

2021^{THE} RED BOOK

ANNUAL REPORT WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION



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2021: Year in Review

EDITORS

Marcelo Leites
María Camila Ulloa
Bes Rifareal

TEXT AND PHOTOS

courtesy of:

Natia Tsintsadze
Mira Neaimeh
Fanny Chung
Dianet de la Caridad Martínez
Christopher Chimangeni

FINANCIAL DATA

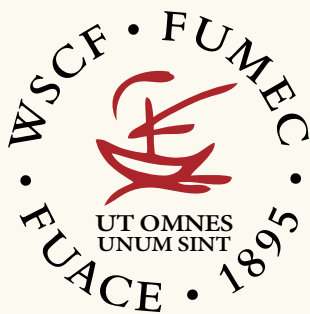
Jean-Luc De La Soujeole

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

designworkers.biz

ABOUT THE COVER

The image is derived from a photo of SCMs from the Middle East region participating in WSCF-ME's Easter celebration that took place along a seashore in Rmeileh, Lebanon in May 2021.



A vision for the Federation in the 21st Century

Greetings

Dear WSCF family, dear friends:

It is with a deep sense of joy and satisfaction that we present the 2021 Red Book to you.

The signs of our times seem to demand a novel vision and a fresh orientation for the Federation. We live in a world where injustice is institutionalised as a consequence of the global embrace of the ideology of the neo-liberal market economy. Economic globalisation continues to exert a gripping influence on almost all spheres of human life, particularly those of the student and the academia.

The market ideology wants students to be self-centered and self-absorbed buyers of education without any sense of social commitment. Education, in other words, has become a commodity in the market of universities. WSCF, with its inherent and alternative concept of a student who is socially sensitive, who would want to use education in the service of building up an egalitarian, democratic and morally just society, should be able to make use of the fresh energy and enthusiasm that is being reflected in the emerging youth and student movements for democracy, human and environmental rights in various parts of the globe.

The culture of 'fear and hatred of the other' is yet another major sign of our times that appears to be spreading all across the globe in an alarming manner. It is manifested in the forms of war, violence, religious fundamentalism, xenophobia, racism, sexism, casteism, moral policing especially mob violence on minority communities including sexual minorities, and so on.

The technological colonisation of human life especially in an age of artificial intelligence also raises moral challenges of immense dimensions. The gap between the technologically forward and backward is huge, especially in educational institutions where students from socially and economically backward sections are forced to compete with students from rich and well-off backgrounds.

The ideology and practice of market economy, with its emphasis on mass production and wanton exploitation of nature, has also resulted in an ecological crisis of unpredictable proportions, including that of climate change. The voice and creative interventions of youth, especially those of students like Greta Thunberg, in contexts such as ours today, are the concrete signs of hope that WSCF can and must give expression to in its efforts to provide an alternative prophetic presence and movement.

It was in this context that the Federation celebrated the Virtual Extraordinary General Assembly under the theme "Looking for justice in a world that is suffering". The Virtual GA was an opportunity for the Federation to elect new leadership and the possibility to start thinking on the vision and mission of the Federation for the future.

The WSCF, with its historic prophetic orientation, must use the theme of justice to reinvent itself as a movement of the Margins, which actually is the well-spring of hope that Jesus Christ is and has shown. As an ecumenical movement ahead of the ecumenical movement, WSCF should be able to offer a vision of a Transformative Ecumenism that would draw primarily on the aspirations and articulations of the marginalised. Thus, WSCF could attempt to give expression to the hope in Christ through creative and alternative initiatives and actions for justice. It would find its vocation in striving to liberate the oppressed by fighting structures of exploitation, be it political, social, economic, and gender/sexuality-based.

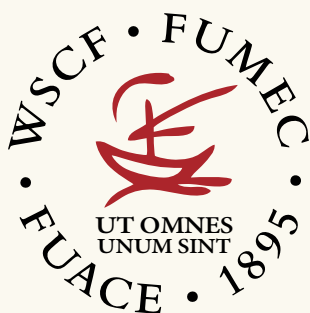


What would be distinct about this vision of the WSCF, as an ecumenical movement ahead of the ecumenical movement, is that the agency of mission, of liberation, of initiatives, of conceptualising and actualising the vision and praxis, would be with the marginalised themselves, especially with the students and young generation who would be in the vanguard of social change and transformation.

This Red Book offers you an account of this vision and mission as they were actualised in the work of the Federation at the IRO, regional, national and local levels. It is my privilege as chairperson to congratulate all those who have worked hard in bringing out the publication in a commendable manner. My particular appreciation and gratitude go to Mr. Marcelo Leites, our general secretary, for his excellent leadership of the Federation in general and for this publication in particular.

I hope everyone will find this 2021 edition of the Red Book useful and inspirational.

Dr. Geevarghese Coorilos
Chairperson



A year of changes and transitions

A 126-year-old organisation, born in the hearts of a group of students who wanted to spread the voice of Christian students throughout the world, finds in the 21st century environmental, technological, cultural, political and social changes of planetary dimensions never before experienced. Thus it was that WSCF entered the first years of the second decade of the 21st century: amidst civilisational shifts ushering humanity out of a global pandemic that has exacerbated some of the world's most critical problems.

We faced such a world in 2021 while undergoing internal institutional transitions in the Federation, in particular, changes in our global leadership and staff both at the regional and interregional levels, and the virtual convening of our General Assembly so that it can carry out its long overdue mandate of electing officers.

And indeed, one of the milestones of 2021 was the Virtual Extraordinary General Assembly (V-GA), which we organised out of necessity given the impossibility of face-to-face meetings. Delegates from our SCMs across the globe met online for three days in July to analyse and discuss proposals and elect among the candidates the officers of the Federation for the period 2021–2025.

Two significant results emerged from this process: the election and voting under certified software that provided transparency, and the creation of a virtual platform that can be utilised not only for business meetings but also for our programmatic work.

The V-GA was a milestone in that it paved the way for WSCF to make a technological transition—a necessary and perhaps even inevitable next step if we are to keep pace with the demands of a rapidly changing world. The virtual infrastructure set up for the V-GA can be further developed for knowledge exchange, information mobilisation, and communication with our membership. It also offers an exciting possibility for us to embark on e-learning development towards establishing a virtual campus for WSCF.

We have emerged from the unique challenges of 2021 largely unscathed, turning obstacles into opportunities to advance WSCF's prophetic mission through our projects and activities at the national, regional and global levels. One hundred twenty-six years of Student Christian Movement identity, with all their ups and downs, forged this spirit of resilience in the Federation, demonstrating once again the enduring relevance of our work for and among young people and students.

In this annual report, we will go through some testimonies of our actions at all levels as we hear stories from our SCMs, learn about the work of national movements, and see how our global programs are being implemented across our regions. We also share with all the SCMs community, senior friends,



partners and sister institutions the excellent news about the new leadership as we look forward to celebrating the 37th General Assembly in Berlin in 2022.

I, through this message, extend gratitude greetings on behalf of the WSCF to the outgoing officers who have worked together since 2015: Georgine Kengne Djeutane, Immanuel Kitnan, Bronwyn Claire and Salma Charaf. Special gratitude goes to our former general secretary, Necta Montes, who left her position in February 2021, for her commitment to the WSCF and her outstanding work in supporting the internal processes that help the Federation generate new ideas for its future in terms of management and operational and staff reorganisation.

We are all together starting a new moment in the Federation, reading the signs of the times and acting accordingly to continue building paths of love, justice and mutual solidarity.

Ut Omnes Unum Sint.

Marcelo Leites
General Secretary

The thematic areas and program strategies identified in the **WSCF Strategic Plan*** guide the programmatic work of the Federation at the national, regional and global levels.

The thematic areas form the basis and focus of the **global programs**: Ecological Justice; Identity, Diversity and Dialogue; Peace Building and Dialogue; Interfaith Dialogue; and Higher Education. They cut across the **program strategies** by which the global programs are implemented: Biblical and Theological Analysis; Advocacy and Solidarity; Ecumenical Transformative Diakonia; Movement Building; and Capacity Building.

It was within this strategic framework that WSCF and the SCMs engaged in the following initiatives and actions in 2021.

*The **WSCF Strategic Plan** was officially adopted by the Executive Committee in December 2015 following the mandate of the 35th General Assembly held in Bogota in March 2015. A summarised version of this document is printed on the back cover of this Red Book.

Tree-planting exercise in Malawi

5 MARCH | MZUZU, MALAWI

Around 40 students, teachers and some out-of-school community youth planted 400 trees in Mzuzu in the northern part of Malawi on 5 March 2021. SCM Malawi (also known as Christian Youth Association of Malawi or CYAMA) organised the activity in conjunction with the secretariat of WSCF Africa and with the support of the United Church of Canada (UCC).

The participants included youth leaders, students, gap students, young workers, as well as members of the Parents and Teachers School committee. The M'ganthira Primary School in Mzuzu hosted the tree-planting exercise, which later involved the whole school under the watch of the school administration.

Objectives and targets

The tree-planting exercise aimed to promote the 'growing of trees' for environmental rehabilitation and as a lifestyle, and to deepen the participants' understanding of climate change, its indicators, causes and negative impacts, and how to mitigate and develop resilience against these impacts.

Due to limited resources but thanks to the timely support of the UCC, the organisers managed to secure 4,000 out of the 4,500 seedlings requested by various primary and secondary schools, the Mzuzu University, community-based organisations and youth organisations. The seedlings comprised Msambamafumu, Msangu, Mthethe, M'bawa and Acacia.

Activity highlights

Presentation on climate change

Christopher Chimangeni, the WSCF-AF regional executive, gave a presentation on climate change and environmental degradation, tackling their causes, short- and long-term effects, and the actions being taken to address them. He cited deforestation and charcoal-making as contributing factors of climate change at the local level.

Christopher challenged the school management, community leaders and the youth to come up with mechanisms on how to improve the survival rate of planted trees as latest research shows that 60% of them do not survive, hence there is wastage of resources.

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Through the **Ecological Justice Program**, WSCF aims to promote climate justice—upholding the youth and student voice—through advocacy in international governance bodies in partnership with church and ecumenical institutions and various stakeholder networks; and to train and empower more students and youth leaders to fight climate change, campaign for the rights of indigenous peoples, and create lasting change for the Earth.

We embark on this program driven by the belief that as Christians, we are stewards of God's creation, called to care for the environment and the world. But across the globe, we are seeing the devastating effects of climate change, which not only harm the planet but also leave people displaced, vulnerable and poor. We are committed to fighting this injustice, supporting our local movements and students to campaign for the rights of marginalised peoples, and working globally to secure a better future for our shared planet.





COP26: WSCF participation and response

31 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER | GLASGOW, UK

Since 2015, WSCF has been engaged in climate justice advocacy as part of its global program on Ecological Justice. This includes taking part in different ecumenical meetings and global encounters and processes such as the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

WSCF has also undertaken activities in the COP framework, many of them as part of ecumenical and interfaith initiatives, which have helped strengthen and amplify WSCF's call for climate and social justice.

WSCF at COP26

As in previous years, WSCF was present at the **26th COP on Climate Change**. Rev. Stina Tysk of WSCF Europe represented the Federation in the delegation of the World Council of Churches to COP26, which took place on 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Stina, a theologian from Sweden, is the vice-chair of WSCF Europe and a member of Religion for Peace's International Youth Committee. She went to Glasgow as part of an ecumenical delegation comprising representatives from different Christian organisations and churches working on climate justice.

In the first week of COP26, Stina followed negotiations and participated in different events, including a stunt performed by the youth representatives and organised by ACT Alliance in the Blue Zone to highlight the importance of the "loss and damage" discussion and climate justice. Stina also participated in the Climate Strike in the Blue Zone organised by Fridays for Future where organisations and youths from around the world got together to stage a strike against inaction on the climate crisis in COP26.

The COP venue was divided into the inner Blue Zone where only accredited representatives are allowed and where the high-level negotiations take place, and the outer Green Zone, which is open to the public and where hundreds of events are organised by civil society organisations around the world.



