 due to irregularities. This left some parliamentary seats vacant and created opportunities to seat more

women in the parliament. The 50:50 Campaign was launched to provide a platform for political parties represented in the parliament to make commitments to increase women's representation in the elections.

The campaign was run until the end of 2020 by the 50:50 Campaign



Female members of parliament who graced the event to encourage youth female aspirants



Young female politicians marching from Kamuzu Institute of Sports to Masintha Ground, venue of the launch



A student carrying a 50:50 Campaign placard

Management Agency. The Agency is a consortium that has, among its ranks, specialists in women rights, communications and connectivity, project monitoring and evaluation, and grants management. They provided technical assistance in the areas of women leadership, campaign management, communications, election processes, conflict resolution, poll-watching, resource mobilisation, women's rights, transparency and accountability. SCM Malawi/CYAMA is part of this larger consortium.

The Agency was born out of the need to refocus the campaign, an idea wholly owned by the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare with financial support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Malawi.

SCM Malawi/CYAMA is a youth-led and faith-based membership organisation operating in Malawi since 2006. Its mission is to promote youth's active participation in promoting quality basic education, gender and women empowerment, spiritual, social and economic empowerment. It is engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases among the youth. ■

An interaction with Zambia SCM General Secretary

What is your full name and position?

My name is Sharon Moola. I am the general secretary of the Zambia Student Christian Movement.

How widespread is Christianity in Zambia in terms of percentage?

Current statistics indicate that Christians in Zambia are 86.2% of the population. We could safely say that, while there are other religions in Zambia such as Islam and the Bahai faith, Christianity is the dominant religious influence in the country.

Why is Zambia SCM part of WSCF?

We recognise and appreciate the diverse dimensions we all bring to one another by belonging to one umbrella body. Existing as an individual organisation does not seem like a very bad idea, after all, you still have the different denominational aspects brought into your local SCM. However, you gain an appreciation of the bigger picture when you belong to a global organisation such as the WSCF with the different cultural dimensions it brings. Our geographical and contextual differences enrich our horizons and we begin to appreciate why Jesus prayed that we may be one in John 17:21. Added to this is that we are stronger together than alone.

How big is Zambia SCM?

In terms of total number, we are looking at approximately 300 members spread across the 10 provinces of the country.

What plans do you have for young Christians as a movement and Africa as a whole?

As Africa grapples with high poverty and unemployment levels, the focus in our programming has shifted to empowering young people with entrepreneurial skills. You will agree with me that Africa has a lot of unemployed graduates, too desperate to do anything for a living. However, if these graduates had entrepreneurial skills, our economies in Africa would have a very different face. We have graduates looking to be employed all the time and not to be employers themselves. Zambia SCM is moving towards comprehensive entrepreneurship training for its members to help supplement their university/college education as well as to cater to out-of-school young people. Special focus on imparting entrepreneurial skills is also placed on female students who endure gender-based violence such as sexual harassment and rape in their pursuit of finding means of livelihood.

We want to see young people take a stake in national affairs as opposed to the careerism we notice where young people are used by politicians especially during elections. Our focus will also be to develop visionary leaders. We also want to see young people who are able to take the mantle and run the affairs of our local movements with the passion, knowledge and direction our local movements require.

If Africa as a whole can pay attention to empowering young people with entrepreneurial skills, we will see a reduction in levels of unemployment in Africa, a subsequent improvement in the standards of living, and a whole lot of things will begin to change for the better. Dependency on the "giver with conditions" will lessen too.

What programs do you implement in your movement?

- Gender
- Climate Change
- Missions and Evangelism
- Entrepreneurship Development
- Health

How is WSCF Africa doing in this crisis of no funding? What more can it do to make movements active?

We have made suggestions in the past and maybe they are still relevant. WSCF Africa has enough resources in terms of experienced members in various fields. This resource can be utilised to mobilise resources. The current situation is dire and not at all helpful especially for implementation of programs and staff emoluments. The use of technology has helped a little in that area. The region is able to communicate, pray together and make certain decisions online. However, going forward, we should perhaps revisit some suggestions that were made to help in terms of fundraising:

- Refocus. We need to be relevant to our times. We need programs that speak to our times and are sellable.
- Establish a senior friend's secretariat that will be responsible for fundraising for the region. Have uniform programs that this Senior Friends body will focus on in terms of fundraising.
- Establish an accredited resource center for Africa that will, for instance, offer courses in, say, human rights, democracy education, conflict resolution, gender, child protection, etc., at a fee to other organisations.

In the meantime, more online networking will help cement relationships in the region and keep us growing together.

What do you think should be done to inactive movements who are facing challenges emanating from various reasons such as lack of leadership, funds, etc.?

Vision-sharing. My personal opinion, which is perhaps shared by many, is that a good number of movements are really not doing fine due to personalisation of the vision. You have leaders that have treated the movement like it's their personal movement. When they are not around, nothing happens. This has led to a number of movements dying or becoming inactive.

The joy of belonging to a body like WSCF lies in the realisation that we are stronger together. Therefore, instead of forgetting about inactive movements, we need to keep them close and re-orient them through vision-sharing activities, which must include leadership training. Casting of the vision is very key if we are going to emerge as a strong region. Habakkuk 2:2 speaks to the fact that the vision must be clear enough for a herald to run with it. You can only run with the vision if you see it clearly. You can only expect people to run together with you in that vision if they see it clearly. You see together, run together and flow together. Without that, there is no movement, it becomes a one-person affair.

Emphasise on change of leadership through local general assembly of the local movement, and the report of the outcome must be sent to the regional office.

Help local movements refocus in terms of its programs. Funding has dwindled for almost all organisations. Donors want to sell certain packages that you must agree to in order to get funding. We need to find means of generating our own funds or be forced to conform.

What can you say about the current leadership of both the secretariat and ExCo?

The current secretariat and ExCo are doing a good job in terms of staying in touch with the local movements. A bit more mentorship of all movements will strengthen the region.



Regional Report

Mired by pandemic and staff transition

The Asia-Pacific region faced two challenges in 2020 that practically ground its operations to a halt: the global pandemic and the mid-year departure of the regional executive.



GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Although people worldwide are all affected by the pandemic, its impact is wide-ranging in different continents, countries, societies, contexts and communities. As a result, the pandemic has added more challenges to a section of the world's population already distressed in the existing inequitable and unjust system. In WSCF-AP, as in most organisations, many of our scheduled activities had to be postponed or cancelled.

The outgoing regional executive, Sunita Suna, went back to her home country around the time COVID-19 was raging in China. Soon after, the cases increased in Hong Kong, which affected much of our work. Sunita herself was held up in India for many months due to international travel restrictions.

The first part of the year saw the continuing of preparations for the 23rd Regional Committee Meeting (RCM), scheduled for March 13-18 in Indonesia, and the 37th WSCF General Assembly scheduled for June in Germany. By March, many countries had already imposed lockdowns, including India, from where the regional executive was preparing to fly to Indonesia.

Because many movements could not travel, the Standing Committee, in consultation with the SCMs, decided to postpone the RCM. The 37th GA was also later postponed.



Photo collage posted on WSCF-AP Facebook page as tribute to outgoing Regional Executive Sunita Suna

STAFF TRANSITION

Sunita's contract as regional executive was to end in June 2020. After leading the region for nearly nine years, Sunita informed the IRO and the region in June that she will no longer seek the renewal of her contract. A recruitment proposal for an Interim Regional Coordinator was sent to WSCF Global, which the Executive Committee accepted in July.

The AP region formed a selection committee and announced the position to the SCMs in the region on July 9. The search process was conducted from July to September through email exchanges and two online meetings.

The Selection Committee selected Ms. Chung Hiu Fan (Fanny Chung), whom the ExCo subsequently

appointed in November as WSCF-AP interim regional coordinator. Fanny Chung officially started work in this capacity on December 1.

A handover meeting was held online on December 21 among Fanny Chung, Sunita Suna, and WSCF General Secretary Necta Montes. ■



WSCF-AP Interim Regional Coordinator Fanny Chung at her office in Korea



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Myanmar SCM joined the International Day of Peace (IDP) campaign on September 21. IDP is a special day declared by the United Nations to be celebrated every year on September 21. For 2020, the United Nations chose the theme, "Shaping Peace Together", with the message to "Celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic. Stand together with the UN against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred."

Different units of Myanmar SCM joined the campaign on Facebook to show their support of peace. Students from two SCM units, the Myitkyina UCF and Dawei UCF, also composed songs for IDP 2020. Video recordings of these two songs were posted on Facebook to promote IDP 2020 and may be viewed here: bit.ly/386JelV (IDP Song by Myitkyina UCF); and here bit.ly/3D5hraa (IDP Song by Dawei UCF).

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Myanmar SCM participated in the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" with an online conference on November 30 held via Zoom. The conference featured an introduction on the history of 16 Days of Activism and a special talk on gender-based violence by Sayama Nang Phyu Phyu Lin of the Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP).



Dawei UCF members singing their 2020 IDP Song



Myitkyina UCF members singing their 2020 IDP Song

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that runs from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) through December 10 (International Human Rights Day). It was launched at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and since then has been used worldwide as a strategy to call for the elimination of gender-based violence (GBV).

In 2020, the campaign ran under the global theme, "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!", during a period when lockdown measures imposed to stem the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an alarming increase in violence against women. In Myanmar, local participation in the 16 Days campaign reinforced the United Nations' call on the parliament to enact into law a bill for the Protection and Prevention of Violence against Women.

A video recording of the Myanmar SCM 16 Days conference may be viewed here: bit.ly/3890MEc. ■

Nang Phyu Phyu Lin talking about gender-based violence at the Myanmar SCM virtual conference on 16 Days of Activism against GBV

အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှု ပပျောက်ရေး ဥပဒေဖြင့် ကာကွယ်ပေး

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Date - 30 November, 2020 (Monday)
Time - 1:00 pm
Zoom ID - 815 8103 9975
Passcode - 312521

Myanmar SCM page တွင် live လွှင့်ပါမည်။

Nang Phyu Phyu Lin

Billy La Min Aye

Saw Htet Naing Soe





The SCMI Dhemaji Unit engaged in relief work by building a house for a poor abandoned paralyzed single mother who had no roof in her house.

SCM Spotlight

SCM India COVID-19 Relief Work

The Student Christian Movement of India has conducted a number of relief work at various places across its different regions in response to the COVID-19 crisis. With the support of students and senior friends, SCM India organised relief camps in towns and rural areas where there was dire need of essentials such as food, medicines, and grocery items.

Transgender communities, tribal communities in rural areas like Kamdara, Pokla, Khunti, Rumchu



and Hemrom in Jharkhand, and other vulnerable communities across the country were the identified target groups for this mission. Having locally mobilised donations and generous contributions, SCMI carried out a survey to locate the needy families including those who do not have ration cards, no land for agriculture, and those with orphans, elderly persons, or persons with disabilities among their members.

REGIONS

Asia-Pacific

Hand in hand, staff, students and Senior Friends volunteers went personally to the houses of these vulnerable groups to distribute the relief goods. The work was carried out in several and distinct phases to ensure safety in execution while fulfilling the aim of providing relief to those in need.



The SCMI Dhemaji Unit engaged in relief work by building a house for a poor abandoned paralyzed single mother who had no roof in her house. West Bengal especially helped those affected by the Amphan cyclone. Other places that benefited from this initiative include the Navakani village near Oddanchatram, Ichiladi and Kattucherry villages. The SCM also reached out to villages and cities in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha and the North East. ■

SCMER STORYTELLING

Hnin Wai Thi Aung

of Myanmar SCM



I was in my first year of university when I got to know about UCF and joined the organisation. That was more than six years ago. When Myanmar (then called Burma) fell under military rule in 1962, the Student Christian Movement (SCM) was renamed the University Christian Fellowship (UCF). Therefore, in Myanmar, SCM is also called UCF. But now many people are using SCM again.

I was motivated to join SCM because it was the organisation that made me feel warmth when I first arrived at the university. It's a place full of love, caring, and mutual support between seniors and juniors. My seniors helped me get involved and fall in love with UCF. They also taught us how to lead our juniors when we became seniors. For these reasons, I am still involved in Myanmar SCM.

There are 26 local UCFs in Myanmar SCM. I am a final year student of Yangon UCF, one of the 26 local UCFs. There is a total of 15 universities in Yangon, which already have their own UCF organisations. My mother university, Technological University (Hmawbi), is one of them. The UCF at my current Technological University (Hmawbi) is called Hmawbi TUCF. I have been a member of Hmawbi TUCF since December 2014. I served Hmawbi TUCF as associate secretary in 2016, as treasurer in 2017, and as president in 2018. Since 2018, I have been a member of Yangon UCF, and I am still participating today. I served for one year as student general secretary of Yangon UCF in 2019.



Worship Program at Hmawbi Technological University Christian Fellowship, one of the universities affiliated with Yangon UCF, 2020 (pre-pandemic)

With my experience and dedication in UCF, I was able to learn a lot of skills from SCM that cannot be learned inside the university such as leadership skills, management skills and social skills. Every year, Myanmar SCM (national) organises many training camps for our students every year, such as Peace-Building, Work Camp, Women Camp, and Leaders Seminar. I have been fortunate to have been able to participate in many of these camps.

From 2020 until now, I have been involved as a student representative of Yangon UCF. When COVID-19 spread all over the world in 2020, Myanmar SCM had to change and adjust its programs for an online platform. This is true also for Yangon UCF and the other local UCFs. So in 2020, I got involved in every online program of Myanmar SCM and Yangon UCF as much as I could. I try to contribute as much as I can as both Myanmar SCM and Yangon UCF continue to respond to the current challenges facing Myanmar.



Yangon UCFs Planning Program, 2020 (pre-pandemic)



In-person European Regional Committee meeting in Budapest, Hungary, Feb. 10-13

Regional Report

Keeping European youth engaged in a changed world

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Our Work Programme report outlines the vision and activities of WSCF Europe in 2020, which supports the global strategic objectives of WSCF while responding to the needs and challenges of the Student Christian Movements in the Europe region. This approach demonstrates our overall commitment to the global strategic goals and connects us with each other and with our movements.

At WSCF Europe, our work is inspired by our SCMs, which are driving social and political change within their local contexts. Ultimately, this means that our members are concerned with promoting, protecting and serving just, peaceful and inclusive societies across the continent. WSCF Europe is committed to supporting its members in their local, national and regional quests. We apply our Christian values to everything we do and we lead by example for younger generations to do the

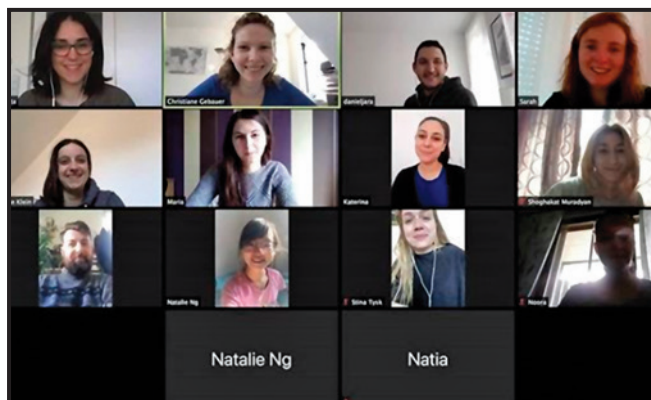
same. We empower and engage with young people through our network of Christian youth groups as well as outside of our membership. We practice what we preach and offer support and guidance to those in need regardless of their social, religious, cultural or any other background.



In 2020, we focused on a number of key priorities: ecojustice, interfaith cooperation and advocacy work as part of our global commitment, and human rights education and advocacy as regional programme priorities. We made significant achievements towards networking and partnership, building additional important aspects of our work at the regional level.

PROGRAMMING MILESTONES

1. Eco-Justice was an annual focus programme under which a series of events were developed and delivered at the regional and national levels. WSCF Europe was actively engaged in the work of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN). We contributed to the development of the ECEN Assembly agenda and coordinated the engagement of young people from the ecumenical network in the event. Following the recommendation of the Regional Assembly 2019, we created an Eco-Justice Working Group, which produced an **Interfaith Call for Ecological and Economic Justice**. (See report on page 17.) The interfaith statement – which called for taking responsibility and proactive steps with religious communities and the broader public – had significant importance for our global and regional advocacy for climate justice.



Online European Regional Committee meeting

#blacklivesmatter

Following the ongoing protests against police brutality and systemic racism in the United States of America, we feel compelled to make the following statement:

WSCF-Europe strives for more diversity on all levels - global, european, national and local.

We, as WSCF-E, do not tolerate racism, hate and discrimination of any kind.

We stand with all people affected by discrimination and violence.

We recognize that systemic racism is not just a problem in the USA, but also in Europe. While the European community is built on the celebration of diversity, the problem of racism is still present in our countries. And even though racial bias, hate and discrimination might look different in the European context, the fight against racism is and should be, a global issue.

Police brutality against Black people is only one alarming symptom of systemic racism. The history of people of colour, but especially of Black people, has been tainted by oppression, violence and prejudice, as they have been enslaved, exploited and stripped of dignity and human rights. A history that has been caused largely by white Europeans, looking to colonize and conquer the whole world. Therefore, we acknowledge the role we and our countries, ancestors and churches have played in this and are committed to not just do better, but to dismantle white supremacy.

As a diverse organisation, our mission is to educate, activate and advocate for an inclusive community.

And as Christians, we believe that all people are created equal in the image of God and as our siblings. We distance ourselves from all Christians neglecting the current discussion and the responsibility we have in the process of fighting for love and tolerance. We are taught by Jesus Christ to love one another, to stand against injustice and to raise our voice for the ones in need as we are all one in Christ (Gal 3:28). According to our motto at WSCF-Europe, "proclaiming faith together for justice", we strive for equality, for loving acceptance and for the end of systemic oppression and racism.

We pledge to continue working for a more just and accepting society for all people and we urge you to join us on this mission.

Black lives matter!

June 2020, European Regional Committee

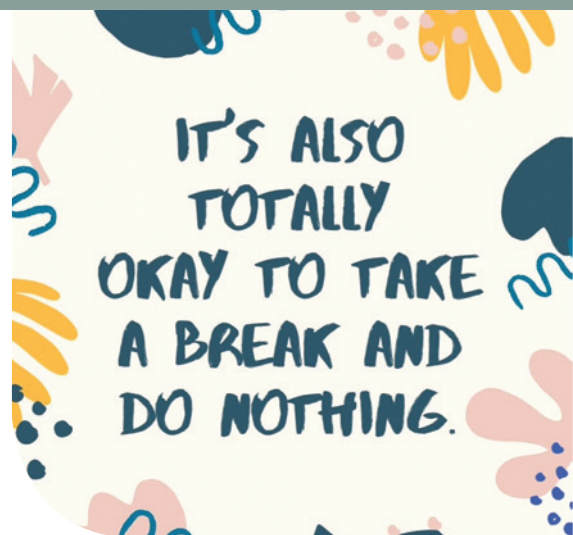


WSCF Europe statement on Black Lives Matter released by the European Regional Committee in June 2020

- Advocacy and Solidarity Working Group has been another highlight since 2020. It reflects our longstanding commitment to ongoing challenges and opportunities. The Working Group implemented its first virtual training programme, the **Winter School on Advocacy for Human Rights**, another roaring success for our team. (See report on page 34.) Our approach is based on building partnerships with both faith-based and secular organisations to achieve sustainable change. We have developed several proposals on promoting and implementing shared agenda and values.
- We continue to endeavour in our focus on amplifying youth voices across various sectors on the issues affecting young people's lives and their future. WSCF Europe and our member movements at national and local levels delivered a series of online events that reached a wider group of young people, church leaders and decision-makers across Europe. Our **Social Media Campaign** was an effective tool in achieving our annual and longer-term ambitions.

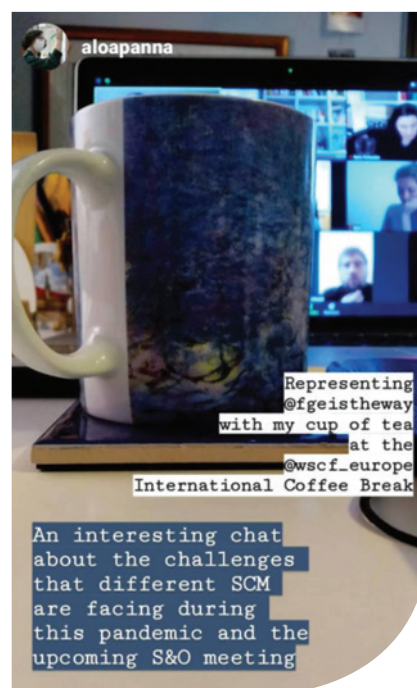
We have delivered many sustainable and tangible outcomes – implemented our strategic plan supported with a clear fundraising strategy; established stronger partnerships; and brought the members of our network closer, which inspired creation of regular communication and supporting platforms. However, the following areas could be done more and better, and these will inform our next steps:

- Continuous empowerment and leadership development of our member movements across Europe to become strong, vibrant actors at national and global levels;
- Developing WSCF Europe into an effective organisation and ensure that our work is sustained by adequate resources and personnel;
- Building young people's campaigning and advocacy competencies, enabling them to affect policies and practices on young people in Europe and globally;
- Promoting equality, human rights and human dignity as core principles of inclusive and diverse societies.



PANDEMIC: IMPACTS, RESPONSE

2020 brought unprecedented disruption and devastation to the world and the global pandemic has forever changed the world as we knew it before COVID-19. In the current political, economic and social uncertainty, young people find it harder to stand on their own feet with sustainable employment and educational opportunities. This is one of the negative impacts our young people brought to us. They also raised the issues of health, mental health and well-being, quality of education, professional development, digitalisation, social inclusion, and youth participation. However, the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown measures are still to be revealed, analysed and understood.



"Coffee Breaks with the SCMs in Europe"

HOW TO KEEP
YOUR SCM
BUSY DURING
SOCIAL
DISTANCING?

KEEP YOUR
EVENTS ALIVE
BY USING ONLINE
PLATFORMS TO
CONNECT

KEEP IN TOUCH
WITH ORGANISATIONS
AND OTHER MOVE
MENTS THROUGH
SOCIAL MEDIA

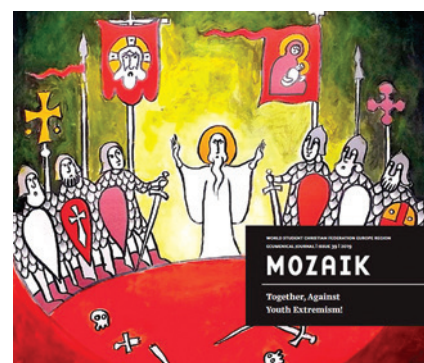
Social Media Campaign on the impacts of COVID-19 on young people

Throughout the pandemic, we continued to work tirelessly to empower and engage with many disadvantaged young people. In October, we launched a series of conversations, **"Coffee Breaks with the Student Christian Movements in Europe"** with the aim of listening to the needs and challenges of our member movements during the year of great need and to best represent their expectations at various levels. The conversations were also aimed at enhancing the engagement of our member movements in our work and to regularly promote and highlight their achievements. The Coffee Breaks were organised with the SCMs from Finland, Austria, Denmark and Italy.

We also launched a **Social Media Campaign** on the impacts of COVID-19 on young people from April through May. The campaign helped inform young people about some critical issues, and in light of the COVID emergency, on improving young people's social, economic and political mobility. We also partnered with the Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO) for "Outbreak of Generosity", a Europe-wide campaign encouraging youth to showcase their generosity and proactively support their communities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Despite the challenges and uncertainties of 2020, WSCF Europe continued to progress, adapt to a new reality and develop a path forward. We ensured that our youth voice, inspired by the Christian faith, remains at the heart of everything we do and that our resources are focused on delivering activities that best respond to young people's needs and challenges in Europe. We continued to build the capacities of our member movements by bringing awareness on diverse topics, providing training and networking opportunities, and working in partnership with stakeholders for joint advocacy actions.

We have seen how young people from our faith communities have played a crucial role during the pandemic and positively contributed to their societies. Many young people created new ways of working and being involved. Online campaigns, conversations and putting



"Together Against Youth Extremism", 39th issue of WSCF Europe ecumenical journal, Mozaik

together all the tools to support their peers were initiated at all levels by the youth groups.

LESSONS LEARNED

COVID-19 pandemic forced the world to limit everyday life. But people of faith have shown admirable resilience and compassion, and we have witnessed solidarity actions and a stronger focus towards transformative social, environmental, racial and economic justice. Grounding our work in deep faith, love, caring for each other and nature helped us to become the best we can be in this crisis.

Whilst we hope to overcome the global health emergency, many challenges will remain and it is inevitable that some will impact on young people and their future. But we have seen their potential as they stood at the frontlines of the pandemic, providing immediate support to those in need. What the COVID-19 pandemic and this unprecedented crisis have shown to the world is how important it is to inspire young people and to be inspired by young people. ■



Poster for "Outbreak of Generosity" campaign in partnership with FEMYSO

Project Highlight

Winter School on Advocacy for Human Rights

A strong civil society is essential for democracy and the rule of law. One of the key factors ensuring that democracy and human rights are guaranteed is to encourage and empower young people to participate in society. The recent work of the Council of Europe on the issue of youth participation affirms that the younger generations are, in fact, very much committed to active involvement in society. To further strengthen this activism, the authorities and civil society organisations should ensure that young people, especially those coming from religious communities, are included in civic spaces. Therefore, it is crucial to elevate young voices when promoting democracy, human rights, justice and peace on all levels, from local to global.

disadvantaged backgrounds. In 2020, the WSCF Europe Advocacy and Solidarity Working Group delivered its first Winter School, "You(th) Voice: Faith and Advocacy for Human Rights in the 21st Century", which took place online from November 27 to 30.

The virtual Winter School aimed to educate and empower students and young people from our member movements to participate in civil society, addressing the issues that affect their lives and the communities they live in. Youth delegates from WSCF member movements and ecumenical networks were trained in advocacy skills, enabling them to formulate policy arguments, communicate confidently, and deliver effectively.