Stina, as part of the WCC delegation, was an accredited observer. While still in Glasgow, she wrote some of her thoughts and experiences of being in the Blue Zone at COP26 in a post for the WCC blog:

Divided might be the correct term to describe my experience of being here at COP26 in Glasgow. I proudly represent my organisation, the World Student

Christian Federation, and I am glad that the WCC gave me and the other delegates this opportunity. It is a way for us to network, learn and understand. We in the ecumenical group, consisting of Christians from a number of organisations and denominations, do our best to amplify the voices of those who are not able to be here and follow the negotiations, perhaps even affect one person here and there.

At the same time, feelings of frustration and desperation are constantly present. At least for me. I think of the people outside. I think of the people inside who desperately try to make their voices heard. I am here with a badge that says observer. I am blonde, white, blue-eyed, from a rich country in the North. Not only can I understand English, I can speak it as well. This is what others see when I walk around in the Blue Zone and when I leave it. In this regard, I belong to the majority of the thousands of people in the Blue Zone. It is wrong that the representation is so disproportionate.¹

Post-COP26 reactions

The WCC expressed “its disappointment and dismay at the inadequate outcome” of COP26 in a statement released immediately following the event. The statement said, “While some important progress and new initiatives did emerge from Glasgow, they remain far from enough to bridge the gap between the accelerating climate emergency and the lack of sufficient commitment and action to address it.”²

WSCF conveyed the same sentiment in its report on COP26 released on November 21. It attributed the disappointing outcome to “the selfishness and greed of rich countries”, which have left on the table “some of the most important conversations such as loss and damage produced by the effects of climate change.”³

The WSCF report quoted Malena Lozada of SCM Argentina articulating the Global South perspective on the impact of COP26’s failure to arrive at funding agreements: “Those who are going to suffer more are the ones that have less economic resources to face a climate crisis and the ones that have very little responsibility in the generation of this crisis.” Malena is a member of the WSCF Executive Committee.



Stina Tysk [right] at the Climate Strike organised Fridays for Future in the Blue Zone. PHOTO BY LWF/ALBIN HILLERT, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, 5 NOV 2021.

The report also stressed the responsibility of the global ecumenical community, quoting WSCF Chairperson Geevarghese Mor Coorilos cautioning against the belief that global issues such as climate change “are inevitable signs of the ‘eschaton.’” Bishop Coorilos said, “Such responses reflect a superficial understanding of faith and contemporary realities. What is needed, instead, is a deeper perspective that would look at these issues from a prophetic/justice/liberation perspective.”

WSCF concluded the report with a reaffirmation of its continuing commitment to climate justice advocacy, being “a global ecumenical fellowship of Christian students and young people that believe in the role of youth as stewards of God’s creation, called to care for the environment and the world.” ■

¹ Stina Tysk, “At COP26, ‘it is like no one emotionally can comprehend what is happening’”: oikoumene.org/blog/at-cop26-it-is-like-no-one-emotionally-can-comprehend-what-is-happening

² World Council of Churches, “Statement on the outcome of COP26”: oikoumene.org/resources/documents/statement-on-the-outcome-of-cop26

³ WSCF, “COP 26: More commitment and action from world leaders is needed to tackle the climate crisis”: wscf.ch/wscf-in-action/programmes/ecological-justice/cop-26-more-commitment-and-action-from-world-leaders-is-needed

FROM PAGE 5 ... TREE-PLANTING EXERCISE IN MALAWI

Tree-planting exercise

WSCF-AF and CYAMA made a tree-planting demonstration, facilitated the distribution of seedlings to the Mzuzu University and the surrounding community, and helped develop individual school tree-planting schedules. About 400 trees were planted covering the school surroundings.

With the support of the CYAMA Northern Chapter, 1,600 more trees were planted during tree-planting activities later organised by the school and the community.

Outcomes and resolutions

WSCF-AF achieved the objectives set for the exercise.

- Through the exercise, about 400 trees were planted.
- The exercise helped develop a united effort and platform for and by young people from different universities, communities, secondary and primary schools in the fight against climate change through tree-planting and increased awareness on the impacts of climate change among the youth.
- The tree-planting exercise managed to assemble the targeted participants.

- Climate school coordinators and youth leaders expressed and documented their commitment in dealing with climate change issues.



At the end of the exercise, the participants proposed resolutions for WSCF-AF and CYAMA and the participating schools. Among them:

1. That WSCF-AF and CYAMA organise more youth climate change initiatives such as Capacity Building, awareness-building and tree-planting activities that will encourage school and community youth to actively participate in the fight against climate change.
2. That schools involved in the program come up with a project on climate change targeting school and surrounding communities.
3. That WSCF-AF and CYAMA mobilise moral, technical, material and even financial support in order to reach more youth in Malawi, hold tree-planting exercises at the beginning

of each rainy season, and conduct follow-up activities to improve the survival rate of the planted trees.

Lessons learned

The activity has taught both the participants and organisers that tree-planting as an exercise serves important purposes in the fight against climate change:

- It is an effective way of mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change.
- It is an effective measure towards environmental rehabilitation.
- It is an effective vehicle for spreading the message about climate change among the youth in schools and communities.
- It showcases the willingness of youth to engage in matters of national interest. ■

PROGRAMS

Identity, Diversity and Dialogue

Through the **Identity, Diversity and Dialogue Program**, WSCF aims to initiate processes of dialogue, create spaces and develop among the SCMs a theological understanding of human sexuality; to support the work of building inclusive churches and student movements that affirm the dignity and voices of all people, and where members of the LGBTQ+ and other marginalised communities are heard and empowered to participate and lead; and to equip students and the SCMs to speak up for the rights of LGBTQ+ people and other communities that suffer discrimination.

"We are many, we are one." These words capture the vast diversity of our members in the WSCF and SCMs and the single unity we have in Christ. As a diverse global federation, we work through dialogue and prayer across boundaries of race, sexuality, gender, class and culture to protect the dignity of all people, especially those who suffer discrimination from those in positions of power.



'Radical Inclusivity': WSCF Europe gender and sexuality campaign

MARCH–SEPTEMBER | ONLINE

Every year, WSCF Europe provides a range of activities and training programs for the youth, seeking to explore, advocate and raise awareness on social justice issues through different means. These regular trainings aim to empower young people to "be the change they wish to see in the world".

For 2021, WSCF Europe implemented **Radical Inclusivity**, a region-wide campaign dedicated to gender and sexuality topics developed under WSCF's Identity, Diversity and Dialogue global strategic program. The region focused on gender equality and LGBTQIA+ inclusivity, committing to increase awareness around these issues and foster the notion that equality and inclusivity begin with oneself.

Through the Radical Inclusivity campaign, WSCF Europe aimed to demonstrate that the 'gulf of hate' between feminists/LGBTQIA+ persons and people of faith can be bridged using simple methods. The campaign, which ran for a period of seven months from

March to September, utilised a number of online events as well as social media advocacy actions.

Gathering a diverse range of students and speakers associated with these issues created a platform to share knowledge with groups/persons often alienated in the faith environment. The experience also gave WSCF Europe, as an organisation continuously seeking to be an inclusive community, an opportunity to grow, change and learn alongside the participants.

WSCF Europe prepared three sessions for the campaign, each focusing on one thematic area:

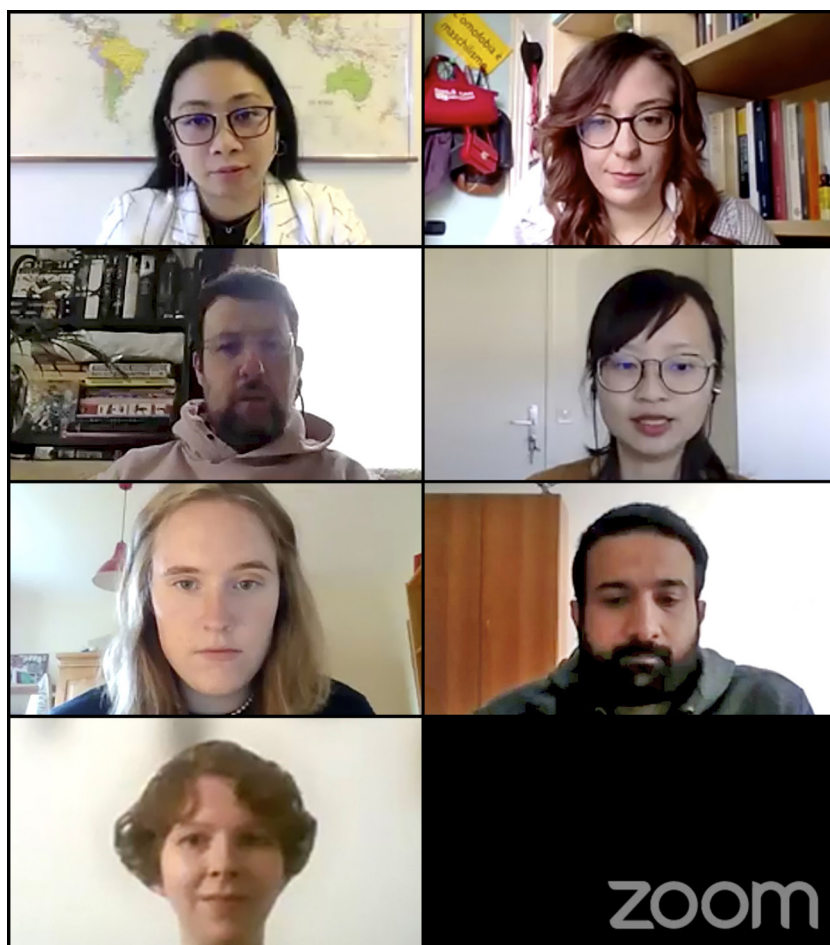
1. Activity 1 – “Feeling Safe in God’s Presence: Positive Steps to End Sexual Harassment in the Faith Environment”, digital workshop delivered in April
2. Activity 2 – “Does God need a Gender?”, digital workshop delivered in July
3. Activity 3 – “How to be a Christian feminist”, seminar-trainings delivered in August

The calls for application for individual sessions were promoted widely across the network and all platforms. The application form included content-related questions that helped Core Team members design the sessions based on the responses to the questions.

In keeping with WSCF Europe’s educational standards, the online activities included non-formal education methods: a combination of interactive workshops with experts as well as peer-led discussions. The group size of the individual sessions allowed everyone to participate. The organisers also ensured that the sessions provided a safe space for the participants to share and learn from and with each other.

Some sessions were publicly livestreamed, while smaller sessions with discussions were reserved for registered participants only.

Activity 1: “Feeling Safe in God’s Presence: Positive Steps to End Sexual Harassment in the Faith Environment” (April). The first workshop tackled a sensitive topic that is too often handled behind closed doors, with many victims of sexual harassment feeling that they have to keep silent and not share or challenge the trauma that they went through. The workshop participants had a chance to hear reflections from a notable guest speaker—Joy Eva Bohol, programme executive for youth of the World Council of Churches—and to share with others their own stories and reflections.



Participants and speaker at the digital workshop on “Feeling Safe in God’s Presence: Positive Steps to End Sexual Harassment in the Faith Environment”, April 2021.

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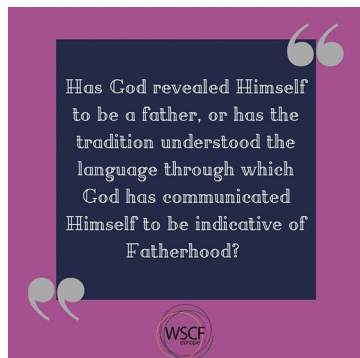
PROGRAMS

Identity, Diversity and Dialogue



Activity 2: "Does God Need a Gender?" (July).

The second digital workshop was hosted by Paudie Holly and Christiane Gebauer who lead the reflections of the youth around the stories of God's gender as not separated from time, space and narrative, and is connected to sexuality and diversity. The question "How can one call God?" guided discussions. Students from different denominations actively participated by sending words and questions to deepen the discussions.

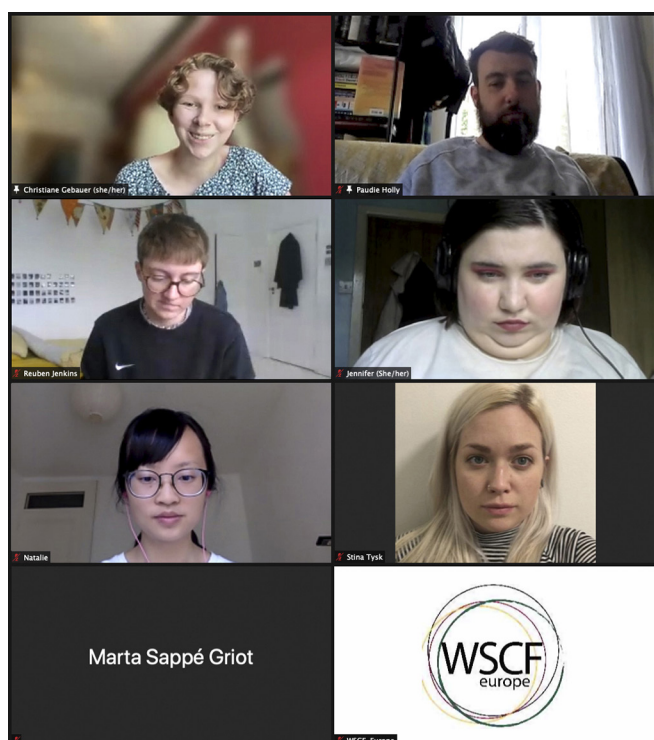
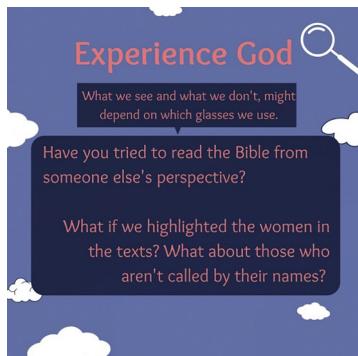
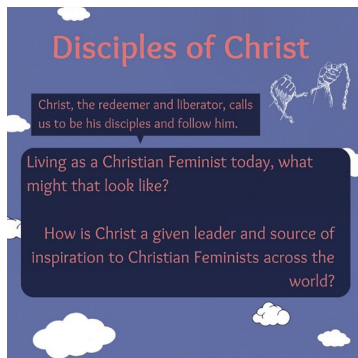


Activity 3: "How to be a Christian Feminist" (August).

What is Christian Feminism? How do you practice and live as a Christian feminist? The last activity of the campaign covered these questions through three online sessions split into several days. Each session was around two



hours and focused on theory, practice and personal experiences. Three inspiring and motivating presentations were made by the guest speakers—brave women who shared their own journeys as Christian feminists: Madeleine Fredell, theologian and Dominican sister, Esther Kazen, a pastor in the Uniting Church of Sweden, and Sofie Söderin, theologian. The presentations were followed by discussions, sharing ideas, participating in different exercises and meeting others interested in Christian Feminism. This activity was carried out in collaboration with the WSCF member movement in Sweden (Kristna Studentrörelsen i Sverige) and the Swedish Ecumenical Women's' Council (Sveriges Ekumeniska Kvinnoråd – SEK). ■



Participants at the digital workshop on "Does God Need a Gender?"



Speakers at the digital workshop on "How to be a Christian Feminist".

Asia-Pacific SCMs 'Women Doing Theology' workshops

8 OCTOBER | BANGLADESH / 11 DECEMBER | SRI LANKA

Women Doing Theology (WDT) workshops have played a key role in helping SCMs in the Asia-Pacific region articulate issues on gender justice and IDD (Identity, Diversity and Dialogue), two of the region's main focus programs. For many years, WDT workshops have been conducted at the regional level. But because the COVID-19 situation has made it difficult to continue doing so, the region decided to implement WDT as a joint programme with the national movements.

In 2021, WSCF-AP was able to hold two WDT workshops with the SCMs of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

'Women Empowerment and Gender Justice' workshop

The Barisal Unit of Bangladesh SCM organised a day-long workshop on "Women Empowerment and Gender Justice" on 8 October 2021 with about 36 participants. Of the participants, 17 were female and 19 were male members.

The objectives of this workshop were:

- To promote and raise the awareness of youth on equality and non-discrimination between men and women in youth organizations, the Church and society.
- To promote the elimination of violence against women and girls by preparing the youth for women empowerment.

The workshop was a great opportunity for the students to discuss gender justice. Athina Mila Bollove, one of the participants, summarised the learnings from the workshop:

- Gender justice is the full equality and equity between women and men in all spheres of life, resulting in women, jointly and on an

equal basis with men, defining and shaping the policies, structures, and decisions that affect their lives and society as a whole.

- There are many ways to promote gender justice in daily life. For example:
 - Share household chores and care work equally among men and women.
 - Watch for signs of domestic violence and play a role in stopping such harmful behaviours in the family.
 - Reject chauvinist and racist attitudes.
 - Help women and girls gain power.
 - Listen to women's voices and reflect mutual respect for each other.
 - Increase investment in adolescent girls and young women's leadership across the country
- Men and women must be in the frontline to fight for gender justice.

Bangladesh SCM is one of the very few national movements that has a women coordinator to ensure that programmes at the national level address gender issues.



'Jesus and Human Dignity' workshop

SCM Sri Lanka conducted a workshop on the theme of "Jesus and Human Dignity" on 11 December 2021 at City Mission in Kandy. The 40 students who participated in the workshop had an exposure visit to a transgender community.

The experience helped the students better understand the situation and struggles of sexual minorities in the country. They became more aware of transgender and other LGBTQ communities and the issues they are facing. They also learned the importance of treating all persons, regardless of identity, equally and in a respectful manner. ■





END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW!



WSCF voices at '16 Days of Activism' campaign

25 NOVEMBER – 10 DECEMBER | GLOBAL

WSCF joined the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” 2021 campaign that started on Thursday, 25 November with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and went on until International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

16 Days of Activism is an annual international campaign launched by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) at its first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. In 2021, the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the campaign focused on Awareness, Action and Accountability with a special emphasis on ending femicide or the gender-related killing of women.

WSCF joined the call to end violence against women through the 16 Days of Activism campaign as an expression of deep concern over the spread of conservative and fundamentalist views in public opinion spaces across the world that has led to an increasing backward movement in the area of women's and girl's rights.

For WSCF, it is an ethical and Christian imperative to continue fighting for women's and girls' rights, questioning

patriarchal structures, building safer spaces for women, joining voices against gender-based violence, and advocating for the inclusion of a gender perspective in the public policies of governments as well as the churches and civil society movements.

Response across the Federation

In Africa, the SCM of Nigeria released a statement calling for an end to “the inexcusable actions of shame, killing women, female Infanticide, illegal killing of wives for suspected adultery.” As “[most] women suffer violence from intimate partners in Africa, [with] men using violence to maintain dominance resulting in domestic violence, sexual, emotional, mental abuse, rape, acid bath, corporal punishment”, SCM Nigeria also called for the “economical empowerment of women which will help give her a voice [to] speak up [for herself].”

The president of SCM Nigeria and WSCF's honorary treasurer, Ebere Ubesie, was one of the guest speakers in the webinar on the 16 Days of Activism organised by the Women Wing Christian Council of Nigeria on 25 November 2021 for the West Central African region.

WSCF's women regional executives wrote reflections, which were shared across social media platforms, on the significance of participating in the 16 Days of Activism campaign.



"We raise our voice against the killing of women and girls by men and condemn the practice of Femicide fuelled by the patriarchal society built since time immemorial".

-Student Christian Movement of Nigeria





**Women Wing Christian Council of Nigeria
(WOWICCN)**

16 Days Activism against Gender Based Violence

25th NOV 4:00PM West Central Africa

**ZOOM
LIVE**

**Meeting ID: 861 5671 2781
Password: 16DAYS**



**Most Rev. Dr.
Benebo Fubura-Manuel**
PRESIDENT, CCN



**Eld. Dr. Mrs.
Uzoaku Williams**
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
WOWICCN
HOST



**Very Rev. Dr.
Evans Onyemara**
Gen. Secretary, CCN



**Dr. Mrs.
Mercy John**
NATIONAL SECRETARY
WOWICCN
Co-HOST



Bisi Ajayi Kayode
The Cece Yara Foundation Child
Advocacy Centre
SPEAKER



Donna G. Bollinger
Advocacy Officer,
Ecumenical Office at the UN
World Council of Churches
SPEAKER



Mrs Ebere Ubesie
National President, Student
Christian Movement of Nigeria
SPEAKER



**Dame, Dr. Mrs.
Ekwutosi Offiong**
MODERATOR

Don't be passive, let us join our voices to condemn violence against Women now!!!!

Webinar organised by the Women Wing Christian Council of Nigeria on "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" where Ebere Ubesie participated as a speaker.



Emphasising the urgency of the campaign, Mira Neaimah of WSCF Middle East said the region is also "reckoning with the global surge in violence against women and femicide witnessed since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. The statistics are alarming, as more women fall victim to murder on the basis of their gender. WSCF raises its voice from the Middle East against the violence committed against women every day, be it femicide, murder, human traffic, misogyny, honor killing, online violence or discrimination. We condemn these acts as criminal, immoral, and ungodly."

In her reflection, Natia Tsintsadze, regional executive of WSCF Europe, expressed her belief that the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign "is a call for our religious, political and civil obligation to stop Femicide, abuse, hate, discrimination and any other form of violent actions against girls and women." She stressed the need to "challenge and stand against the iceberg of social and cultural norms that fuels gender-based violence in Europe and elsewhere."

WSCF campaign materials

WSCF created materials for the campaign and launched a drive to promote their use. Through various social media platforms, the interregional office circulated an invitation to use the materials across the Federation and to other ecumenical networks.

1. Profile picture frame

To use our frame, go to this link (twibbonise.com/16daysofactivismwscf), upload a photo of yourself, download it, and update your profile picture in all your social media accounts with the following text and hashtags:

I joined the World Student Christian Federation campaign on the 16 days of activism against Gender-based Violence!
#LetsEndFemicide
#RejoiceInHope
#WSCFagainstGBV



2. Social media cards

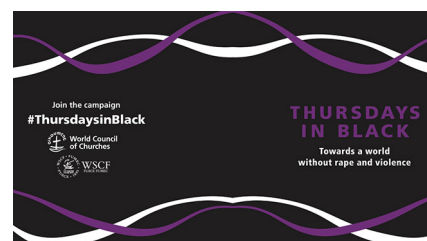
Share our campaign social media cards to raise awareness on gender-based violence and the role of our ecumenical fellowship in building a world without violence against women and girls.

Download link: drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nRfROPDaax506VqBHB5Ap-q6ZUf_kZW



3. Online meeting background

WSCF joins the World Council of Churches campaign: "Thursdays in Black: towards a world without rape and violence". Use our "Thursdays in Black" background in your online meetings every Thursday to raise awareness about this campaign.



Download link: drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nRfROPDaax506VqBHB5Ap-q6ZUf_kZW

PROGRAMS

Peace Building and Dialogue

Through the **Peace Building and Dialogue Program**, WSCF aims to mobilise the Federation in efforts geared toward overcoming violence and building peace; to equip students and young people in leading initiatives that address the issues and root causes of conflict and violence; and to help create spaces for dialogue among youth of different faiths and backgrounds to share experiences, understand what drives conflict and violence, and find new ways to build peace.

In the midst of war and violence, it is the people who suffer the most—especially the poor, the most vulnerable, and the marginalised. Civilians often get caught in the crossfire, displaced from their homes and forced to flee, often risking terrible danger to seek safety in a foreign land. WSCF is committed to supporting our movements in these areas and regions of conflict, particularly in the Middle East and Colombia, as they strive to continue being witnesses for peace.