YOU(TH) VOICE: FAITH AND ADVOCACY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

27-30th November 2020
Daily online sessions



Apply by:
1st November



religions/churches have played in civil rights movements worldwide.

The programme was able to create a safe and constructive environment for conversations about the future and establish strong cooperation between

young people from Europe and beyond, encouraging them to advocate and plan joint campaigns and activities.

We were delighted and proud to listen to and be trained by experts such as Dr. Elizabeta Kitanovic, executive secretary for human rights of

the Conference of European Churches; Dr. Torsten Moritz, general secretary of the Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe; Luciano Kovacs, area coordinator for Middle East and Europe of the Presbyterian World Mission; George Zachariah from the Trinity Methodist Theological College; and Lutza Elek, Council of Europe trainer. ■



Winter School team

Capacity-building of member movements and young people with a shared agenda on justice and peace has always been one of the critical activities of the World Student Christian Federation in Europe. We continue to support youth participation, active citizenship, access to rights and opportunities, particularly for those from



The four-day programme was designed to help the participants find the power in the unique intersection of religion/church and civil rights; help uproot the political movement that seeks to obstruct the exercise of the most vital rights and freedoms. We also looked at the historical background on the relevant human rights and the role



Winter School session with Elizabeta Kitanovich



Winter School session with George Zacharia

SCM Spotlight

Ecumena, SCM in Belarus: Christian perspective on the peaceful protest movement in Belarus

The presidential elections in August 2020 heated up political life in Belarus, a country ruled by the populist authoritarian regime of Aliaksandr Lukašenka since 1994. The regime is eager to stay in power despite the avalanche decrease of support from the citizens by persecuting alternative political leaders, mass election fraud, violence, torture, and legal default launched by the authorities. All these have motivated Christians and churches to involvement in public life in support of the democratic movement.

Ecumena, the Student Christian Movement in Belarus, stood together with some of the concerned priests, theologians and Christian activists who created the ecumenical group "Christian Vision" in the Coordination Council of Belarus. This group aims to exchange information, provide expertise, monitor violations, organise solidarity, and support campaigns. It was formed to commonly reflect on Christian ethos concerning human rights, justice, rule of law, non-violence, and to translate the Gospel news into political categories. It aims to find in the Christian traditions, spirituality and theology the potency and resource for peaceful protests, political reforms and civil changes for good.

The group brings together the different political views of Orthodox, Catholic and



"Christian Vision" logo
(PHOTO BY ANDREJ STROCAŮ)

We stand with our Belarusian friends and colleagues and the people of Belarus in their struggle for freedom and justice!

WSCF Europe - August 2020



"Let my people go" (PHOTO BY ANDREJ STROCAŮ)

Evangelical Christianity to the platform of a common vision of Belarus as an inclusive society based on human dignity, dialogue, democratic procedures and rule of law. On this basis it cooperates with different Christian initiatives and individuals. The group aims to raise the visibility of the churches, Christian leaders and activists in the democratic movement and also to shape an informal ecumenical network.

The website "Churches and Protests in Belarus" (<https://belarus2020.churchby.info>) was created to document the developments, cases, discourses, analysis and important inputs on the Christian perspective of the peaceful protest movement. At the international level, in the worldwide *oikoumene*, the "Christian Vision" group's activities are directed

to raise the issue of Belarus and draw attention to the democratic movement's accomplishments as well as the repression and persecution against it. ■



My name is Annapaola Carbonatto. I'm Waldensian and I live in Turin, my home city. I recently graduated in intercultural communication from the University of Turin. Since 2019, I have been the general secretary of FGEL (Federazione Giovanile Evangelica in Italia). FGEL is the Youth Protestant Federation in Italy and I've been part of the FGEL Executive Committee since 2016.

Some of the most important aspects in my faith and spiritual growth are, and have always been, dialogue with others, the discovery of different ways of living spirituality at the personal level, and the many and different ways of praying. The FGEL was the first place where I was able to find all of these, thanks foremost to the opportunity of participating in a number of international events.

In 2015, I went to Bratislava for the EYCE training camp, "From vision to reality! Young people developing models of inclusive participation". This was the first time where I had the chance to reflect about different privileges and how these affect everyone's life in a different way.



In 2016, I went to Vilnius for the EYCE training camp, "Good leadership and personal integrity" whose focus was on the different types of leadership.

In 2017, I went to Berlin for a seminar on stereotypes in religion, the outcome of which was our filming of the documentary, "Cut the prejudice!" The documentary was presented in Rome in 2018 during a beautiful evening attended by representatives of various organisations and churches.

My most recent experience of an international and ecumenical meeting was the WSCF Europe Winter School, "You(th) Voice: Faith and Advocacy for Human Rights in the 21st Century". It was a joy to be able to attend this online event, which allowed us to meet despite the difficult period we are experiencing.

All the international and ecumenical training and seminars that I have attended have allowed me to grow both as a believer and as a citizen. Thanks to these experiences I was able to meet many engaged people with whom I could not only reflect on leadership styles and on the meaning of a truly inclusive society, but also talk about religious minorities and the rights of LGBTQIA+ people.

SCMER STORYTELLING

Annapaola Carbonatto

chairperson of SCM Italy



Regional Report

Making sense of virtuality for the Latin American movement

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Our priorities in WSCF-LAC for 2020 were based on two lines of work under the global and regional Strategic Plan.

1. Governance and transition

The region's priority was to go through the process of institutional leadership change and to hold our XIV Regional Assembly. We also began consultations among the SCMs with the aim of consolidating a new four-year strategic plan that can be adapted to the strategic plan that was to be approved by the global General Assembly in 2020.

2. Programmatic priorities

Our priorities at the programmatic level were based on two lines of action or umbrella programs: Peacebuilding and Eco-Justice.

Capacity-building of the movements under the **Peace-Building** program aimed to develop regional capacities on different issues related to the construction of more just and peaceful societies, focusing on the regional situation in terms of human rights, the status of democracy and political, religious, and economic fundamentalisms and their relation to non-violent action, gender justice, and LGBTIQ+ justice, aspects which were fundamental in the Latin American geopolitical configuration. We also carried out several activities under the Peacebuilding program that aimed to mobilise the SCMs to be in solidarity with other regions and SCMs, such as with the Philippines and Palestine.

In the **Eco-Justice** program, the regional SCMs aimed to position the social and human rights situation related to climate justice as vital issues for their advocacy work.

These priorities acquired new meanings throughout the year as WSCF-LAC, as well as almost all civil society organisations and social movements, were affected by the changes caused by the global pandemic. Although this had a direct effect on the transition plans and internal institutional life of the Federation, we were able to adapt programmatically. Part of the activities and projects under the programmatic orbit could be transformed and moved towards online execution, which had been received well by SCM members.

PROGRAMMING MILESTONES

1. Workshops and regional publication of "The Crisis Beyond the Crisis"

We carried out an accompaniment process during the first months of the pandemic wherein preventive confinement measures affected the lives of millions of people in the region. This accompaniment process, which involved workshops and online meetings with the movements, led to the regional publication, "The Crisis Beyond the Crisis: Inequalities, Violence and Human Rights in the Time of COVID-19".



Curso virtual

Sesión de apertura: ¿Qué son los fundamentalismos y cómo afectan la situación de los derechos humanos y la democracia en la región?

Invitados:

Claudia Florentin
Editora de la Agencia Ecuaménica de Comunicación ALC, teóloga, feminista y comunicadora social.

Dan González
Teólogo y rector de la Comunidad Teológica de México

Primera sesión del curso virtual sobre Democracia, Derechos Humanos, Fundamentalismos y El Rol de la Juventud Ecuaménica de la FUMEC ALC

► **Viernes 23 de octubre**
 Hora: 19:30 hr (ARG/-BRA) 17:30 hr (MEX/-COL/PER)
 Encuentro sincrónico vía ZOOM-Transmisión por FB live

Organiza: Federación Universal de Movimientos Estudiantiles Cristianos en América Latina y el Caribe

Invitan:

Segunda Sesión

Primer bloque temático: Justicia Socio Ambiental

Curso virtual Democracia, DDHH, Fundamentalismos y el Rol de la Juventud Ecuaménica

Segunda sesión del curso virtual sobre Democracia, Derechos Humanos, Fundamentalismos y el Rol de la Juventud Ecuaménica de la FUMEC ALC

► **Jueves 29 de Octubre**
 Hora: 19:30 hr (ARG/-BRA) 17:30 hr (COL/-MEX/PER)
 Encuentro sincrónico vía ZOOM- Transmisión por FB live

Invitados:

Oscar Reicher
Abogado, profesor de derecho ambiental U. Concepción. Candidato a doctor en Ciencias Ambientales

Malena Lozada
Lic. en Ciencias de la Atmósfera. Cursa el doctorado con especialización en cambio climático y ciudades. Miembro del MEC ARG

Romario Dehmann
Dir. de cambio climático y Eficiencia Energética de la Municipalidad de Posadas. Coordinador Prog. "Crece Selva Misionera" de la fundación hora de clarar. Coordinador Juvenil General de la IERP

Organiza: Federación Universal de Movimientos Estudiantiles Cristianos en América Latina y el Caribe

Invitan:

Última Sesión

Taller: Herramientas para la comunicación y la incidencia

Curso virtual Democracia, DDHH, Fundamentalismos y el Rol de la Juventud Ecuaménica

Sábado 14 de noviembre / Programa

1ra parte: 11:30- 13:30 (ARG/BRA) 9:30-11:30 (COL/PER) 10:30-12:30 (VEN) 8:30-10:30 (MEX)

- Dices falso ... ¡noticias falsas!
- ¿Cuáles son los principales ejes de los fundamentalismos hoy (situación en el país/región)?
- El género, enemigo a combatir.
- Fake news y otras estrategias. Sistemas de noticias falsas y manipuladas
- Análisis de las estrategias comunicacionales de los fundamentalismos religiosos

2da parte: 14:00-15:30 (ARG/BRA) 12:00-13:30 (COL/PER) 13:00-14:30 (VEN) 11:00-12:30 (MEX)

- Comunicación intencional, estrategias- Caso exitoso (Costa Rica)
- Propuestas innovadoras de comunicación desde la fe en la región, alianzas posibles

Reunión por zoom- No habrá FB live
 (Tu participación es imprescindible para la certificación!)

Tallerista:

Claudia Florentin Editora de la Agencia Ecuaménica de Comunicación ALC, teóloga, feminista y comunicadora social

Organiza: Federación Universal de Movimientos Estudiantiles Cristianos en América Latina y el Caribe

Invitan:

TOP: Opening session: "What are fundamentalisms and how do they affect the situation of human rights and democracy in the region?" 1st session, Oct. 23 • MIDDLE: 1st Thematic Block: "Socio-Environmental Justice", 2nd session, Oct. 29 • BOTTOM: Workshop: "Tools for Communication and Advocacy", 5th session, Nov. 14

This publication had the contribution of multiple regional and international people, highlighting articles and productions of the SCMs in the region.

2. Ecumenical training and capacity-building through the **Online Course on “Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms and the Role of Ecumenical Youth”**

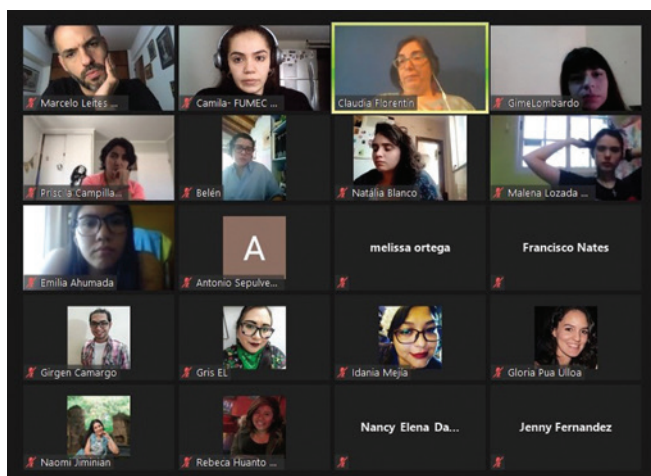
The ecumenical training course in virtual mode was held between October and November 2020 under the umbrella of the Peacebuilding program. It covered topics related to the construction of more just and peaceful societies, among them: the relationship of political and religious fundamentalisms with gender justice and LGBTIQ+ justice, non-violent resistance, climate justice and human rights. It was also a training on communication narratives and strategies to fight hate and fundamentalist speech. It was attended by young members of the Latin American SCMs and young people from churches and universities. We consider this to be a first step in the longer journey of online ecumenical education and training. (See reports on pages 11 and 15.)



Campaign poster calling for signatories to the “Cry for Hope” petition



Opening session participants



5th session participants

3. “Cry for Hope” Campaign of Solidarity with Palestine

Another milestone at the level of political advocacy and awareness was WSCF-LAC’s leadership in the “Cry for Hope” (www.cryforhope.org) campaign of solidarity with Palestine. We began to lead the process in favor of the faith communities in Palestine, moderating a work group with Latin American actors in the Global Kairos for Justice Coalition. (See related report on page 13.)