SCM Colombia: Art as protest on the road to peace

22 and 29 MAY | BOGOTÁ and BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIA

In 2021, from April to July, tens of thousands of Colombians took to the streets and mounted a wave of social mobilisations across the country in protest of the government's health and tax reforms, handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic corruption, police brutality and violence, and political repression.

The SCM in Colombia added its voice to the protests, known as the *Paro Nacional* or National Strike, through community art. SCM Colombia chose **community art**, being a form of nonviolent resistance that allows a process of popular action with social impact but without harm or confrontation, as an effective expression of its commitment to building peace from a transformative, critical and faith perspective.



Faced with a government far removed from the realities and needs of the citizens, the young people of SCM Bogota and Barranquilla created murals in public spaces to capture the hope for the implementation of the peace agreements, an end to the repression and stigmatisation of mass social protest, and rights and access to basic social services such as health and education for the population.

SCM Bogota participated in the painting of the new facade of the offices of the Mennonite Church of Colombia. Through the mural, the youth painted their struggle for peace with the words, "Peace comes from the heart. The peace of God surpasses all understanding."

On the other hand, SCM Barranquilla renovated one of the facades of the Reformed University of Colombia with a mural representing the resistance of faith-based organisations,



women's movements, and diverse youth on the road to social transformation for peace in Colombia. The youth painted on the mural the words in Isaiah 32:17: "The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever."

The mural painting activities gave the SCMerS an opportunity to reflect on creative non-violent means of getting involved as peacebuilders for a society where the rights of all people are guaranteed and through which they can continue to put their faith into action. ■





Ayia Napa 35: 'Between Youth Influence and Influencing the Youth'

2-7 OCTOBER | CAIRO, EGYPT

Ayia Napa is another name for the WSCF Middle East region's **annual leadership program**. It aims to train youth to become future leaders who will positively reshape their communities in the Middle East and commit to witnessing to their faith in Church and society.

The 35th iteration of *Ayia Napa* was held in Cairo, Egypt from 2-7 October 2021 on the theme, "Between Youth Influence and Influencing the Youth". The theme was chosen to tackle the mutual influence that youth and the world around them have on each other, influence and impact being important aspects of leadership that the program aimed for the youth to learn about and leverage.

Twenty-seven young people from the SCMs in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, and Syria attended the event, which included lectures, Bible study sessions, ecumenical workshops, and activities for the participants to get better acquainted.

Practical sessions were held on narrative analysis and training youth to use critical thinking when reading the Bible and other texts. The topic of influence was tackled in the workshops on the practical steps one can take to be influential, the

youth's role and influence in society and politics, on studying examples of influential youth around the world and the Middle East, mirroring the Bible study sessions in their focus on influential youth from the Bible, like Joseph.

There were also awareness sessions on women's issues and on youth rights as human beings. A session dealt with the role of the Church in solving youth problems, while time was allocated for the youth to openly ask experienced pastors burning questions, which led to lively discussions.

One workshop asked the participants to think of possible solutions to the problems that were brought up during the various sessions. The participants produced a working paper with recommendations at the end of the workshop.

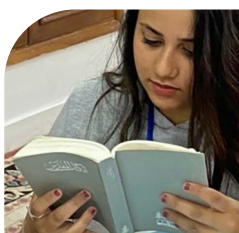
Throughout the event, time was dedicated to introducing the participating SCMs, with representatives discussing their movement's history, goals, activities, and more. Participants were also exposed

to prayers from the different church traditions. Free times were allocated for cultural evenings and trips to places within Cairo such as museums and old churches.

The participants shared their learnings and reflections during the evaluation session at the end of the program. They said the event gave them an opportunity to connect with one another, gain knowledge, find motivation, and learn from the examples of influential figures.

Youssef Emad Ibrahim, a 21-year-old law student from Egypt, expressed how the conference "exceeded expectations" and how "the participation and collaboration between the groups was very special."

Gaëlle Nicolas Francis, also 21 years old and a physical therapy student from Lebanon, said many of the sessions were "fruitful and awakened in us things we didn't know existed, giving us hope in tomorrow." She said the conference was one of her best experiences and that she learned a lot and wished the event lasted longer. ■



Around fifteen SCMerS from Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile came together at the Anglican Center in Mexico City on 25–28 November 2021 to take part in the **14th WSCF-LAC Regional Assembly and Consultation on Democracy, Human Right and Fundamentalisms**.

The four-day encounter led the young representatives from the LAC member movements as well as guests and Senior Friends towards a reflective and experiential path with the methodology of “To See–To Judge–To Act”. Exposure visits, testimonies, conferences, panels, bible studies, contextual analysis and other moments of listening, dialogue, learning and celebration of identities strengthened integration, generated greater commitments and set up the strategic and programmatic basis for the next WSCF-LAC working period.

Experiencing migrant identities

The dialogue with migrants in *Casa Mambré* was one of the more impactful experiences for the group. Guiding the participants during the visit were Rev. Dan González Ortega, Senior Friend, pastor of the *Comunidad Mexicana de Iglesias Reformadas y Presbiterianas* (CMIRP), professor, and rector of the Theological Community of Mexico; and Cristian Schlick from the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, a specialist in human right studies in Latin America.

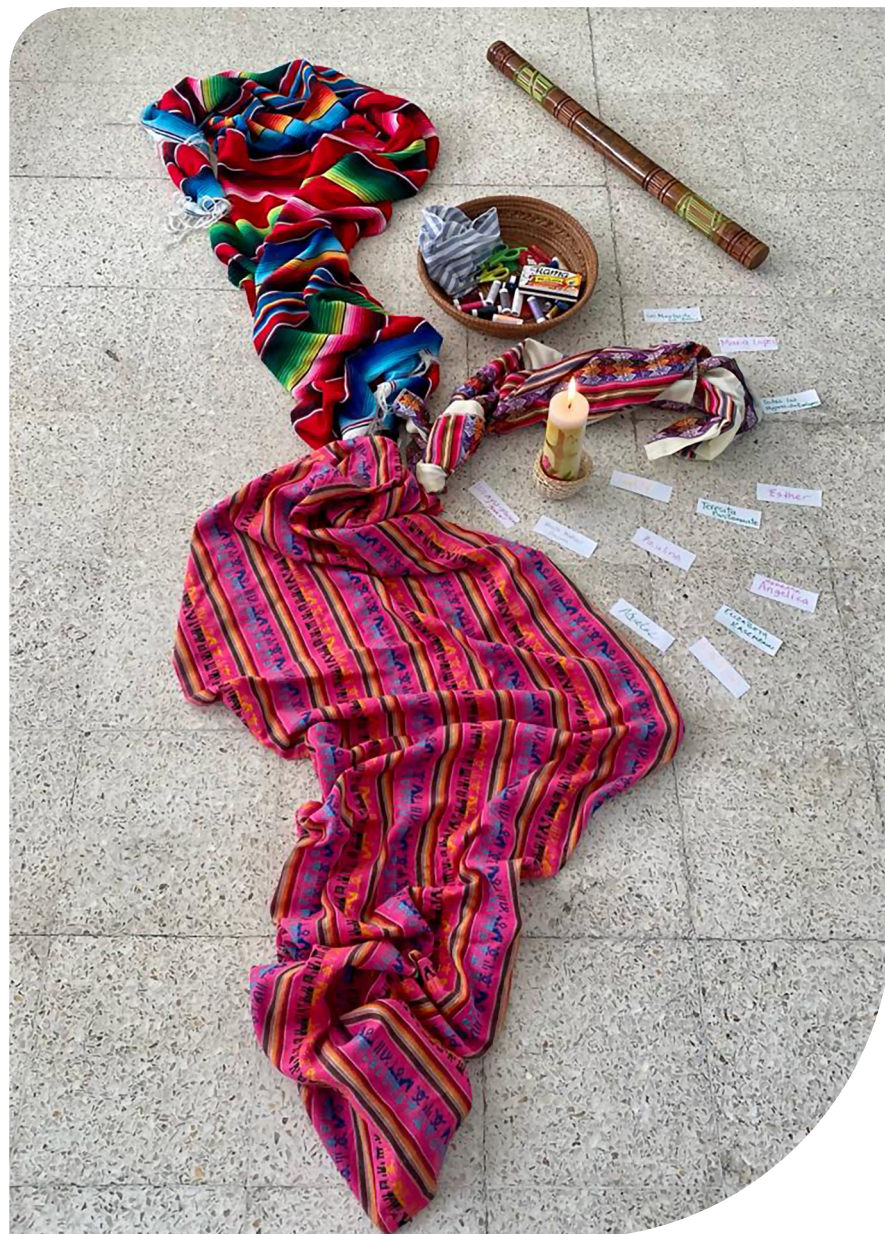
Casa Mambré, located in the center of CDMX, is a space for integral welfare, social and psychological care for forced migrants, people in transit and refugees. The staff of *Casa Mambré* introduced the participants to the context, history and work of the center, and to the group of people who were at the center in migratory transit. They were willing to sit and share with the participants, expressing themselves sometimes only through silence and the movements of their bodies.

The exchange allowed the participants to see beyond the labels that legitimise prejudices and stereotypes and meet good people who are only seeking opportunities for their well-being and that of their families. The precariousness of life in their home countries—poverty, exclusion and violence—had forced most of them to flee.

‘Ecumenical youth called to weave life with threads of justice’

14th WSCF-LAC Regional Assembly and Consultation on Democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalisms

25–28 NOVEMBER | MEXICO CITY, MEXICO



They flee in caravans, whether individually or as a family enterprise, crossing three or more countries through borders, deserts, rivers, circumventing the *maras* (gangs), the networks of people engaged in sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and the Mexican *migra* (border patrols and immigration law enforcers)—of which they are most afraid as they don’t want to be deported.

The majority of the transients were Afro-descendants, an effect of the historical violence against their people. Families from Haiti with children carried on their shoulders, people from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and other Mexican states stay for three months to sometimes even more than a year in *Casa Mambré* before continuing on their way. The stories of the women, children

PROGRAMS

Peace Building and Dialogue

and people with hearing disabilities or loss among them showed how some are more vulnerable than others during the transit. Women are more likely to experience physical violence, sexual abuse and even feminicide.

Main learnings and commitments

The visit reaffirmed for the participants the need to continue working on issues of identities and human rights. Migration is a historical phenomenon in Latin America and the Caribbean. But it has become so normalised that even Christians fail to see Jesus in these migrants, when Jesus himself was a migrant, a persecuted person.

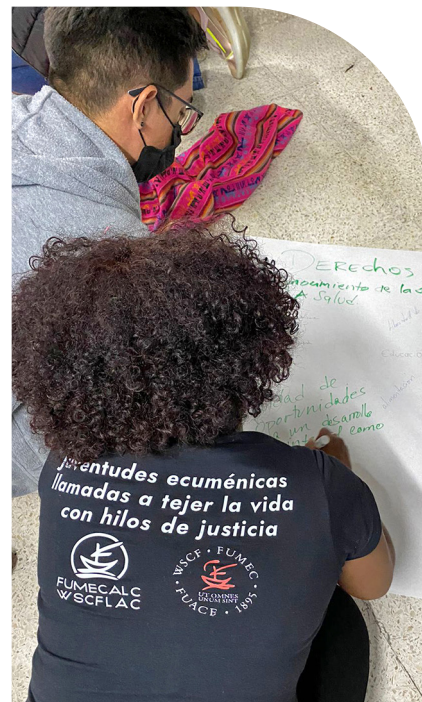
At the end of the Regional Assembly and Consultation, WSCF-LAC and its member movements, through their representatives in the gathering, united on a common stand denouncing:

1. The non-recognition and violations of human rights by governments and various socio-political and religious bodies;

2. The systemic and systematic violence against people and groups made invisible and whose dignity is damaged, such as women and girls, indigenous communities, LGBTIQ+, migrants, Afro and disabled people, among others; and

3. Hate speech and discrimination, especially in the face of rising political, religious, socioeconomic fundamentalism in the Latin American and Caribbean region with its racist, sexist, elitist, misogynistic, hegemonic, xenophobic, anti-ecological proposal, fearful of diversity.

WSCF in LAC promises to practise hospitality, to continue opening spaces of dialogue, and to celebrate the diversity of identities and cultures, the richness and meaningful learning from living together as part of the *oikoumene*. ■



WSCF statements on peace and justice issues in Myanmar, Cuba, Colombia, Palestine, and Lebanon

Statement demanding release of detained SCM Myanmar members

6 APRIL | GLOBAL

On 3 March 2021, one of the biggest protests in the history of Myanmar took place in different cities of the country where at least 38 protesters were killed. Many of the students and young people went to the streets to protest against the coup d'état launched by the Myanmar military on 1 February.

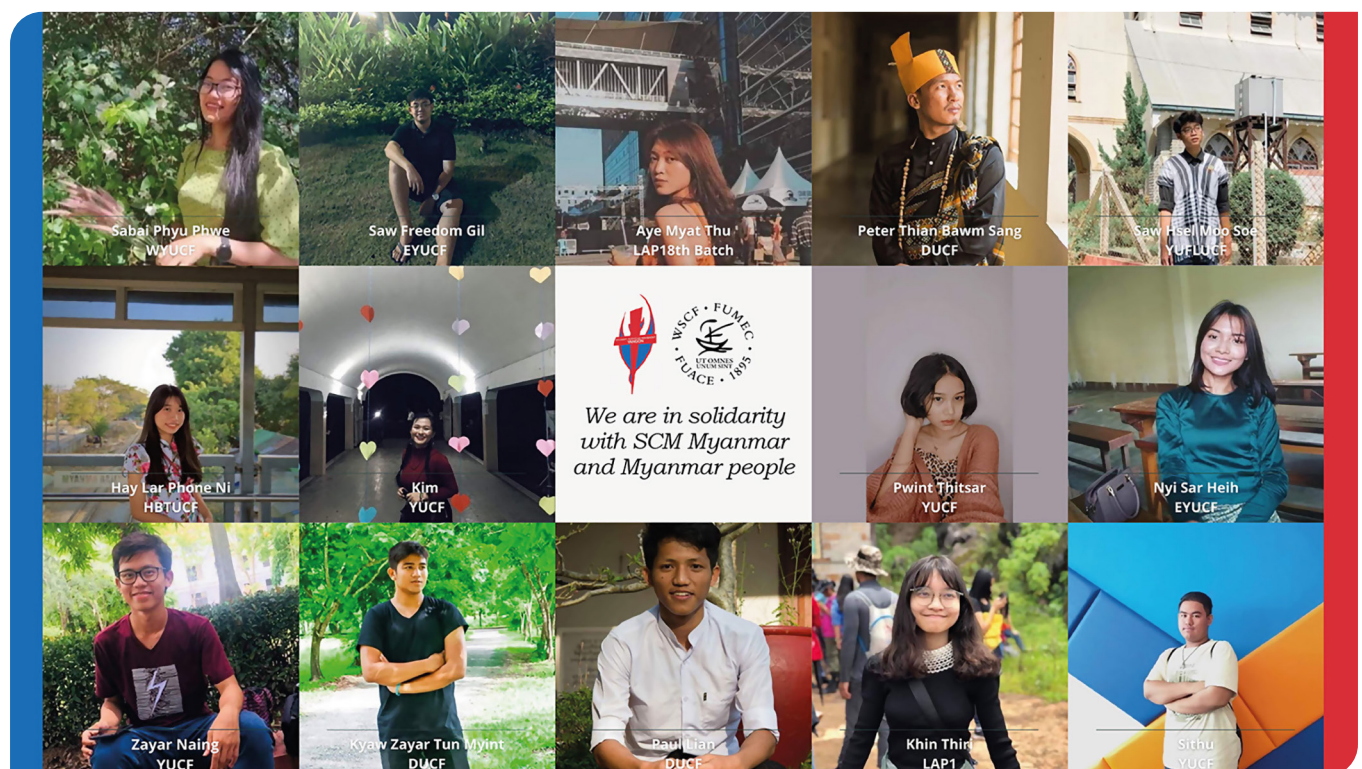
According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), more than 400 protesters were arrested in Yangon during the crackdown on 3 March, fourteen of them were students coming from the SCM-Yangon Region. They were not allowed to contact nor see their lawyers and families.

WSCF issued a solidarity statement on 6 April condemning the use of violence against the peaceful protest actions and

demanding the release of the 14 members of SCM Yangon and all other detained protesters.

The detained members of SCM Yangon: Khin Thiri (LAP1), Kyaw Zayar Tun Myint (DUCF), Saw Hsel Moo Soe (YUFLUCF), Nyi Sar Heih (EYUCF), Aye Myat Thu (LAP 18th Batch), Peter Thian Bawm Sang (DUCF), Hay Lar Phone Ni (HBTUCF), Sithu (YUCF), Sabai Phyu Phwe (WYUCF), Zayar Naing (YUCF), Pwint Thitsar (YUCF), Kim (YUCF), Saw Freedom Gil (EYUCF), Paul Lian (DUCF) – released.

Link to the complete statement: wscf.ch/wscf-in-action/programmes/statements/joint-wscf-solidarity-statement-with-students-in-myanmar



Statement citing the U.S. 'Cuba 2020 Human Rights Report' as impediment to dialogue

29 APRIL | GLOBAL

Leaders of the WSCF and other faith-based organisations released a statement on 29 April 2021 expressing concern that a U.S. Government report on alleged human rights violations in Cuba implies a continuation of the decades-long U.S. foreign policy of blockade and unilateral sanctions that have caused greater misery and vulnerability for the Cuban people.

The statement said the "Cuba 2020 Human Rights Report"—presented before the Congress by the U.S. State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor on March 30—ignores Cuban reality and history and that such reports do not lead to a constructive and effective dialogue.

Noting that the continuing blockade and sanctions have not resulted in desired changes, the statement instead urged the two governments to engage in dialogue and work towards "the construction of peaceful and harmonious relations in the region".

[TO NEXT PAGE](#)

The statement was signed by representatives of national, regional and international faith-based organisations, councils and alliances of churches that have developed different cooperation networks among and with organisations and churches in the Republic of Cuba.

The full statement can be read here: wscf.ch/wscf-in-action/programmes/statements/call-to-peace-and-justice

Statement calling for end to repression of *Paro Nacional* protesters in Colombia

5 MAY | GLOBAL

During the peak of nationwide protest actions that shook the streets of Colombia in 2021, WSCF issued a statement calling for the immediate halt to repression and rampant violation of international law and the Colombian citizens' fundamental human right to protest.

Thousands of Colombians across the country heeded the call for *Paro Nacional* (National Strike) organised by various unions and social movements, teachers, students, women, workers, small and medium-sized business people, farmers, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities. The National Strike was launched on 28 April 2021 and lasted until July.

The Colombian State responded to the protest actions and expressions of discontent with brutal repression through the policy of "military assistance", a measure that militarises the actions of the State in the face of peaceful demonstrations.

Alarming data-backed accounts of the violence perpetrated by state security forces on the unarmed protesters showed that the situation had escalated into emergency proportions, prompting WSCF to join the call of the Inter-Church Dialogue for Peace (DiPaz) and other Colombia-based organisations for the cessation of violence and for the defence of life.

Read the complete statement here: wscf.ch/wscf-in-action/programmes/statements/statement-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-colombia

Statement calling for solidarity amid renewed escalation of violence against Palestinians

13 MAY | GLOBAL

The WSCF joined the Palestinian Youth Ecumenical Movement (SCM Palestine) in calling the attention of the international community to Israel's renewed escalation of violence against the Palestinian people.

The statement said Israel is continuing its ethnic cleansing strategies through the escalation of its military operations in Gaza—which had claimed more than a hundred lives—and in the brutal repression and arrests of hundreds of protesters in Sheikh Jarrah. It also called out the United States, Canada and European countries for its complicity in the ethnic cleansing and establishment of an apartheid system in Palestine.

PYEM and WSCF challenged the churches, the ecumenical movement and civil society to sharpen its advocacy in support of the Palestinian struggle by categorically naming Israel as a "settler

colonial regime" and its actions on Palestine as "ethnic cleansing"; dropping the "both sides" narrative that falsely portray the power dynamics between Israel and Palestine as equal; and actively advocating that the fight for justice in Palestine is a fight for "decolonizing Palestine".

Read the full statement here: wscf.ch/wscf-in-action/programmes/statements/solidarity-statement-with-the-palestinian-people



Statement on the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon

OCTOBER | MIDDLE EAST

The WSCF Middle East Region and the Youth Ecumenical Committee in Lebanon issued a joint statement sounding the alarm that Lebanon "is steadily progressing towards collapse", urging both local civil society and the international community to take immediate action on the pressing matter of Lebanon.

In an effort to call the public's attention to the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Lebanon, the statement describes the dire economic and political crises that have placed fear and terror in the hearts of the people. It talks of a country in paralysis as authorities are

both unable and "unwilling to take the necessary measures to lift the country from despair."

The statement expressed "hopes of receiving a response of sympathy for the oppressed Lebanese people" as it amplifies their outcry through the Federation. Read more about the situation in Lebanon and the call to action here: wscf.ch/wscf-in-action/programmes/statements/wscf-me-solidarity-statement-with-the-people-of-lebanon

The regional office of WSCF-ME operates from Beirut. ■

Interfaith Dialogue

Through the **Interfaith Dialogue Program**, WSCF aims to create spaces for SCMs and young people from different faiths to dialogue, learn from one another, and work together on common issues; and to encourage members of the SCMs to take positive action for the healing and rebuilding of communities, and providing sanctuary to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

We believe that all religious faiths are founded on the shared core values of love, peace, justice and harmony. By bringing together young people of different faiths, our interfaith and interreligious initiatives help break down the walls of indifference, apathy and intolerance among the youth and faith communities, paving the way toward common action against religious fundamentalism, xenophobia, and discrimination and conflicts on the basis of religion.



Interfaith dialogue for peacebuilding: WSCF-AP initiatives

AUGUST | ONLINE / SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER | BANGLADESH

Asia-Pacific is a region of diversity. Many cultures and religions in the region create divides and also, sometimes, conflicts, which often lead to violence in the communities, causing misery and threatening the lives of the people, especially the most vulnerable.

In countries where this is a reality, such as Bangladesh, faith groups have taken the initiative to hold dialogues among different religions in order to address the conflicts and help bring peace to the communities. The SCM of Bangladesh is among those that have heeded the call, believing that churches, church leaders, and youth leaders of the different faith communities need to address the religious conflicts and promote interfaith dialogue.

Three local units of Bangladesh SCM in the districts of Jessore, Khulna and Barisal organised three separate **workshops on “Interfaith Dialogue on Understanding and Peacebuilding”**, which took place on 12 and 26 September and 17 October, respectively. Altogether 113 participants from different faith groups in the communities took part in the workshops.

Through organised interactive sessions, the dialogues created a safe space for the religious leaders and the youth leaders in the community to openly discuss the issues



they are most concerned about, as well as their roles and responsibilities in relation to the religious conflicts. The dialogues also created a conducive environment for the participants to work together to generate appropriate solutions to the problem.

Preceding these initiatives were two **online seminars on the theme, “Religious Extremism and Peacebuilding”**, which were held on 7 and 13 August 2021. The two webinars, which attracted more than 160 people, included biblical reflections and discussions on the subject of religious extremism and peacebuilding, and interfaith dialogue. ■



WSCF at the Conference of the World Council of Religious Leaders on Faith and Diplomacy

4–7 OCTOBER | LINDAU, GERMANY

The WSCF participated in the **Conference of the World Council of Religious Leaders on Faith and Diplomacy: Generations in Dialogue** organised by Religions for Peace International and Ring for Peace with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office. Held in Lindau, Germany on 4–7 October 2021, the conference aimed to engage different generations in dialogue on the nexus of diplomacy and religion with regard to environmental concerns, humanitarianism, and peace and security.