IMPACTS OF GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The pandemic and the measures taken by governments radically changed the methodologies and strategies we use in ecumenical training, accompaniment of the SCMs, programs and governance in the region. Transitions at an institutional level were due to take place in 2020: we were supposed to elect a new Board of Directors for WSCF-LAC in the regional assembly, and later participate with other WSCF regions and affiliated movements in the General Assembly of the Federation. These institutional plans had to be postponed.

At the programmatic level, we planned some parallel events to the regional assembly, one of which was the face-to-face Regional Consultation on Human Rights and Democracy. This regional consultation was scheduled to take place in Brazil in mid-2020, preceded by a series of small consultations. It was supposed to be the prelude to the process of defining the new regional strategic plan that would accompany the development of the global strategic plan and organisation of the General Assembly.

REGIONS

Latin America and the Caribbean

The preventive and mandatory isolation and social distancing measures also changed the dynamics of our national movements. Most of them were unable to meet, organise in-person events or celebrate community life in person. It must be noted that many of our national SCMs and their members do not enjoy the best infrastructure, technology and connectivity conditions for a migration to virtuality.

WSCF-LAC has historically developed its programs and activities in person, its projects focused on face-to-face participation and development of diaconal initiatives. Since many of the promised funds were linked to the development of these face-to-face activities, the changes in dynamics and ways of working brought on by the pandemic have also affected our regional budget.

RESPONSE AND ACTIONS TAKEN

We confronted these changes by creating a leading group – formed by coordinators or leaders of the movements – to function as a space for interaction, regional accompaniment and joint decision-making. Through this accompaniment space, we were able to keep the interaction of our members afloat at the international level.

Very quickly, we organised other ways of carrying out actions on our identified priorities for 2020. This occurred mainly through a progressive migration towards online activities, advocacy through forums or webinars, publications and online training courses. The Online Course on democracy, human rights and fundamentalisms, for example, was aimed at continuing the political and ecumenical training of youth that WSCF-LAC has always carried out on-site, but which must be held online due to the global pandemic.



United Nations International Youth Day 2020: Youth Engagement for Global Action

The pandemic has taken us by surprise and its impacts cannot be remedied with palliative elements in the course of the pandemic itself. It is a continuous learning process, with little assurance about the future or any certainty as to how long the current stage of the pandemic will last.

LESSONS AND PERSPECTIVES

In the process of implementing measures to alleviate the impacts of the pandemic, WSCF-LAC transformed itself through the deepening of existing tools and adopting new information and communication technologies. These technologies, which developed rapidly and more widely during the first year of the pandemic, complement the training methods and pedagogies that we have been using for many years. Our regional education and training initiatives, for example, can get to more people, especially in areas where movements are not active or do not exist.

These new tools are here to stay and will continue to support and enrich the work of the Federation. But it is important to remember that WSCF is a grassroots

and movement organisation. It is at the community level, in day-to-day face-to-face work, where movements acquire a unique meaning and find fulfilment in their identity. Even though these tools are very valuable, grassroots work and action in the communities are essential for the Latin American movement.

Perhaps the greatest learning is that the SCM, due to its nature and history, is resilient enough to adapt to adverse conditions and survive them, its greatest attribute being its presence in the most vulnerable places where its prophetic voice and mission can develop. Virtuality cannot replace presence and community celebration, but it can open doors to reach more people. However, virtuality without being rooted in local activism loses its meaning and is diluted among the many other online initiatives that have grown and developed during the last year.

We have also learned that social justice is also needed in the technological sphere, in terms of access to digital and virtual media and the Internet. In Latin America, the gap between rich and poor is as wide as the gap between people with and without access to digital media. ■



Project Highlight

The Crisis beyond the Crisis: Inequalities, Violence and Human Rights in times of COVID-19

The WSCF-LAC strategic plan for 2020 contemplated regional meetings addressing the themes of Fundamentalisms and Democracy in Latin America. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meetings were suspended. In a context of uncertainty and confinement, the regional office together with the student coordinators of the movements and friends of the Federation decided to work together around a publication about the crisis generated by the economic systems present in our region but deepened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This publication intends – from different perspectives, disciplines and contexts – to give some brushstrokes to the silhouette of a Latin America in tension and resistance, crossed by COVID-19 but also beyond it, in order to reveal a more lucid image. Also, it aims at providing some reflections based on already tangible facts: the emergency of the pandemic and its health consequences, the consequences of the death policies of some governments, the local economies destroyed with a high level of informality and unemployment, the inevitable increase of poverty and inequalities, the serious situation of human rights and the risks to its defenders.

The writing, compilation, design, and layout of this publication was carried out from April to May 2020. The final product was published on May 25 in all our communication channels. This work consists of:



- An editorial by Marcelo Leites, WSCF-LAC regional executive
- "COVID-19 and human rights", opening article by Laurence Blattmer, a lawyer specialising in human rights
- "Risk group in addition to the risk group: Brazil, social vulnerabilities and COVID-19" by Angélica Tostes, Bob Luiz Botelho, Danilo Amaral, Natália Blanco, Taurine Ferreira Pimentel, members of SCM Brazil
- "COVID-19 in times of sanctions and blockade" by Julio González, coordinator of SCM Venezuela
- "Stay at home, for some" by Yadamy S. L. Acero, coordinator of the SCM for Equity-Mexico
- "Quarantine: An isolation that favors everything" by Melissa Ortega, member of SCM Barranquilla-Colombia
- "Revolution of love in times of Coronavirus" by Jorge Nuñez González, coordinator of SCM Cuba
- "Violence and precarisation: Some questions about the other pandemic in Colombia in times of the Coronavirus" by Yenny Fernandez, Fabio Medina, Francisco Nates, members of SCM Colombia
- Extra-regional articles
- A theological-biblical reflection
- SCMer's reflections
- Prayers

The publication may be accessed here:
bit.ly/3gndrrZ.



SCM Spotlight

SCM Cuba 60th anniversary

The legacy of the world ecumenical movement in its relentless struggle for a better and possible world has been, for the Cuban Student Christian Movement, the root and reason for its existence during its 60 years of uninterrupted work in the Greater Antilles. We have countless reasons to thank God for the witness and transformative action of diverse young people who come together from their faith to work on building fair relationships among human beings and with all creation.

SCM Cuba celebrates its 60 years in the midst of an unprecedented context of world crisis for our generation. At a time when it seems that even God has become silent before the day-to-day realities of death, isolation, scarcity, despair, meaninglessness, hatred, violence,

fundamentalism, discrimination, inequality, commodification, and so on, the ecumenical youth of SCM Cuba clings to hope. We see on the horizon the prophetic path of denouncing existing social injustices that the pandemic has magnified as a way of recognising the signs of the Kingdom of God that we find – and that we are – as committed Christians.

As the old saying goes, “there will be better times, but this is the one we have.” Therefore, we feel responsible for the continuity of the ecumenical legacy, building the present history looking unto Jesus – the paradigm of all times – who challenges us to build models of solidarity, inclusion, dialogue, and respect; and to look for creative alternatives to act in favour of the most vulnerable people. To be a voice for



justice and hope at this moment in history is to be the voice of God: that is what we believe, that is our commitment on this anniversary and always. ■

– Dianet de la C. Martínez Valdés

SCM Colombia's commitment to the Peace Agreement

SCMER STORYTELLING

Francisco Javier Rodríguez

of SCM Bogotá in Colombia



Hello everybody. My name is Francisco Javier Nates Rodríguez. I study sociology. I am a member of SCM Bogotá in Colombia and of the Mennonite Christian Church.

For more than five years, as SCM Bogotá, we have been promoting peacebuilding spaces based on historical and collective memory. There, we have weaved networks for the construction of a dialogue with farmers, indigenous people, victims, ex-combatants and environmentalists around a joint table that invites us to share experiences and to rethink the future as young people who live the reflection of our faith and our spirituality in social action for transformation.

The aforementioned path of dialogue and networking has led us to articulate with the DiPaz platform (Inter-Church Dialogue for Peace), aiming to join forces with other organisations and churches that – from different identities and faith expressions – seek to promote actions for the construction of peace. For us, it has been of great importance and learning to have an active participation within this platform, since it has allowed the strengthening of the movement's political advocacy and connection to decision-making spaces. Such aspects are covered in our Federation's peacebuilding program and objectives.

The aforesaid was reflected in a great result that was the participation in the ESAN (School of Nonviolent Action), one of DiPaz's projects that aims to train leaders so they are equipped with the tools to generate peace initiatives. There, as a movement, we got to participate in the elaboration of the school training modules and, later, in the facilitation of training within the eco-justice module. The process taught more than 30 people from the central region of Colombia, including a young man from our movement in Bogotá.

On a personal level, participation in these spaces has nurtured and renewed my vision of WSCF, where it is necessary to strengthen articulation and networking with other movements and organisations related to our work. I have learned about the importance of reading the political situation in our contexts in order to propose a work agenda, and about the relevance of considering all artistic expressions as non-violent actions in advocacy processes. I also learned about taking advantage of the different areas of knowledge within our movement to develop processes that can contribute to the strengthening of movements and local work in the face of the inequities that we experience as Latin American people.

In our region, we have many structural problems resulting from neoliberal hegemonic structures, which became even more evident with the spread of COVID-19 and the various systemic violence against the social movement that limit the exercise and functioning of democracy.

We will continue to be committed to strengthening the movement through the training and accompaniment of more young people so that they are linked to these political advocacy processes, encouraged by an active and transformative spirituality. Based on the methodology of seeing, judging and acting, we set out alternatives for change for the country and we contribute to the networks and platforms that seek to raise before the government our cry for the end of the war and the strengthening of spaces for social dialogue, and to influence the construction and education for peace grounded on and emanating from the diversity of our cultures.



Members of WSCF-ME and the Youth Ecumenical Committee in Lebanon at an annual prayer during the Prayer Week for the Unity of the Church, Saint Takla Church in Sed El Bauchrieh, Metn, Lebanon, January 17, 2020

Regional Report

Persisting in our mission in the Arab world

In the complex situation and context of the Middle East region, WSCF-ME has undertaken the mission of working with youth from different church denominations and countries. This mission aims to help in building a Church committed to justice and peace and in bringing about change and transformation for a better world.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

WSCF in the Middle East aspires to bring light and hope to Arab Christian communities living in the Arab world. To this end, our program priorities and the activities we implemented are specific and relevant to the Middle East region and are centered on the different needs of youth within the region.

WSCF-ME programs and activities – such as the Women Program Conference, Muslim-Christian Dialogue Conference, and Leadership Training Programs – have come to question, respond and address the many issues of concern of young people in the region. The impact of these programs transcends the participants and reaches their peers and fellow

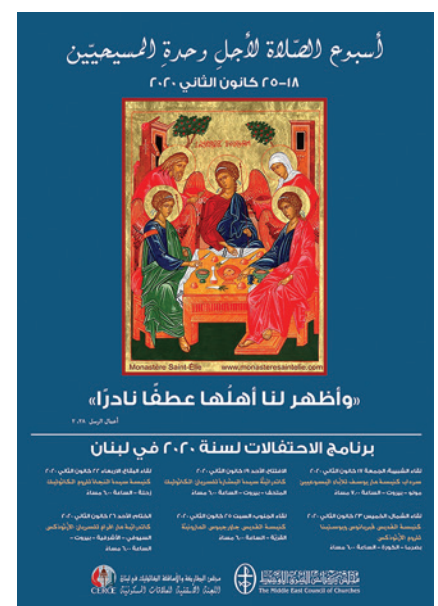


church members in their communities, making WSCF-ME work notable and more appealing.

Our Leadership Training Programs – Peace Building Conference (Ayia Napa) and Capacity-Building Training for the Youth in Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Sudan – are the sole youth ecumenical platform that empowers youth in the region.

PROGRAMMING MILESTONES

In 2020, the most important milestone for WSCF-ME is the growth in the number of participants and in the level of discussions and commitment in our programs and activities. We held weekly webinars for a year covering different topics under our global strategic themes of Ecojustice, IDD, Peace-Building and Interfaith Dialogue. The number of



Poster for the Prayer Week for the Unity of the Church

young people reached through these weekly webinars has grown in a year, and we were able to reach youth and people from outside the WSCF-ME community through targeted meetings.

On September 24-26, we held a Leadership Training conference entitled "For We Are One" based on John 17:21. Attended by 37 participants from Egypt and Sudan, it was an opportunity for



SCMs at the Leadership Training Conference for Sudan and Egypt, "For We Are One", Sept. 24-26, 2020



"For We Are One" Leadership Training Conference for Sudan and Egypt, Sept. 2020

SCMs to come together, learning, praying, sharing bread, and gaining brothers and sisters in Christ. It included an inauguration led by the regional secretary, prayer meetings, working groups, sessions with guest speakers, as well as an ecumenism-themed movie night.

GLOBAL PANDEMIC: IMPACTS AND A PERSONAL LOSS

The pandemic has affected the whole Middle East region. We in WSCF-ME suffered a direct loss with the passing of our co-regional executive, Ayman Karam, who succumbed to COVID-19 in October. Brother Ayman served WSCF-ME as co-regional executive for two decades and was invaluable to the Federation and its ecumenical message. As befits his name and legacy, we remember him with the verse from Matthew 25:21: "Then his master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"

Our SCMs responded to the pandemic in various ways, such as the initiative of the Orthodox Youth Movement in Lebanon to mobilise resources for families affected by the pandemic. (See report on page 44.) At the regional level, our weekly webinars have brought together youth from different countries during this time, enabling our young people to continue the connections despite the restrictions resulting from the pandemic.



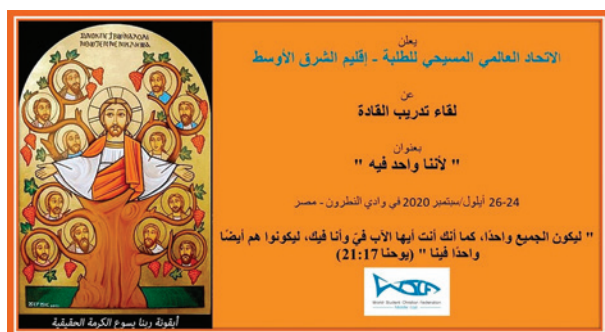
Ayman Karam

- Major financial and administrative limitations have prevented us from accommodating the increasing applications for participation in our programs.
- The increasingly restrictive policies of governments in the Middle East greatly hamper our ability to secure entry for our participants, especially Palestinians and Syrians, significantly limiting their participation in our programs.
- Political, financial and security problems confront WSCF-ME in all countries as the situation everywhere in the region is oftentimes unstable.

These challenges are also the reason why WSCF-ME persists in its mission. For it is in areas of ongoing conflicts that Christian young men and women need to come together to learn, share and exchange experiences so they may become conscious and capable leaders who can build hope and pave the way for change and transformation in their own lives and in the life of their churches, communities and society at large. ■

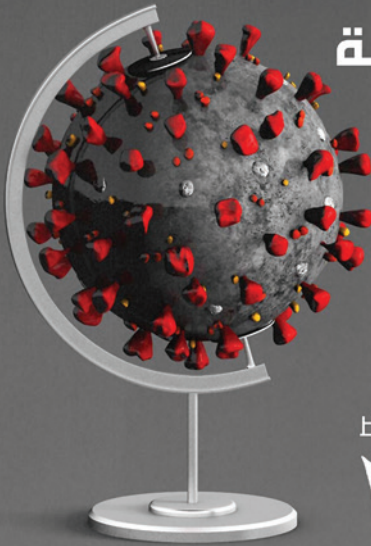
The impacts of COVID-19 has exacerbated the long-standing problems of WSCF-ME, which continue to challenge our work:

Invitation poster for "For We Are One" Leadership Training Conference for Sudan and Egypt, Sept. 2020



آثار جائحة كورونا على البيئة

ماذا فعل "كورونا" بالبيئة؟



شريل محفوظ
2 حزيران / يونيو 2020

من تنظيم

الاتحاد العالمي المسيحي للطلبة - الشرق الأوسط



Project Highlight

"Ecumenism Amid COVID-19" Webinar Series

Because we believe in "social cohesion" and "physical distancing", WSCF-ME has conducted weekly webinars beginning on March 24, during the uprise of COVID-19 in the region. Every Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. (GMT+3), via Zoom application and streaming live on our Facebook page, we came together once a week, bringing participants from all over the Middle East closer in the midst of the pandemic.

These online meetings were initially designed to address COVID-19-related topics, be it from a religious, economic, or social point of view (e.g., faith amid COVID-19, resurrection and its relation to COVID-19, economic implications of the pandemic) as a way of witnessing ecumenically amidst the pandemic. But given their success, the meetings' topics shifted from being COVID-19-centered to being ecumenically driven and of benefit to everyone attending.

Most of the webinars were oriented towards biblical and theological analysis and carried the global strategic themes of ecological justice,

IDD, peace-building, and interfaith dialogue. The webinar series, which ran from March 24 to October 6, addressed a variety of topics:

- Faith Under the COVID-19 Crisis
- Faith and Witness in the Time of Coronavirus
- The Resurrection
- The Social and Economic Outcomes after COVID-19
- A Dialogue about Dialogue
- A Scriptural Study of Temptation
- Woman in Christianity
- The Lord Is My Refuge and My Fortress: A Biblical Study of Psalm 91
- The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on the Environment
- Trauma-Healing
- The Concept of Christian Marriage and its Challenges
- The Christian's Rights and Duties within the Church
- Disability
- Social Media's Influence on the Acceptance of Others
- A Palestinian-Christian Reading of the Old Testament
- The Importance of Christian Dialogue for Witnessing Together
- How I Can Take Advantage of Crises
- A Prayer for Lebanon
- Beirut, a Spiritual Reading
- Our Role as Christians in Society
- Hope in a Troubled World
- The Ecumenical Movement Today: Challenges and Prospects
- The Youth's Role in Building Ecumenical Work
- Ecumenical Prospects and COVID-19 Obstacles
- The Episcopal Church and Ecumenical Work
- Bright Models of Ecumenical Work: Kairos Palestine, Kairos International as Model
- Women Leaders in the Holy Book
- The Bible Generation
- Byzantine Music: Between Roots, Dialogue and Openness

Priests, pastors, senior friends, youth and partners from different Middle Eastern countries served as speakers. The webinars, which were open to all who strive to experience ecumenism, reached up to a thousand people. ■



SCM Spotlight

OYM action on Beirut blast and COVID-19



Food packages were collected and distributed to people affected by COVID-19.

“The movement tackles social issues following general Christian principles” is the fourth principle in the establishment of the Orthodox Youth Movement in Lebanon in 1942. The OYM, also known as MJO (Mouvement de Jeunesse Orthodoxe) remains committed to this principle to this day.

Thus in 2020, when Lebanon was hit by multiple crises – COVID-19, the Beirut blast, and the increasingly deteriorating economic situation in the country – the OYM was ever ready to respond.

The OYM undertook several initiatives on different levels – social, psychological, financial, medical, among others – responding to the needs of the vulnerable in Lebanon in a great way and witnessing to the Resurrected Christ through its work and ministry.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the OYM:

- Gathered and distributed food packages for the affected people.
- Distributed electronic devices to help children during their online studies.
- Provided medicines, medical care and oxygen machines for free or for a symbolic sum to those infected by COVID-19.

Electronic devices were given to children to help them in their online studies.



Provided new appliances and hardware for households affected by the Beirut explosion.



Medicines, medical care and oxygen machines were given for free or for a symbolic sum to those infected with COVID-19.

In the aftermath of the Beirut blast in August, the OYM organised a Beirut Disaster Relief initiative, which involved raising funds and mobilising its members and resources to:

- Provide food and shelter to survivors of the explosion.
- Clean the streets of explosion debris.
- Provide new appliances and hardware for households affected by the Beirut explosion.
- Hire contractors to work on restoring some apartments to a liveable condition.
- Extend psychological assistance to those traumatised and lost loved ones in the explosion.

OYM's Beirut Disaster Relief initiative in action (e.g., street clean-up drive) may be viewed in a fundraising video posted on YouTube: bit.ly/3B2GtoG.

The OYM also organised different workshops targeting youth, women, elderly and kids. During Easter 2020, OYM members went around greater Beirut to distribute sweets to families. ■

SCMER STORYTELLING

Maria Nicolas

of JEC in Lebanon



I am Maria Nicolas, a Greek Catholic student from Lebanon. I have majored in engineering and am currently finalising my studies. I am a long-time member of Jeunesse Etudiante Chrétienne, a movement that helped in building my Christian faith and commitment. I am also the secretary of the Youth Ecumenical Committee in Lebanon.

Being involved with WSCF Middle East has opened new horizons for me, be it the multiplicity of people from different backgrounds and churches whom we get to know on a weekly basis, or the ecumenical formation that we receive allowing us to flourish and be true to the Word.

WSCF-ME has served as a platform that allows us to establish relationships based on mutual respect and acceptance of others despite our differences. It has allowed me to expand my knowledge and skills and apprehend new means of ministry.

Personally speaking, WSCF-ME has given me the chance to develop social as well as communication and leadership skills as I got involved in planning for events and activities on a national or regional level, in decision-making processes, as well as implementation and evaluation of programs.

The ecumenical formation that I have received was not merely timely, but rather a life-changing one that has shaped my beliefs, actions and projections in different ways. I am simply grateful for this opportunity.

WSCF 37th General Assembly Postponement



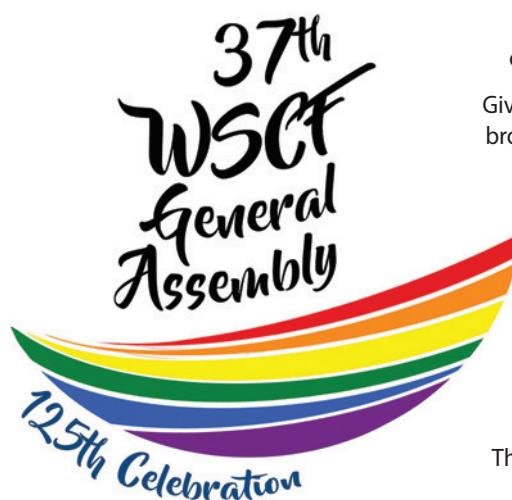
On March 24, 2020, not long after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, the WSCF Executive Committee met online to discuss the impact of the global health crisis on the planned 37th General Assembly (GA) that was scheduled to be held on June 4-12, 2020 in Berlin.

The deliberations took into account recommendations submitted by the GA Local Host Committee on the situation in Germany and the prospects of organising the GA in June, as well as information shared from different parts of the world on the escalating number of cases and the pandemic's trajectories.

After prayerful discernment and with the safety and protection of lives and the well-being of all its foremost concern, the Executive Committee announced on March 30 its decision to postpone the 37th General Assembly and its related events to 2021.

The new dates for the GA in 2021 were supposed to be announced when all the logistics and preparatory arrangements have been re-adjusted and finalised. Towards the end of the year, however, after an in-depth assessment of the global

Rejoice in Hope



June 2020, Berlin

brings together delegates from member SCMs across the world to talk about issues important to their contexts and to direct the work of the Federation for the next four years. The officers and ExCo members elected at the GA will lead in fulfilling the mandates approved by the SCM delegates at the assembly. ■

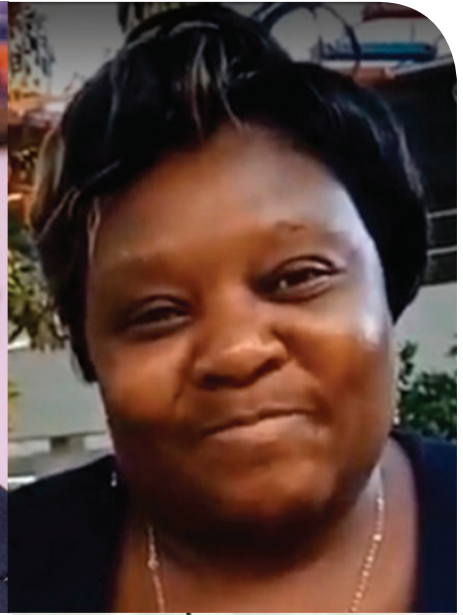
pandemic situation and considering all the factors involved in organising the GA, the ExCo deemed that the conditions were still not safe and conducive for an in-face general assembly.

Given the volatile and uncertain scenario brought about by the pandemic and the measures taken by governments, the ExCo sought to find the best possible course of action that would enhance the delegates' active participation at the assembly. Thus, in December 2020, the ExCo once again decided to postpone the 37th GA to a new date in 2022, maintaining Berlin as the host city.

The General Assembly is the most representative and highest-decision making body of the Federation.

Meeting every four years (or within a period of six years in case of extraordinary circumstances), the GA

Leadership and Staff Changes



The year 2020 was a challenging time of adaptation for WSCF not only because of the pandemic but also because of the leadership changes that transpired during this period.

2020 was the last full year of **Necta Montes** as WSCF general secretary, ending a five-year term that began in 2015, a time of uncertainty and critical need for organisational change in the Federation. During this period of transition, Necta exemplified true servant leadership and unwavering commitment to WSCF's goal of overcoming its internal organisational crises as she shepherded the Federation towards stability and sustainability, transparency and greater programmatic cohesion. Necta officially ends her term in January 2021.

The WSCF Executive Committee began the search for Necta's replacement in October 2019. The search process was completed in November 2020 with the election of **Marcelo Leites** from Uruguay as the new general secretary of WSCF. Marcelo has served the Federation as Latin America regional executive and Ecological Justice global program director. He will be presented to the member movements for approval at the forthcoming General Assembly.

In September 2020, **Georgine Kengne Djeutane** stepped down as WSCF chairperson after leading the Federation during its difficult period of transition from 2015 to 2020 with

courage, dedication and steadfast leadership. Georgine leaves behind a legacy of compassionate and prayerful discernment in the work of the WSCF Executive Committee, but will continue to be in the family of the Federation offering support and encouragement as a senior friend to the young leaders of the WSCF.

WSCF Co-Vice Chairpersons Immanuel Gopala Kitnan and Salma Sharaf will take over the role and responsibilities of the chairperson until the next General Assembly where elections will be held for the new set of officers of the Federation.