The Federation was represented by Marcelo Leites, WSCF general secretary and former member of the Religions for Peace International Youth Committee. In an interview made during the conference, Marcelo shared the work of WSCF on justice, advocacy and Capacity Building and the Federation's commitment to interfaith and intergenerational dialogue. Some of his main inputs were:

- The best way to express our struggles towards a path of justice is between generations. It is no longer possible to have two different lines, one related to senior leaders working in a more hierarchical way and, on the other hand, the youth department working

on other things. Young people must be part of the decision-making process. Their voices can give a very fresh view of the world that we are facing.

- We are living in a world that has failed young people on the vision towards the future. Fundamentalist movements are growing, as well as anti-COVID discourses, hate speech, anti-vaccine speech and anti-science theories. Young people find “hope” in these discourses, which are not true. Religious young people should address these topics in a very creative way.
- Religions can outreach millions of people and change minds. We can come to people and deliver a transformative message. Not a message of blaming and guilt. We have to overcome those kinds of messages. We need to realise that people need hope in a world that is suffering.

This conference reaffirms WSCF's historic commitment to interfaith and intergenerational dialogue. Natia Tsintsadze, regional executive of WSCF Europe and global program director on Interfaith Dialogue of WSCF Global, shared the Federation's perspective on building a just and peaceful future:



“Building a just and peaceful future is only possible through engaging with the next generation. Young people play a crucial role in creating and ensuring sustainable development in all spheres of our life. It is our youth leaders—who develop innovative, brave and bold solutions to social cohesion—that bring positive changes. Intergenerational dialogue is the potential that should be explored, embraced and encouraged at all levels and in all aspects. It is only through a meaningful and sustainable inter-generational collaboration that humanity and our planet can be truly healed and saved for the generations to come.”

The full interview of Marcelo Leites may be viewed here: youtube.com/watch?v=9v8n8euGcB0. ■

Muslim-Christian Dialogue: 'Religion in the Service of Humanity'

15–19 DECEMBER | BEIRUT, LEBANON

WSCF has a long history of engaging youth in interreligious dialogue. In line with this history is **Muslim-Christian Dialogue**, a program of the WSCF Middle East Region that aims to build and reinforce relations between Christian and Muslim youth as citizens of the same countries and as individuals facing the same challenges. It also aims to engage them in dialogue around their common issues of concern and to create an integrated grassroots movement based on mutual understanding and sharing.

In 2021, WSCF-ME held a Muslim-Christian Dialogue program in Beirut, Lebanon, between 15–19 December on the theme, "Religion in the Service of Humanity". The program brought together 36 participants from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, and Syria representing diverse religious backgrounds.

Aside from young members of SCMs affiliated with WSCF-ME, youth representatives from other faith communities such as the Akl Sheikhdum of the Unitarian Druze also participated in the event. Key speakers were invited from various traditions to share their knowledge and experiences with the youth. They connected over the need to create peace and promote love among followers of different faiths.

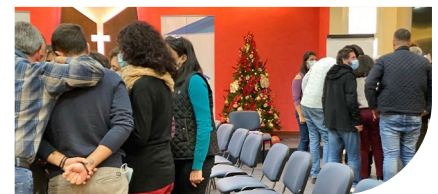
The program included lecture sessions that touched on such topics as religion and faith, how faith can better society, religion as a tool for peacemaking,

keeping up with migrants from a religious perspective, challenges and prospects for interfaith relations, and dialogue that is of service to humanity. There was also a youth panel where participants shared their unique perspectives (e.g., as a journalist from Iraq, as a life skills coach from Egypt, etc.).

There were activities that highlighted the ecumenical perspective and encouraged dialogue and cooperation, such as a group game where the participants learned that groups can actually work together to achieve their goals without the need to engage in rivalry and competition. There were also culture nights where members of each country were given the opportunity to showcase the unique aspects of their culture, from food and dance to history and garb.

Film premieres, social gatherings, and morning prayers to bring the participants closer together were some of the other activities included in the program. The participants also had a chance to go on a field trip to popular and religious sites within Lebanon such as the Our Lady of Lebanon in Harissa and the Mar Maroun Monastery.

Some of the participants shared their reflections about the program and their experience. Danial Nabil George, a 32-year-old Coptic Orthodox anesthetics technician from Sudan, described the event as "most enriching and diverse", and WSCF-ME programs in general as a "beacon for the youth of the region."



Rima Bayan Sleem, a 33-year-old Druze judicial assistant from Lebanon, described the conference as a meeting place for youth "aspiring to strengthen the frameworks of solidarity and openness between the various religious groups in the Arab world," thanking WSCF-ME for its "valuable contribution" in the end.

Towards the end of the program, the participants produced a working paper on how to advance interfaith relations and strengthen ties in the Middle East. Aside from the knowledge and new perspectives gained, the participants were able to forge strong bonds built on true connections. They maintained contact with one another long after the event ended, which showed that the program was a great success. ■



PROGRAMS

Action on Emerging Themes

WSCF's mission to promote justice and peace in the world compels us to broaden our engagement beyond the thematic priorities of our Strategic Plan to include developing issues of global concern and significance. We respond to these emerging themes in collaboration with ecumenical partners addressing these issues.

Symposium on 'Communication for Social Justice in the Digital Age'

4–7 OCTOBER | LINDAU, GERMANY

WSCF co-organised the multiplatform symposium on **Communication for Social Justice in the Digital Age**, a three-day event initiated by the World Council of Churches and the World Association for Christian Communication, which took place on 13–15 September via Zoom meetings, livestream sessions and in-person meetings in Berlin.

Also enjoined to collaborate as co-organisers of the international symposium were Brot für die Welt (Bread for the World), Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (Evangelical Church in Germany), and Evangelische Mission Weltweit (EMW, Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany).

The event brought together research and experiences from different regions and marginalised communities, expert input on economic and political trends, and ethical and theological reflection. The symposium aimed to explore the challenges of digital communication with a social justice lens and to identify opportunities for concerted and collaborative actions with faith communities and among faith, civil society, academic, media and technological organisations.

The symposium was carried out through theme days and livestreamed sessions. The discussions for each day addressed a particular question:

- Day 1: What do social justice and social injustice look like in the digital era, especially for marginalised people and communities?
- Day 2: What are the ways in which the digital era has changed the notion of public space?
- Day 3: What vision do we have of a more just digital—and human—society and how do we help bring it about?

A vision for a just digital future

WSCF handled the morning session of the third and last day of the symposium on the theme "Vision for a Just Digital Future", with General Secretary Marcelo Leites as main speaker and WSCF Europe Chairperson Christiane Gebauer as the session's moderator.

The session started with words of greeting from WACC General Secretary Philip Lee, followed by Marcelo Leites's presentation. Marcelo's input addressed the following points:





- The business model and surveillance. Between digital capitalism and the accumulation, control and manipulation of our privacy and intimate data.
- The dispute of hegemonies in the economic, religious, media and political fields. Deregulation and the debate or dispute of narratives. Youth and rebellion.
- Challenges for the future, some ideas or hypotheses to contribute to the debate: Build overcoming and transformative counter-narratives; recognise the exacerbation of inequalities that digital capitalism brings; emphatically reject the agglomeration of monopolies, seeking regulation and social control, also rejecting the idea of *prior tempore*, *prior jure*; propose a comprehensive system that guarantees human rights; avoid the problem of the digital capsule and promote the role of the ecumenical movement.

Afterwards, Tijana Petkovic from the University of Tübingen and Prof. Anita Cloete from the University of Stellenbosch each presented their statements framed in the session's theme and responded to Marcelo's input. Christiane Gebauer moderated the conversation that ensued among the three speakers and asked them the questions that online participants sent through Zoom and YouTube.

Dr. Silke Lechner, deputy head of the Religion and Foreign Policy division of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, shared words of greeting during the closing session.

Watch the session here:
youtube.com/watch?v=d2yKcwZS_b4

WSCF perspectives on digital justice

In the lead-up to the symposium, the WCC published on its website a series of interviews exploring the topic of digital justice. The interviews were aimed at offering intergenerational views about living in a digital world, the churches' role

in this world, and how people can work together to define and pursue digital justice.

Three members of the WSCF family were interviewed for this series:

- Katya Potapenko – Ukrainian journalist and radio host, and a volunteer with WSCF Europe. Link to the full interview: oikoumene.org/news/digital-justice-with-fair-access-remains-a-goal-says-ukrainian-journalist
- Jorge González Nuñez – student of theology at the Seminario Evangélico de Teología de Matanzas, and president of SCM Cuba. Link to the full interview: oikoumene.org/news/jorge-gonzalez-nunez-reflects-on-digital-justice-from-a-cuban-perspective
- Dr. Salters Sterling – SCM senior friend and president of the WSCF Centennial Fund Board of Trustees. Link to the full interview: oikoumene.org/news/dr-salters-sterling-human-nature-doesnt-change-just-because-we-have-a-digital-revolution ■

#DigitalJusticeSymposium

"Democratic society still operates within a certain framework of written and non-written rules of coexistence which should be the same for everyone. Media education, a digital court and unified rules – for me those are the key steps to achieve the digital justice that we are talking about."

Katya Potapenko
World Student Christian Federation

Communication for Social Justice in a Digital Age

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#DigitalJusticeSymposium

"From the Cuban reality, I can say that the relationship between the digital world and the church has grown considerably as a result of COVID-19. Never before have churches and faith-based organizations used technologies in the way we are doing now. It has been through digital social networks that we have accompanied each other during the days of isolation"

Jorge González Nuñez
Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano de Cuba

Communication for Social Justice in a Digital Age

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Regional Executive's Report

Strict measures such as bans on physical meetings that are aimed at preventing the further spread of COVID-19 were still in place in some countries in Africa in 2021. These restrictions affected the activity of our SCMs. But work in the WSCF Africa Region went on and some proved to be a stepping stone.

During the year, we have seen many positive actions undertaken by young people in promoting cooperation and advocating for socioeconomic justice, peace, human rights and leadership. In the Region, we continued to develop and implement programs in line with the WSCF Strategic Plan and to facilitate opportunities for ecumenical growth and development. In 2021, our work focused on communication, movement- and Capacity Building, networking, and fundraising.

Out of the 28 national movements in WSCF Africa, 22 movements are coordinating their efforts with the Region: seven countries in the southern sub-region, seven in the West, seven in the East, and one in Central Africa. Out of these, less than 17 movements actively participate in regional activities. Our day-to-day programs showcase the willingness of our young people to take part in matters of regional interest.

The Region majorly works across issues having to do with gender equality and economic growth among young people, and for the promotion of justice and strong institutions. Our priorities arise from the issues the continent has faced in 2021.



As a Christian youth movement of long-standing traditions, we are committed to realising our mission of supporting young people across the Region, enabling them to practise their religions freely,

empowering students in critical thinking and constructive transformation of our world by being a space for prayer and celebration, theological reflection, study and analysis of social and cultural processes and also solidarity and action.

The year 2021 has been very challenging for WSCF-AF. There are many unfinished tasks that still need support and prayers in the coming year. It is our wish to do much better and improve where we did not achieve our plans. With the help of the national movements, senior friends and ecumenical partners, we will continue working with young people who would otherwise not have access to the kinds of opportunities we offer. ■

Christopher Chimangeni

Regional Executive for Africa
Global Director for Bible and Theology

SCM Kenya: Thriving amid the pandemic

Like many other movements across the globe, SCM Kenya has experienced challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the movement has made some progress with student communities in harmonising and gathering for activities. Technology has been a blessing in disguise; the movement has been able to meet and grow virtually regardless of physical restrictions due to the pandemic. Virtual meetings have been of great help in spearheading the movement's activities.

The movement has been operating with minimal and limited resources, but somehow managed to establish its footing in Kenya after periods of dormancy. This has been strongly influenced by networking with movements such as Malisingira (Tearfund Movement in Kenya), Believers in Environmental Conservation Action (BECA), Methodist Church of Britain, WSCF-US, Moi University, and Karatina University.

Movement Building training workshop

The SCM organised a five-day semi-virtual training workshop on 12–16 April, aimed at growing the movement and stimulating work in promoting climate justice throughout various universities in the country. The training featured intensive orientation on key milestones achieved by movements globally, regionally and locally, and on different mechanisms for identifying and analysing gaps in the society and coming up with mitigating solutions.