2020 also saw the departure of long-time global staff team member, **Sunita Suna**. She relinquished her role as regional executive for Asia-Pacific and global program director for Identity Diversity and Dialogue (IDD) when her contract ended in June. Sunita led the Asia-Pacific region for nine years and had significantly contributed to the strengthening of WSCF's gender justice work, empowering the global IDD program and laying down the foundation for dialogue on sexuality among WSCF member movements.

Fanny Chung (Chung Hiu Fan) from SCM Hong Kong took over leadership of the region as interim regional coordinator for Asia-Pacific for the period December 2020 to October 2021. Fanny worked as a staff of SCM Hong Kong and the Korean Student



Christian Federation (KSCF) in Seoul and served as Executive Committee member representing the region until October 2020. Fanny officially began her term on December 1, 2020. ■

Incoming WSCF General Secretary Marcelo David Leites

Marcelo David Leites, WSCF's incoming general secretary, has a long history of involvement with the Student Christian Movements in Uruguay and in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). He has served the Federation as regional executive for LAC since 2012 and as director of the global program on Ecological Justice since 2016.

Prior to this, Marcelo was a member of the SCM of Uruguay from 2005 to 2011. He worked as a social educator, campaigner and accompanier for youth-related programs and projects in Montevideo, Uruguay before joining WSCF as the interim regional secretary for LAC in 2011.

Marcelo brings to the WSCF a strong passion for justice work and ecumenism. In his introduction to the Executive Committee, he wrote "I have dedicated my personal and professional life to work on areas related to advocacy, economic and ecological justice, human rights, ethics, youth participation, gender and a theory of change. I believe critical thinking and biblical contextual analysis, organisational development, collective team work and grassroots capacity-building are fundamental to pursuing changes."

Marcelo graduated in 2011 from the Universidad de la República in Montevideo, Uruguay where he studied social work for two years and philosophy for four years. He is 35 years of age and lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina where the WSCF-LAC regional office is also located.

Marcelo will begin his new role as WSCF general secretary on February 1, 2021 after a handover period with outgoing General Secretary Necta Montes. ■



Global Leadership and Staff 2020

Officers

CHAIRPERSON

- ▶ **Georgine Kengne Djeutane** (Cameroon), Evangelical Reformed [UNTIL OCTOBER 2020]

CO-VICE CHAIRPERSONS

- ▶ **Immanuel Gopala Kitnan** (Sri Lanka), Anglican
- ▶ **Salma Charaf** (France), Orthodox

HONORARY TREASURER

- ▶ **Bronwyn Claire** (Australia), Anglican

Executive Staff

INTER-REGIONAL STAFF

GENERAL SECRETARY

- ▶ **Necta Montes** (Philippines), United Church of Christ

FINANCE OFFICER

- ▶ **Jean-Luc De La Soujeole** (France), Catholic

REGIONAL EXECUTIVES AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS

AFRICA

HIGHER EDUCATION

- ▶ **Christopher Chimangeni** (Malawi), Catholic

ASIA-PACIFIC

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE

- ▶ **Sunita Sumati Suna** (India), Lutheran (UNTIL JUNE 2020)
- ▶ **Chung Hiu Fan/Fanny Chung** (Hong Kong), Interim Regional Coordinator (FROM DECEMBER 2020)

EUROPE

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

- ▶ **Natia Tsintsadze** (Italy), Orthodox

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

- ▶ **Marcelo Leites*** (Uruguay), Independent

MIDDLE EAST

PEACE-BUILDING & DIALOGUE

- ▶ **Mira Neaimeh** (Lebanon), Orthodox

NORTH AMERICA

ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY

- ▶ VACANT

Executive Committee

AFRICA

- ▶ **Isatu Ville Cheeks** (Liberia), Episcopal
- ▶ **Paul Martin Nguimgo** (Cameroon), Evangelical Reformed

ASIA-PACIFIC

- ▶ **Chung Hiu Fan** (Hong Kong), Presbyterian [UNTIL OCTOBER 2020]
- ▶ **John Graveston** (New Zealand/Aotearoa), Anglican

EUROPE

- ▶ **Annika Foltin** (Germany), Lutheran Protestant [UNTIL OCTOBER 2020]
- ▶ **Zuzana Babicova** (Slovakia), Catholic [UNTIL OCTOBER 2020]
- ▶ **Marta Sappé Griot** (Italy), Waldensian Church [FROM OCTOBER 2020]
- ▶ **Patrick Holly** (Ireland) [FROM OCTOBER 2020]

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- ▶ **Dianet de la Caridad Martinez Valdés** (Cuba), Presbyterian
- ▶ **Oscar Eduardo Reicher Salazar** (Chile), Methodist

MIDDLE EAST

- ▶ **Mariane Azer** (Egypt), Coptic Orthodox
- ▶ **Dany El-Obeid** (Lebanon), Orthodox

NORTH AMERICA

- ▶ **Brandi Friesen Thorpe** (Canada), Mennonite
- ▶ **Louise Tillman** (USA), Lutheran

PARTNER REPRESENTATIVE

- ▶ **Salters Sterling** WSCF Centennial Fund

* Elected in December 2020 as incoming general secretary

Membership 2020

WSCF AFFILIATED, ASSOCIATED, AND CONTACT MOVEMENTS*

TOTAL: 117 MOVEMENTS, 91 COUNTRIES

- ANGOLA ▶ World Council of Churches of Angola (CICA)
- ARGENTINA ▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano en Argentina (MEC)
- ARMENIA ▶ Youth Union of Jrvezh, Armenian Youth Union
- AUSTRALIA ▶ Australian Student Christian Movement (SCM)
- AUSTRIA ▶ Evangelische Hochschulgemeinde in Österreich (EHG)
- BANGLADESH ▶ Bangladesh Student Christian Movement (SCM)
- BELARUS ▶ Centre Ecumena *
- BENIN ▶ Jeunesse Chrétienne Universitaire et Scolaire du Bénin (JCUSB)
- BOLIVIA ▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano de Bolivia (MEC)
- BRAZIL ▶ Movimiento Ecueménico de Estudiantes de Teología (MEET)
- BRITAIN ▶ Student Christian Movement (SCM)
- BULGARIA ▶ Christian Youth Council in Bulgaria (CYCB)
- BURUNDI ▶ Département des Jeunes, Église Épiscopale du Burundi
- CAMBODIA ▶ Cambodian Student Christian Movement (SCM)
- CAMEROON ▶ Mouvement des Étudiants Protestants du Cameroun (MEPC)
- CANADA ▶ Canada Student Christian Movement (SCM)
▶ Mouvement des Étudiants Chrétiens du Québec (MECQ)
- CHILE ▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano de Chile (MEC)
- COLOMBIA ▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano de Barranquilla (MEC) ***
▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano de Bogotá (MEC) ***
- CÔTE D'IVOIRE ▶ Association Chrétienne des Elèves et Etudiants Protestants de Côte d'Ivoire (ACEEPCI)
- CROATIA ▶ Studentski Evandeoski Pokret (STEP)
- CUBA ▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano de Cuba (MEC)
- DR OF CONGO ▶ Association des Jeunes et des Étudiants Chrétiens (AJEC)
▶ Fédération Nationale des Jeunes Protestant (FNJP)
- DENMARK ▶ YMCA and YWCA Denmark **
- EGYPT ▶ Coptic Catholic Youth Egypt
▶ Ecumenical Youth Committee (EYC)
▶ Evangelical College Youth of Egypt
▶ Haq Wa Adel
▶ National Participation Committee
▶ Orthodox Youth Movement – Cairo
▶ Youth of Evangelical Synod
▶ University Student Christian Association (USCA)
- EL SALVADOR ▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano Salvadoreño (MEC)
- ETHIOPIA ▶ Haymanote Abew Ethiopian Students' Association (HAESA)
▶ The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)
- FINLAND ▶ Ortodoksinen Opiskelijaliitto (OOL)
▶ Suomen Kristillinen Ylioppilaliitto (SKY)
- FRANCE ▶ Association des Etudiants Protestants de Paris – Fédération
▶ Française des Associations Chrétiennes d'Étudiants (FACE)
▶ L'Action Chrétienne des Etudiants Russes –
▶ Mouvement de Jeunesse Orthodoxe (ACER-MJO)
- GAMBIA ▶ Gambia Student Christian Movement (SCM)
- GEORGIA ▶ Georgia Student Christian Movement *
▶ Young Christians for Peace and Democracy (YCPD)
- GERMANY ▶ Evangelischen Studierendengemeinden in Deutschland (ESG)
- GHANA ▶ Ghana Student Christian Movement (SCM)
- GUINEA ▶ SCM Guinea (Contact Point) ***
- HAITI ▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano ACEH Haïti – MEC
- HONG KONG ▶ Student Christian Movement of Hong Kong (SCM)
- INDIA ▶ Student Christian Movement of India (SCM)
- INDONESIA ▶ Gerakan Mahasiswa Kristen Indonesia (GMKI)
- IRAQ ▶ Iraqi Christian Youth Committee (ICCY)
- IRELAND ▶ Ireland Student Christian Movement (SCM)

- ITALY ▶ Federazione Giovanile Evangelica Italiana (FGEI)
- JAPAN ▶ Japan Student YMCA
- JORDAN ▶ Saint Georges Youth – Oumm Al Summak
- KENYA ▶ Kenya Student Christian Movement (SCM)
- KOREA ▶ Korea Student Christian Federation (KSCF)
- LATVIA ▶ SCM KRISTA
- LEBANON ▶ Apostolic Youth Federation (AYF)
▶ Armenian Church University Student Association (ACUSA)
▶ Armenian Evangelical Youth Association
▶ Dioceses Youth for Church (DYC) *
▶ Jeunesse Etudiante Chrétienne (JEC)
▶ Marian Apostolic Movement
▶ Orthodox Youth Movement – Lebanon (OYM)
- LESOTHO ▶ SCM Lesotho
- LIBERIA ▶ National Student Christian Council – SCM Liberia
- LITHUANIA ▶ Vilnius Evangelical Lutheran Academic Youth Fellowship
- MADAGASCAR ▶ Mpianatra Kristiana Malgasi
- MALAWI ▶ Christian Youth Association of Malawi *
- MALAYSIA ▶ SCM Malaysia
- MEXICO ▶ MEC por la Equidad
- MOZAMBIQUE ▶ SCM Mozambique
- MYANMAR ▶ Myanmar Student Christian Movement
- NAMIBIA ▶ SCM Namibia
- NEPAL ▶ Nepal Student Christian Movement (NSCM)
- NETHERLANDS ▶ Landelijk Steunpunt Studentenpastoraten
▶ Nieuwe Afdeling Utrecht der Societas
▶ Studiosorum Reformatorum (SSR-NU) **
▶ TheInnBetween ***
- NEW ZEALAND ▶ Student Christian Movement Aotearoa
- NIGERIA ▶ SCM Nigeria
- NORWAY ▶ Norges Kristelige Studentforbund
- PAKISTAN ▶ SCM Pakistan
- PALESTINE ▶ Palestine Youth Ecumenical Movement (PYEM) *
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA ▶ SCM Papua New Guinea
- PERU ▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano del Perú (SCM)
- PHILIPPINES ▶ Student Christian Movement of the Philippines
- POLAND ▶ Fellowship of Orthodox Youth in Poland *
- ROMANIA ▶ Asociația Studenților Creștini – Ortodocși Români
- RWANDA ▶ Mouvement des Étudiants au Service Social au Rwanda
▶ Rassemblement de la Jeunesse Etudiante à l'Action
- SENEGAL ▶ Mouvement des Jeunes de l'Eglise Protestante du Sénégal
- SIERRA LEONE ▶ SCM Sierra Leone
- SINGAPORE ▶ SCM Singapore
- SLOVAKIA ▶ EKUNET Slovakia
- SOUTH AFRICA ▶ Federation of South African Christian Students
- SOUTH SUDAN ▶ Sudanese Students Christian Mission
- SRI LANKA ▶ Student Christian Movement of Sri Lanka
- SUDAN ▶ Khartoum University Student Caucuses
- SWEDEN ▶ Kristna Studentrörelsen i Sverige
- SYRIA ▶ Orthodox Youth Movement – Syria (OYM)
- TAIWAN ▶ Taiwan Student Christian Federation
- TANZANIA ▶ Tanzania Student Christian Fellowship
- THAILAND ▶ SCM Thailand
- TIMOR LESTE ▶ Movimento Estudante Cristao Timor Leste
- TOGO ▶ Association Chrétienne d'Elèves et Etudiants du Togo
- UGANDA ▶ Uganda SCM
- UKRAINE ▶ Orthodox Youth Group ***
- USA ▶ Lutheran Student Movement
▶ SCM USA *
▶ United Methodist Student Movement
- URUGUAY ▶ Espacio Estudiantil Cristiano – MEC Uruguay
- VENEZUELA ▶ Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano de Venezuela (MEC)
- ZAMBIA ▶ SCM Zambia
- ZIMBABWE ▶ SCM Zimbabwe

* ADDED AFTER 35TH GA IN 2015 ** ADDED AFTER ONLINE GA IN 2017 *** NEW

Consolidated 2020 Financial Summary

THE WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION (WSCF) is a non-profit organisation. The WSCF raises funding from partners and accepts donations from well-wishers. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

The Trustees of the World Student Christian Federation, USA, Inc. is a not-for-profit charitable organisation incorporated in the State of New York. This 2020 financial summary combines information from the Geneva-based Inter-Regional Office (IRO) and six (6) regional offices in Beirut, Trento, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, Nairobi and New York, which covers the world.

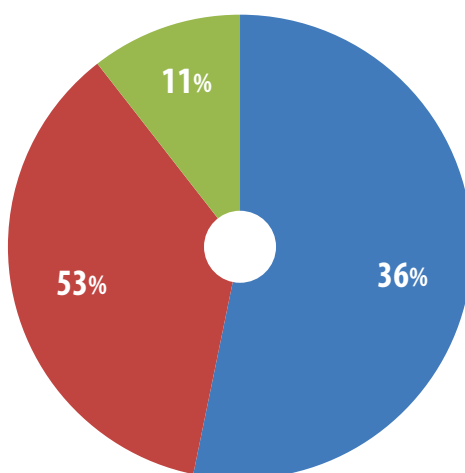
Income Year 2020

Total Federation - Income Year 2020

Undesignated*	\$ 264,511	53%
Designated*	180,339	36%
WSCF-related sources	52,260	11%

TOTAL INCOME \$497,110

* Churches & Agencies

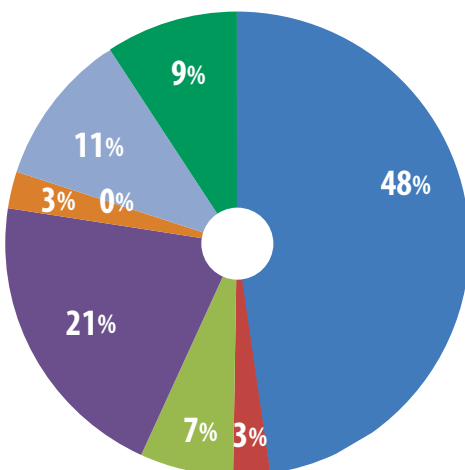


Total Federation - Income Year 2020

Geneva	\$ 237,322	48%
Africa	12,843	3%
Middle East ¹	32,360	7%
Middle East ²	102,815	21%
Latin America	12,553	3%
North America	0	0%
Asia-Pacific	52,819	11%
Europe	46,398	9%

TOTAL INCOME \$497,110

¹ ME / WSCF ² ME / Ecumenical Institute



WSCF regional and global activities in 2020 have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Major programs due to be rolled out in 2020 had to be suddenly put on hold, and replaced, on very short notice, by online live webinars. Some major activities such as the WSCF quadrennial General Assembly, initially planned for the end of June 2020 in Berlin, had to be postponed to mid-2022.

INCOME

As a result of these adverse sanitary conditions, income received from our partners, mostly for designated programmes, was only US\$497,000 – a 38% drop from 2019.

EXPENSES

The level of expenses, almost aligned to the reduced funding, reached US\$499,000 – a 37% decrease also from the previous year.

NET RESULT

This left a small loss of US\$2,000 for the year 2020.

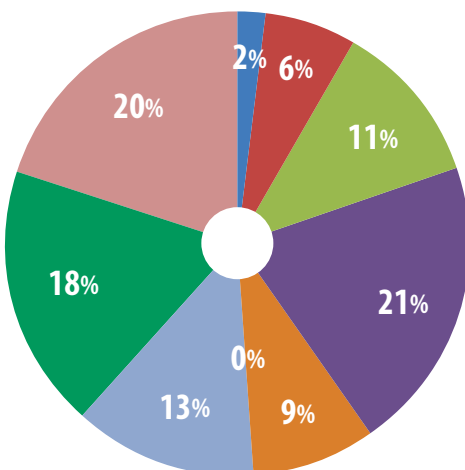
Expenses Year 2020

Total Federation - Expenses Year 2020

Program/Geneva	\$ 8,895	2%
Africa	32,295	6%
Middle East ¹	56,193	11%
Middle East ²	102,815	21%
Latin America	44,143	9%
North America	0	0%
Asia-Pacific	64,045	13%
Europe	92,090	18%
Global Services/Geneva	98,890	20%

TOTAL EXPENSES \$499,366

¹ ME / WSCF ² ME / Ecumenical Institute



NET RESULT -\$2,256

Centennial Fund 2020 Annual Report

When I wrote the Centennial Fund Report for 2019, I fully expected that I would not still be the chair of the Trustees in March 2021 and sitting down to write the Annual Report for 2020. But that is how it is. COVID-19 has had a huge effect on all our lives and the work of the Centennial Fund is no exception. Jannes Hutagalung from Indonesia should have succeeded me as chair at the Annual General Meeting of the Fund when we met in association with the General Assembly of the World Student Christian Federation in Berlin in June 2020. That is what was planned. However, with the world in lockdown the

General Assembly had to be postponed and illness has caused Jannes to have to reconsider his commitments and regretfully to indicate that it is no longer possible for him to take on the responsibilities of being chairperson. We are delighted that he has agreed to remain as vice-chairperson.

In 2020, all meetings of the Trustees of the Centennial Fund were held online. At our AGM, the Trustees unanimously agreed that I should continue in the chair and that Ilari Rantakari should become chairperson-designate to become chairperson from the time of an in-person WSCF General Assembly in 2022.

CENTENNIAL FUND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

	ACTUAL 2020 (US\$)	ACTUAL 2019 (US\$)	VARIATION 2020/2019 (US\$)	COMMENTS	BUDGET 2021 (US\$)
Income	Unaudited				
Dividends on shares	19,849	25,165	-5,316	Less dividends distribution due to Covid-19.	20,000
Other income	-	-	-		-
TOTAL INCOME	19,849	25,165	-5,316		20,000
Expenditures					
Salaries	8,500	8,500	-		8,500
Printing and stationery	3,500	3,500	-		3,500
Audit fees	2,980	2,874	106		3,000
Legal costs	-	1,613	-1,613		1,000
Bible & Theology Program	5,790	27,322	-21,532	Program on hold in 2020.	-
Contribution to the WSCF-AFR RC Meeting	-	10,586	-10,586	One-off contribution.	-
Miscellaneous expenses	2,187	-	2,187		2,000
Other office costs	8,000	8,000	-		8,000
Total Expenditures	30,957	62,395	-31,438		26,000
Grants and Other Operating Costs					
Grant to WSCF-IRO	20,000	20,000	-		20,000
Board of Trustees Meeting	-	6,459	-6,459	No in-face Board of Trustees Meeting.	-
Reserve for the 2020 GA	-	55,000	-55,000	Reserve fully set up at the end of 2019.	-
Total Grants and Other Operating Costs	20,000	81,459	-61,459		20,000
Extraordinary Income and Expenditure on Investment Portfolio					
Asset appreciation / (depreciation)	89,667	358,740	-269,073	Still positive but lower than in 2019.	38,600
Exchange gain / (loss)	85,077	-6,593	91,670	Favourable exchange gain EUR vs USD.	-
WHT	-3,219	-23,346	20,127	One-year write off vs 4 years in 2019.	-3,000
Bank charges	-8,077	-8,065	-12		-8,100
Commissions, taxes, sundry	-1,217	-3,725	2,508		-1,500
Total Extraordinary Income and Expenditure	162,232	317,011	-154,779		26,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-111,275	-173,157	61,882		20,000
Net Profit / (Loss)	131,124	198,322	-67,198		0

Partners and Donors 2020



Ilari is an ambassador emeritus of Finland, an active member of the Lutheran Church, greatly committed to interfaith dialogue, and a long-time member of the SCM and the Federation going back to 1968. In recent years he has attended the Federation general assemblies in Montreal and Bogota. The Trustees are delighted that Ilari has agreed to become the president of the Trustees, to use the official title.

The financial affairs of the Centennial Fund ended with the capital value of the Endowment Fund increasing by some US\$109,000.00 at the end of the financial year. At the same time, the Fund continued with its now customary US\$40,000.00 grant towards the recurrent expenditure of the Federation, including the cost of services provided by the Federation to the Fund. In addition, the Fund continued to make available, as required, support for the Bible Study and Theological Reflection activities of the Federation in preparation for the General Assembly. This resource comes specifically from the Suzanne de Dietrich Fund. At the same time, the CF continues to make provision for a contribution to the cost of the next in-person General Assembly.

End of year 2020 saw the Trustees prepare to say 'thank you' and 'bon voyage' to Necta Montes who, in addition to her role as general secretary of the WSCF, acted as record secretary of the Centennial Fund in a most efficient and responsible manner. Necta's resignation took effect from January 31, 2021. A much fuller appreciation of Necta will appear in the 2021 Report as will our welcome to Marcelo Leites, her successor as general secretary.

Meanwhile, it is a privilege to express profound gratitude to Jean-Luc De La Soujeole, our immensely competent finance officer who, in addition to his bookkeeping function, also acts with great diligence as the convenor of our Investment Management Group, which our colleague Trustee, Mathieu Durrleman, so expertly chairs. To all my colleague Trustees, Bruce Rigdon as treasurer, Jannes Hutagalung as vice-chair, Ilari Rantakari as chair-designate, Sheryl Johnson as student representative, Mathieu Durrleman, Bronwyn Claire as treasurer of the Federation, and Shali D.O. Kapepo, I express profound gratitude for their commitment to the welfare of the Fund and for their contributions of knowledge, judgment and wisdom in our meetings.

Salters Sterling
President, Centennial Fund Trustees

- Apostolic Youth Federation (AYF)
- Armenian Church University Student Association (ACUSA)
- Bruce Rigdon
- Council of Europe Youth Department
- Dany El Obeid
- David Cleary and Vera Papp
- David Stevens Foundation
- Dorothy Wyman
- EMW Hamburg
- Erasmus + programme of the European Commission
- European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe
- Ilari Rantakari
- Jean-Luc de La Soujeole
- Karibu Foundation
- Khartoum University Youth Caucuses
- Kurt Kaboth
- Marcelo Leites
- Michael Hannah
- Mira Neaimeh
- Natia Tsintsadze
- National Participation Committee (NPC)
- Orthodox Youth Movement (OYM) – Lebanon
- Otto per Mille fund of the Waldensian Church in Italy
- Palestine Youth Ecumenical Movement (PYEM)
- Ruth Conway
- Salters Sterling
- SCM Australia
- SCM Germany
- SCM India
- SCM Ireland
- SCM Nigeria
- SCM UK
- Sheryl Johnson
- Société Genevoise pour les Protestants Disséminés
- Sunita Suna
- United Church of Canada
- US Trustees
- Wai Ching Angela Wong
- WSCF Canada
- WSCF Centennial Fund
- YMCA Japan
- Zuzana Babicova

2020 Year in Review

BLACK – WSCF-ORGANISED ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS
BLUE – PARTNER-ORGANISED ACTIVITIES WITH WSCF PARTICIPATION

DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	COUNTRY / REGION	THEMATIC PROGRAM	STRATEGY / WORK AREA
JAN 1	Week of Prayer for the Unity of the Church	Lebanon / ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JAN 31	Week of Prayer for the Unity of the Church	Egypt / ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JAN-DEC	European Advocacy and Solidarity	Europe	PEACE-BUILDING ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JAN-DEC	Regional Bible Reflections	Africa		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JAN-DEC	Conference of European Churches Thematic Group: Ecclesiology and Mission	Europe		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JAN-DEC	Conference of European Churches Thematic Group: Human Rights	Europe	HUMAN RIGHTS PEACE-BUILDING INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
FEB 10-13	WSCF Europe Regional Committee Meeting	Europe		GOVERNANCE ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FEB 13	Regional Meeting via Zoom: Regional consultation, assemblies, programs and activities for the year 2020	LAC		GOVERNANCE ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FEB 17-18	European Christian Environmental Network, Assembly Planning Leadership Group Meeting	Europe	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	
FEB 19	Regional Committee Meeting via Zoom: 2020 strategies and vision, sharing of ideas	ME		GOVERNANCE ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FEB 26	Online Regional Training on Agri-Business	Africa		CAPACITY-BUILDING
FEB 27	Participation in the Planning Meeting of the ACT Alliance Reference Group on Climate Justice and Migration, Geneva	LAC	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
MAR 5	Tree-planting exercise in the northern and southern part of Malawi	Africa	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
MAR 9-10	Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe Conference on "Justice for Roma and Sinti: A Challenge for Churches", Budapest	Europe	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE HUMAN RIGHTS	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
MAR 17	Movement visitation	Africa		GOVERNANCE
MAR 24	SCM participation in Day of Remembrance for Truth and Justice in Argentina	Argentina / LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
MAR 24	Webinar on "Faith under COVID-19 Crisis" by Father Nehme Saliba (Lebanon)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
MAR 25	Regional Meeting via Zoom: Accompaniment in the isolation situation with WSCF-LAC referents group	LAC		MOVEMENT BUILDING
MAR 27	Launch of call for contributions to the publication, The Crisis Beyond the Crisis: Inequalities, Violence and Human Rights in the Time of COVID-19	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	COMMUNICATIONS
MAR 31	Webinar on "Faith under COVID-19 Crisis" by Dr. Zahi Azar (Lebanon)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
APR	Invitation to SCMs to participate with the hashtag #TBTFUMEC and share the best photos with WSCF	LAC		MOVEMENT BUILDING COMMUNICATIONS
APR 7	Webinar on "Faith and Witness in the Time of Coronavirus" by Rev. Mounzer Isaac (Palestine) and Ms. Hala Kordahy (Lebanon)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
APR 6	Distribution of PPEs at a selected school in the southern region	Africa		
APR 12	Theological Reflection Easter Celebration	Europe	PEACE-BUILDING	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
APR 14	Webinar on "Faith under COVID-19 Crisis" by Dr. Faisal Fouad (Egypt) and Eng. Fadi Nasr (Lebanon)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	COUNTRY / REGION	THEMATIC PROGRAM	STRATEGY / WORK AREA
APR 21	Webinar on "The Resurrection" by Dr. Marianne Azer (Egypt)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
APR 28	Webinar on "The Social & Economic Outcomes after COVID-19" by Hany Agayby (Egypt)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
APR 29	Online Conversation: Challenges of Student Christian Movement of Venezuela	Venezuela / LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	MOVEMENT BUILDING
APR 29	Executive Committee Meeting	Africa		GOVERNANCE
APR 30	Regional Youth Leaders' Meeting	Africa		GOVERNANCE ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
APR	Publication of the 39th issue of WSCF Europe ecumenical journal Mozaik: "Together Against Youth Extremism"	Europe	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE HUMAN RIGHTS	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY COMMUNICATIONS
APR	WSCF Europe participation in the "Outbreak of Generosity" campaign of the Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO)	Europe	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	
APR-MAY	Social media campaign on the COVID-19 Impact on Young People	Europe	HUMAN RIGHTS ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	CAPACITY-BUILDING ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
MAY 5	Webinar on "A Dialogue about Dialogue" by Ms. Katy Nassar (Lebanon)	ME	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
MAY 12	Webinar on "A Scriptural Study of Temptation" by Father Temon Al Souryany (Egypt)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
MAY 14	SCM Cuba and WSCF-LAC participation in "Prayer for Humanity", a global initiative of the High Committee of Human Fraternity	Cuba / LAC	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	
MAY 19	Webinar on "Women in Christianity" by Rev. Dr. Rima Nasrallah (Lebanon)	ME	IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
MAY 25	Launch of WSCF-LAC magazine, The Crisis Beyond the Crisis: Inequalities, Violence and Human Rights in the Time of COVID-19	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	COMMUNICATIONS
MAY 26	Webinar on "The Lord is My Refuge and My Fortress: A Biblical Study of Psalm 91" by Hani Sleiman (Egypt)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JUNE 1	Online meeting on gender and revival of WSCF-AF Female Commission	Africa	IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS	MOVEMENT BUILDING
JUNE 2	Webinar on "The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on the Environment" by Dr. Charbel Mahfouz (Lebanon) and Dr. Mayssa Allos (Iraq)	ME	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JUNE 5	Regional Committee Meeting via Zoom: work monitoring and effectiveness, consultation	ME		ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE
JUNE 9	Webinar on "Trauma Healing" by Sister Emilie Tannous (Lebanon)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JUNE 16	Webinar on "The Concept of Christian Marriage and its Challenges" by Father Walid El Dik (Lebanon)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JUNE 23	Webinar on "The Christians' Rights and Duties within the Church" by Father Bassam Shahatit (Jordan)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JUNE 24	Participation in the webinar on "The Role of Religious or Belief Actors in Combating the COVID-19 Pandemic, Strengthening Human Security and Implications for the Future" by the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL) of Religions for Peace Europe	Europe	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE HUMAN RIGHTS	
JUNE 27	Webinar on "WSCF Global Talks: COVID-19, its Social Intersections and the Role of the SCMs"	Global	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JUNE 29	Online Regional Training on Leadership	Africa		CAPACITY-BUILDING ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
JUNE 30	Webinar on "Disability" by Dr. Fadi El Halabi (Lebanon)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JUNE	Release of statement on "Black Lives Matter"	Europe	HUMAN RIGHTS PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY

WSCF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

2020 Year in Review

DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	COUNTRY / REGION	THEMATIC PROGRAM	STRATEGY / WORK AREA
JUNE	Release of statement on "Celebrating Pride"	Europe	IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JULY 1	Launch of "Cry of Hope: A Call for Decisive Action" campaign of Kairos Palestine and the Global Kairos for Justice Coalition, with WSCF-LAC participation	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JULY 7	Webinar on "Social Media Influence on the Acceptance of Others" by Dr. Amira Tawadros (Egypt)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JULY 7-10	Participation in the Conference of European Churches' Summer School on Human Rights, "Challenges for Human Rights in the Time of COVID-19"	Europe	PEACE-BUILDING INTERFAITH DIALOGUE HUMAN RIGHTS DEMOCRACY COUNTERING HATE SPEECH	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JULY 9	Webinar on "International Ecclesial Accompaniment to the Peace Process" of the cycle "The Regions Take the Word" organised by the Inter-Ecclesial Dialogue for Peace, with WSCF-LAC participation	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JULY 14	Webinar on "A Palestinian-Christian Reading of the Old Testament" by Father Jamal Khoder (Palestine)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JULY 21	Webinar on "The Importance of Christian Dialogue for Witnessing Together" by Rev. Georges Copti (Jordan)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
JULY 21	Regional Meeting via Zoom with SCMs referents: Evaluation of first semester 2020 and work projections for second semester 2020	LAC		GOVERNANCE ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
JULY 28	Webinar on "How Can I Take Advantage of Crises?" by Rev. Ernest Nady (Egypt)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
JULY 29	Executive Committee Meetings	Africa		GOVERNANCE
JULY 30	Sub-Regional Training on Peace-Building	Africa	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
AUG 11	A Prayer for Lebanon	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
AUG 18	Webinar on "Beirut, a Spiritual Reading" by Father Nehme Saliba (Lebanon)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
AUG 25	Webinar on "Our Role as Christians in Society" by Mr. Ayman Karam (Egypt)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
SEPT 1	Webinar on "Hope in a Troubled World" by Father Rafael Tharwat (Egypt)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
SEPT 8	Webinar on "The Ecumenical Movement Today: Challenges and Prospects" by Dr. Zahi Azar (Lebanon)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
SEPT 15	Webinar on "The Youth's Role in Building Ecumenical Work" by Dr. Faisal Fouad (Egypt)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
SEPT 22	Webinar on "Ecumenical Prospects and COVID-19 Obstacles" by Ms. Elsy Wakil (Lebanon)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
SEPT 22	Webinar on "Gender Equality and Human Rights in Times of COVID-19 and Climate Change" organised by ACT Alliance, Church World Service and WSCF-LAC	LAC	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
SEPT 24-26	Leadership Training Program: "For We Are One"	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
SEPT 29	Webinar on "The Episcopal Church and Ecumenical Work" by Rev. Faeq Haddad (Jordan)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
SEPT 30	Sub-Regional Training on Leadership and Corruption	Africa		CAPACITY-BUILDING
SEPT-DEC	Interfaith Project on Ecological Justice	Europe	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
OCT 2	Webinar on "Christian Zionism and Fundamentalisms in Latin America: Ecumenical Perspectives" organised by WSCF-LAC and Global Kairos Coalition - Latin America	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY CAPACITY-BUILDING
OCT 5-8	Faith for Nature: Multi-Faith Action Conference	Europe	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	

DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	COUNTRY / REGION	THEMATIC PROGRAM	STRATEGY / WORK AREA
OCT 6	Webinar on "Bright Models of Ecumenical Work: Kairos Palestine / Kairos International as Model" by Mr. Nidal Abou El Zuluf (Palestine)	ME	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
OCT 13	Webinar on "Women Leaders in the Holy Book" by Ms. Lama Mansour (Palestine)	ME	IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
OCT 20	Webinar on "The Bible Generation" by Father Joseph Soueid (Lebanon)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
OCT 23	Webinar on "What are fundamentalisms and how do they affect the situation of human rights and democracy in the region?" – First Session of the Online Course on "Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms and the Role of Ecumenical Youth"	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	CAPACITY-BUILDING
OCT 27	Webinar on "Byzantine Music: Between Roots, Dialogue and Openness" by Father Romanos Osta (Lebanon)	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
OCT 28	Webinar on "Countering Hate Speech: Youth Initiatives and Challenges", part of the ALTerHate Campaign of the Religions for Peace Europe Youth Network	Europe	PEACE-BUILDING INTERFAITH DIALOGUE HUMAN RIGHTS	
OCT 29	Webinar on "Socio-Environmental Justice" – Second Session of the Online Course on "Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms and the Role of Ecumenical Youth"	LAC	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	CAPACITY-BUILDING
OCT 29	Executive Committee Meetings	Africa		GOVERNANCE
OCTOBER	Coffee Breaks with the SCMs (Finland, Austria, Denmark and Italy)	Europe	PEACE-BUILDING ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE INTERFAITH DIALOGUE IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE	CAPACITY-BUILDING MOVEMENT BUILDING
NOV 6	"Gender Justice and LGBTQI+" – Third Session of the Online Course on "Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms and the Role of Ecumenical Youth"	LAC	IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE	CAPACITY-BUILDING
NOV 10-13	Participation in the 1st Assembly on Women, Faith, and Diplomacy, "Keeping Faith and Transforming Tomorrow", organised by Religions for Peace	Europe	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	
NOV 11	Webinar on "Peacebuilding and Non-Violent Resistance" – Fourth Session of the Online Course on "Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms and the Role of Ecumenical Youth"	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	CAPACITY-BUILDING
NOV 14	Workshop on Communication and Advocacy and Solidarity Tools – Fifth Session of the Online Course on "Democracy, Human Rights, Fundamentalisms and the Role of Ecumenical Youth"	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	CAPACITY-BUILDING
NOV 23	Participation in the webinar on "Young Women of Faith in our Secular and Pluralistic World" organised by FoRêL – Female Religious Leaders	Europe	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE	
NOV 26	Lizeth Durán (SCM Colombia) participation in the webinar, "Conflict Zones and COVID-19: A Call to Compassion" organised by the World Council of Churches	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
NOV 27	Participation in the Ecumenical Act of Reflection and Prayer for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women organised by Act Alliance LAC	LAC	IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE GENDER JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
NOV 27-30	WSCF Europe Winter School: "You(th) Voice: Faith and Advocacy and Solidarity for Human Rights in the 21st century"	Europe	PEACE-BUILDING HUMAN RIGHTS	CAPACITY-BUILDING ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
DEC 7-14	Kairos Palestine Christmas Alert 2020 Video – produced by WSCF-LAC (script, video compilation and final editing) with the support of Global Kairos for Justice	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	
DEC 16-17	Participation in the Conference of European Churches Online Conference, "The Hope of Communion: From 1920 to 2020"	Europe	PEACE-BUILDING	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
DEC 21	Online Meeting with SCM leaders	Africa		GOVERNANCE
DEC 21	Kairos Palestine Christmas Alert 2020 Video in English (translation and editing)	LAC	PEACE-BUILDING	

WSCF STRATEGIC PLAN

2016-2021*

VISION

WSCF is called to be a prophetic witness in the Church and the transformation of the world where God's love for creation, justice and peace is shared by all across boundaries of race, class, ethnicity, culture, gender and sexuality. This vision is nurtured by a radical hope of God's reign in history and liberating faith in Jesus Christ.



MISSION

WSCF is a global fellowship of Student Christian Movements putting their faith into action to contribute to the renewal of the ecumenical movement and to promote justice and peace in the world.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Promote climate justice through public advocacy processes directed at international governance bodies, working in partnership with ecumenical institutions, churches and various stakeholder networks upholding the youth and student voice on ecological issues.

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND DIALOGUE

Initiate the process of dialogue, create spaces and develop theological understanding for the SCMs on human sexuality.

PEACE-BUILDING AND DIALOGUE

Mobilise the Federation on issues pertaining to overcoming violence and building peace with a focus on the situations in the Middle East and Colombia.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Work in solidarity with SCMs and student movements to advocate for the right to education for all.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Engage the Federation in creating and providing interfaith platforms for youth and students.

STRATEGIES

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Stimulate the study of the Bible and promote theological thinking among Christian students to help them understand the call of God in their lives.

ADVOCACY AND SOLIDARITY

Enable the Federation to stand firmly in solidarity with students, movements and people around the world, especially in situations of oppression and exploitation, human rights violations, conflict, war and violence, and natural disasters, and advocate for systemic change in the world and in different contexts.

ECUMENICAL TRANSFORMATIVE DIAKONIA

Enhance the capacity of SCMs and the Federation to serve and respond to the needs of the community by developing a deeper understanding and practice of Ecumenical Transformative Diakonia at the local, regional and global levels.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

Build dynamic SCMs that will give rise to a new generation of young Christian leaders and prophetic witnesses that will act together to renew the ecumenical movement and transform the world.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Develop enabling structures and systems and nurture a competent team of staff and officers that will bring the Federation to a financially viable state and sustainable future.

* The WSCF 2016-2019 Strategic Plan has been extended up to 2021 due to the postponement of the 37th General Assembly. (See "Introduction from the Incoming General Secretary")

WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

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