Climate crisis actions

SCM Kenya and the WSCF in the U.S. launched the Ecumenical and Intercultural Exchange on the Climate Crisis and Ecological Program on 30 January 2021. The program attempts to accelerate ecumenical actions toward combating and curbing the climate crisis. It seeks to bring together SCMs across the globe and discuss matters partaking in the environment.

SCM Spotlight

SCM Kenya, in collaboration with the AIC Shanzu, BECA and Malisingira Movement, organised a fellowship on 20 March 2021 to explore sustainable actions on the environment. The program brought together five DCCs within the Pwani South Region, which includes Kilifi, Shanzu, Kongewea, Mombasa and Likoni DCCs. The discussions analysed the extent and magnitude of changes arising from programs such as the Garbage Clean-up events. The representatives agreed that there was a critical problem that demands an imminent solution.

The chairperson of BECA shared with global partners the various environmental gaps and the means by which the movement has been able to mitigate them. Miss Muthoki of SCM Kenya engaged in discussions on further actions and programs on sustainable actions in the region. The consultation resulted in a mangrove plantation program in the third quarter to allow ample planning period. The program reached 400 community and church leaders.

The program has progressively taken root in Kenya, East Timor, Madagascar, the United States and Rwanda through virtual intercultural bible study and prayers. It has deepened the relationship between the students and the church and created synergies within the involved movements.

The consultation led to a reflection using bamboo as a metaphor: “Bamboo can barely be seen for the first five years as it builds extensive root systems underground before exploding ninety feet into the air within six weeks.” It was a reminder for the participants that change does not occur on the same day that tectonic pressure begins; it is gradual and slow, so long as the process remains steady and progressive.

History of the SCM

SCM Kenya started in 1954 through correspondence from the Africa Girls’ High School in Kikuyu, Kenya (southern Nairobi) between Eileen Welch and Miss Mary. Formal contacts were maintained with other Eastern African countries.

In Kenya, movements established from Geneva before regionalisation had no local roots, which led to dependence on Geneva. Regionalisation in the WSCF caused a paradigm shift that led to independence. The National Council Student Christian Council of Kenya (NSCC) was formed.

A crisis developed from internal leadership problems in the NSCC that affected the movement in the ‘70s. The movement experienced different transitions throughout the period, until the 2000s. From 2020, there has been mentionable progress in developing a sustainable structure and movement.

Relation to the regional and global life of the WSCF

Due to the restructuring processes, SCM Kenya slowly integrated with the region and globally. The movement maintains contact with other SCMs through programs such as the Intercultural Bible Reading Program, which has given students from different SCMs opportunities to come together and understand different Bible translations and how it is experienced in different societies.

Ecumenical identity

SCM Kenya purports to manifest the unity of the Church by the witness it gives to cooperation across different Christian backgrounds. The SCM espouses intentional ecumenicity that harmonises diverse Christian traditions. We celebrate life in our Lord Jesus Christ, open to different platforms that further and enhance our participation in ecumenical work across the globe.

Perspectives on youth advocacy within WSCF programs

There is an increasing need for movements within the Federation to work more and actively participate in advocacy on contemporary issues as a Christian imperative and responsibility. Africa has the largest population of youth—a sizable population that can lead to massive action and advocacy campaigns. ■



SCMER STORYTELLING

Phillip Paul Chinkhokwe

of SCM Malawi



Phillip Paul Chinkhokwe is from Lilongwe, Malawi and is affiliated with the Charismatic Redeemed Ministries.

I JOINED THE CHRISTIAN YOUTH Association of Malawi (CYAMA/ SCM Malawi) in 2008. CYAMA is an affiliate member of WSCF. Over the past years, I have experienced deeper knowledge and understanding of the Bible, which has strengthened my faith and dedication to ecumenical work. I attribute this to the work and support of WSCF towards the local movement in Malawi through the global program on Bible and Theology.

Ever since I joined CYAMA, I have served in different portfolios to support movement work and growth. Mostly, my work has been to support expansion of the local movement youth network through

establishment of SCM branches in schools and in local churches. For two years, I served as national coordinator for the movement. I was involved in resource mobilisation, program planning and implementing activities in coordination with the WSCF regional office.

My involvement and working with WSCF has given me several opportunities, especially to connect with Christians from different denominations through the Christian workshops and meetings like Bible Reflection, which is done monthly at the regional level and twice a month at the movement level. This has built a great conviction for my ecumenical work to encourage all Christians to work together and stay in unity as one body of Christ.

WSCF also has given me an opportunity to work as male representative for its global IDD program in Africa. The program has helped me connect with people in meetings and workshops to discuss the Church, society and LGBTQ issues in order to promote inclusivity, creation of safe spaces for discussion and debates around LGBTQ issues, and for the church to recognise the richness and value present in every person as an image of God, and to preach the Gospel and God’s love to all people regardless of race, creed, colour, gender, background or sexual orientation. ■

Regional Executive's Report

Twenty twenty-one was a very challenging year for the Asia-Pacific Region. COVID-19 was still affecting the whole world and we were still far from our 'normal lives'. The pandemic seriously hit many countries in Asia-Pacific with many lives lost. Lockdowns in many cities, suspension of schools and businesses and travel restrictions forced things and events to happen virtually.

Activities of the AP region and the national movements were no exception. The region had to minimise—and sometimes cancel—face-to-face programs and meetings, and all regional activities had to shift to online platforms.



But despite the COVID-19 challenges, the region and the SCMs were still able to focus on our priority programs—IDD (Identity, Diversity and Dialogue), interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding, and human rights—through online activities such as our webinars on religious extremism and indigenous people's rights and. We also conducted in-person workshops on interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding¹, and on gender justice and human dignity².

In February, the world's attention turned to Myanmar with the military coup that happened suddenly and unexpectedly. The coup led to months-long demonstrations and the rise of the civil disobedience movement to resist the military and fight for Myanmar's democracy. Fourteen members of SCM Myanmar from the Yangon region were arrested during the crackdown on the protests. WSCF-AP responded with an international webinar on "The Myanmar Coup and the threat to democracy" organised



by the SCMs of Indonesia and Australia, and a joint statement with WSCF Global expressing solidarity with Myanmar and demanding the release of the detained SCMs³.

Organisationally, 2021 was a transition year for the AP with my entry as regional interim coordinator. The restrictions imposed by the pandemic allowed us to focus on administrative work. We were able to stabilise the finance in the region and paid back all the loans to Senior Friends. We also accomplished leadership change through the virtual 23rd Regional Committee Meeting (RCM) held over two sessions in March and April. We also held four separate online sub-regional consultations where staff of SCMs in each subregion shared their situation under the pandemic and their thoughts about the future of the region.

As people everywhere experienced the convenience and innovations in technology spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, so did the whole world witness the great regression of democracy and global economy. We should equip ourselves as a region and as a Federation for the coming post-COVID-19 era. What have we learned from the pandemic and how are we foreseeing the new chapter of our world? ■

Fanny Chung

Regional Executive for Asia-Pacific
Global Program Director for Identity, Diversity and Dialogue (Interim)

- 1 See the related global program report on [page 21](#): "Asia-Pacific initiatives on interfaith dialogue".
- 2 See the region's IDD initiatives in the global program report on [page 11](#): "Asia-Pacific SCMs 'Women Doing Theology' workshops".
- 3 See the report on this statement on [page 19](#): "Statement demanding release of detained SCM Yangon members".

Taiwan SCM's BTS program



Taiwan SCM's signature program, the **Biblical and Theological Study** (BTS) class celebrated its 59th year in 2021.

The BTS class traces its roots to four theology students who started the class at the beginning of the 1970s after observing a lack of understanding of the Bible among the youth and students. In 1971, the Campus Ministry Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) adopted the BTS class.

Through the SCM of Taiwan, the campus ministry implemented the BTS program, in addition to the many different camps and activities it organises for students. Having started in 1971, the BTS class is now the longest-running program of Taiwan SCM.

The purpose of the BTS class is to develop Bible studies that are linked to the current context in order to renew the church and build up faith. The BTS class is

SCM Spotlight

an expression of the belief, “seeking understanding by faith”. It is grounded on the following principles:

- a theology that links up with society
- continuous renewal of the interpretation of the Bible and theological thinking
- everyone is the subject of knowing God

Theologians from the seminary are invited to give thematic lectures, in which students are divided into small groups for discussions and Bible study. Different organisations are also invited to the workshops to help students better understand the social issues.

The most important feature of the BTS class is the students as co-organisers of the program with the workers, which ensures that the class fully reflects the needs of the students. The participants lead all the discussions; the church workers only facilitate when necessary. This practice reflects PCT’s theological practice of “the priesthood of all believers”.

The BTS class uses liberal and diverse methods, and avoids dogmatic and authoritative ways to allow participants to experience how God is speaking to them in diverse contexts, and changing them by interacting with the meaning of the Bible texts.



Other student centers and churches have adopted the principles and methods of the BTS class in the way they conduct Bible study camps for junior-high school students. Some former participants of the BTS class have become Bible study leaders in their churches, continuing the spirit and legacy of the BTS class.

For many of the students, BTS is not only a class but a process of growing and



praxis—faith in action—which needs to be continually promoted and carried forward into the future. ■

SCMER STORYTELLING

Yi-Li Huang

of SCM Taiwan



Yi-Li Huang comes from the SCM of National Cheng Kung University (NCKU). She is currently a postgraduate student at NCKU's Department of Occupational Therapy, and serves as assistant at the Christian Ministry of Students Tainan.

I AM YI-LI HUANG. I WAS BORN to a Christian family in Taichung, Taiwan. I am so lucky that during my study, I met the Christian Ministry of Students Tainan, which belongs to the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT), and came to know Taiwan SCM where I am now serving.

The mission of Tainan SCM is to be “an explorer of new knowledge, a seeker of truth, a critic of society, a servant of communities”. Honestly, I did not have much understanding about this mission when I was a freshman at the university. But after participating in the grassroots empowerment camps in the last six years, I now understand more about being an SCMer. This mission is our identity and goal to fulfil.

Taiwan is such a unique society. Growing up, debates and struggles on various social issues are a part of our daily life. Helped by the

power of media and the people, public discourse on issues such as national sovereignty, transitional justice, gender equality, disability rights, racial discrimination, the gap between rich and poor, education reform, and other social issues continuously stimulate our thoughts and attitudes.

Being of the so-called “Sunflower Generation”, I have a certain degree of concern and sensitivity to these issues. But often I feel frustrated and overwhelmed by the debates. That frustration begins with the thinking that only leaders with power and voice can ‘save the world’. This thinking is reinforced by the media, which heroise leaders, and by the people’s herd behaviour. Therefore, humbled, I could only pray in the church with ‘gorgeous but vague prayers’, hoping for God Almighty to come suddenly and save the world and bring peace on earth.

But I outgrew my imagination of being a Christian in the grassroots empowerment camp. First, I learned to believe that we are as tough as grass roots and we have influence regardless of our position in society. We are all made in the image of God. We also learned to believe in the possibility of ‘being good together’ in the world, then to think and reflect on the many issues in our society, to understand the thoughts and value of the methodology.

The camp taught us to place values, observation, action, models and modification as thinking-cycle, which has overturned my imagination of being a Christian. I therefore no longer seek a belief of ‘escape and dependence’ but to feel, think, reflect and dialogue in order to practise my belief. This is the spirit of SCM. ■

Regional Executive's Report

During the COVID-19 crisis, we proposed a radical approach to empowering and supporting vulnerable young people in Europe. More than ever, we needed to come together and deliver programs that allow young people to acquire the necessary competencies to influence political and religious leaders to put young people's interests first.

In 2021, the theme for our annual program was **"Build Back Better Towards Stronger, Just and Inclusive Societies"**, based on the learnings from the pandemic and its devastating impact on mental health, financial stability and potential opportunities for young people. We heard from our members how the most vulnerable groups, i.e., refugees, immigrants, and minority communities, were hit the hardest due to pre-existing health, social and economic inequalities. These groups are underrepresented in the decision-making processes, and their voice is silenced. We learnt from this pandemic that building a better and stronger society would require more inclusive approaches to education, democratic participation, and economic and social welfare.

To achieve transformative, long-term change in our societies, we needed policy change around mental health, gender equality, environmental justice and greater resources for the marginalised communities. Through the WSCF Europe, we have been fortunate to reach over five hundred young people across Europe in 2021. We facilitated policy and strategy forums, skills development and Capacity Building events to meet the needs and challenges of our students and disadvantaged young people.



In 2021, we focused on building resilient youth leaders of tomorrow from Christian and other faith communities. To succeed in an increasingly volatile political and economic environment, young

people need to have a fusion of technical 'hard skills' and 'soft skills', such as the ability to build long-term, meaningful opportunities. Last year we continued to deliver some innovative and evidence-based youth-led initiatives across Europe.

Identity, Diversity and Dialogue (IDD)¹, Eco-Justice, Human Rights and Democracy, and advocacy were the critical elements of our work through movement-strengthening and Capacity Building activities. We focused more on challenging existing structures that have capped the potential of young people over the past decade. It is essential that our faith guides our best intentions, provides a vehicle for change, and fuels our ambition. ■

Natia Tsintsadze

Regional Executive for Europe
Global Program Director for Interfaith Dialogue

¹ See WSCF Europe's IDD initiative in the global program report on [pages 8-10](#): "Radical Inclusivity: WSCF Europe gender and sexuality campaign".

SCM Britain: Maintaining community during the pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic continued to impact both the work of SCM Britain staff and the wellbeing of our members throughout the year. Much of our outreach happened through the SCM Online platform, a Zoom-based program

of prayer, Bible study, lectures, social events and workshops. Session topics in 2021 included Franciscan spirituality, theology of consent, and looking at the roots of modern racism.

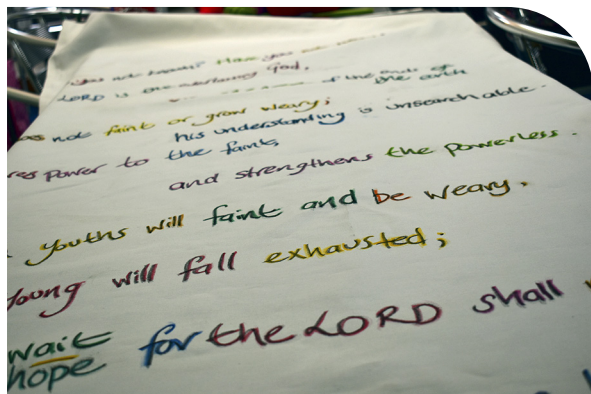
We held a digital 'freshers' program to help new students find a Christian community while starting university in an uncertain time. We ran our annual group leaders' training for SCM groups, again online, which was well-attended.

Our online activity attracted a number of new members who were

not previously part of local SCM groups, bringing new people into the Movement. Growth in membership has stabilised this year, after a rapid increase earlier in the pandemic.

We held our Annual General Meeting online in 2021, where members received reports from SCM's General Council and the staff team, and also elected their new representatives to the General Council. Holding the event online meant that it was more accessible for our members, and we recorded the highest turnout at an AGM in recent years.

The National Gathering, named "Waiting in Hope", was held in-person in July, and featured a variety of workshops, lectures and social activities. As not





Attendees of the "Waiting in Hope" National Gathering in Herefordshire, England in July 2021.

all of our members felt comfortable attending in-person events due to the pandemic, we decided to livestream the main presentations so that students could participate in the event remotely and still feel part of the Movement. Those that took part in the event gave positive feedback about the weekend, including one person saying, "Meeting other like-minded Christians was so comforting coming from a university town with very conservative evangelical student churches. It was a breath of fresh air and has definitely deepened my faith."



Members taking part in a Craftivism workshop

As we continue our work into 2022 and beyond, SCM Britain will continue a hybrid approach to community and events. Theology Thursdays, a part of our Faith in Action project supported by Project Bonhoeffer, is presented online and brings together students and an invited speaker to reflect on topics such as climate justice, LGBTQI+ issues, and disability and spirituality. Our 2022 National Gathering, named "Reinventing Radical", will take place in-person but, again, with the option to join online, bringing together members from across the three nations. ■

SCMER STORYTELLING

Kateryna Potapenko

WSCF contact in Ukraine



Kateryna Potapenko obtained her master's degree in journalism and social communications from The National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv.

MY NAME IS KATERYNA POTAPENKO, I'm an orthodox Christian, journalist, and WSCF volunteer from Kyiv, Ukraine. For four years, I have taken part in several WSCF Europe events as a participant, facilitator and organisational committee member.

The most recent event I took part in as a team member was the study session on "Confessing Church today: combating right-wing populism as Christians", which happened in the summer of 2021. The study session should have taken place in Budapest, but due to COVID-19, it was moved to an online format which did not allow the event to be fully implemented.

In 2019, I helped organise in Kyiv the local training on "Anatomy of Youth Extremism". I served as moderator and facilitator in the event, but I was also able to share my experience as a journalist facing this problem in media. Also in 2019, my participation in the Lingua Franca Leadership Training in Georgia helped me to understand the different realities people are coming from and expanded my knowledge about foreign policies in combating and coping with discrimination and their outcomes.

My journey with WSCF Europe started in 2018 with the study session on the topic, "How is peace possible?" At that time, Russia had already occupied the eastern territories of Ukraine, which was the subject of discussion that I was honoured to lead with the aim of raising awareness about the world's military conflicts. The study activity was designed on the concept of a "living library".

Ukraine does not have its own SCM yet, but there are many active young people who are participating in WSCF Europe events at different levels of involvement, which gives hope that an SCM in Ukraine will be formed in the near future. ■

Regional Executive's Report

Weaving life with threads of justice towards a new society is part of the current journey and hopes of the ecumenical youth in a Latin America hit by inequalities and the advance of fundamentalisms. In this spirit, and with the commitment to generate critical dialogues and advocacy actions from biblical, theological, pastoral, and ecumenical perspectives, WSCF-LAC worked in 2021 navigating through the challenges imposed by the context.

According to the United Nations, poverty, inequities, violence and unemployment have reached unprecedented levels in the region, making it the most affected by COVID-19 in the world. Food insecurity, inflation, increase in the cost of goods and services, migratory waves,¹ lack of protection and violence against women, LGBTIQ+ communities, black and grassroots people, among other more vulnerable groups of our societies—these are some of the realities resulting from the structural crisis, aggravated by the health emergency, that has led to greater uncertainty and social gaps in the region. These realities have incited social protests in countries like Colombia, where mostly young people took to the streets to claim better living conditions for the people.²

This scenario demanded that our youth engage in reflection about issues that help in envisioning possible ways of living together and building more peaceful and just societies. Issues such as the economic empowerment of women; decolonial theologies as alternative to fundamentalisms and hegemonic powers; human rights; patriarchal socio-religious imaginaries and their impact in our faith and church-communities; gender-based violence and its interconnection with violence against the environment; and non-hegemonic masculinities are among them.

The variety of actions in which the SCMer in Latin America engaged in show that they didn't sit idly by in this difficult year: national SCMs' leadership training workshops on the programmatic themes of the Federation; campaigns such as "+love+rights" from the SCM of Cuba for an inclusive Family Code in Cuba; ecumenical, political and public statements to demand an end to the repression and human right



violations in Colombia during the National Strike and to the blockade against Cuba and Venezuela; peaceful protests through street art; emergency and humanitarian crisis response through solidarity

kitchens, medicines and first-need supplies delivery.

The WSCF-LAC XIV Regional Assembly and Consultation on Democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalisms held on 25–28 November 2021 in Mexico City embraced the hopes for a new period of work having, for the first time, a woman in the position of regional executive and a new set of elected leaders. It is hoped that this new leadership will continue empowering the voices of young people in the creation of new and authentic narratives that aspire to build channels of dialogue among different visions, working together in the construction of real transformations. ■

Dianet de la Caridad Martínez

Regional Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean
Global Program Director for Ecological Justice

¹ See related global program report on [pages 17-18](#): "Ecumenical youth called to weave life with threads of justice": 14th WSCF-LAC Regional Assembly and Consultation on Democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalisms"

² See related global program report on [pages 14-15](#): "SCM Colombia: Art as protest on the road to peace"

SCMER STORYTELLING

Yadamy Saray López Acero
of SCM for Equity, Mexico



Yadamy Saray López Acero graduated from the Latin American Faculty of Reformed Theology (FLATER) and holds a master's degree in theology from the Theological Community of Mexico. She is an ordained minister of the Mexican Communion of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches (CMIRP) and general co-coordinator of FLATER. She is currently studying communication and journalism at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and part of the coordination of the SCM for Equity, Mexico.

IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING MY IDENTITY AS A YOUNG WOMAN OF REFORMED spirituality, located in Mexico where almost 89% of the population considers itself Christian*, but where, culturally, religion or theology is not relevant in public opinion and is refuted by the youth, I found a space created by students who, driven by their spirituality and Christian activism, work to transform their environments.

When I met the SCM for Equity, Mexico and the WSCF-LAC, a new project was becoming known in the region part of the Ecojustice and Peace Building programs. We acquired knowledge and learning that led us to reflect on eco-theological subjects, such as land and women, seeking solutions to environmental and territorial problems. As the project gave continuity to the work being carried out in Mexico, we accepted the challenge together with a group of ecumenical youth willing to learn and rethink our practices and habits.

Three years later, in November 2021, we had the pleasure of hosting the XIV WSCF-LAC Regional Assembly on the theme, "Ecumenical Youth Called to Weave Life with Threads of Justice". The SCM's group of young people in Mexico was able to learn first-hand about the work and organisation of the Federation in the region. Through a Latin American methodology ("to see, to judge, to act"), we invited participants to visit homes, shelters and dining rooms where migrants pass through in Mexico City. These transient migrants are people who live in uncertainty for being persecuted (forced migration), for not having economic resources, and for being discriminated due to their "undocumented migrants" status.

In a spirit of unity, and guided by the Divine, we were able to recognise that it is urgent to act in these realities, which call us to weave threads of justice in a context where the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic increase inequality and discrimination. We were called to work together to effect Human Rights in our country and in the entire region of Latin America and the Caribbean. ■

* Out of the 89% of Christians in Mexico, 11.2% are Protestant and Evangelical.



SCM Spotlight

carried out there to facilitate the initial phases of adaptation to civilian life of the members of the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) after laying down their weapons in line with the Peace Agreements signed between the state and the FARC. These actions also aim to contribute positively to the communities.



The active spirituality of SCM Colombia

SCM Colombia has placed emphasis on peacebuilding due to the situation of violence that we have historically experienced in the country. This is evident in the work that have been carried out by SCM Bogota and SCM Barranquilla, the two local SCMs that comprise the national movement.

SCM Bogota, which became an Associated Movement in the last Regional Assembly (November 2021), addressed the role of memory in peacebuilding through the *PAZteleria* (peace-bakery) project, which uses food recipes, the activity of cooking, learning about traditional local plants and food, and sharing meals around the table as strategies for peace pedagogy and dialogue on the conflict in Colombia and the processes of resistance.

The *PAZteleria* opened the doors for us to articulate with different actors, as it was in the case of *DiPaz* (Inter-Church Dialogue for Peace), a platform that works for the construction of peace with faith-based organisations. With *DiPaz*, we created a project to bring together various youth sectors and build a joint agenda on reconciliation and food sovereignty. Through this, we were able to mobilise and articulate the issues

around the question of urban agriculture in the south of Bogota where cultivation in urban environments is a reality.

For its part, **SCM Barranquilla**, with the support of the Presbyterian Church in Colombia, served in a process of accompaniment and social actions in favour of a group of families who, faced with industrial development, were forcibly expelled from the vacant land in which they were living. For the ecumenical youth, this process was an opportunity to continue delving into the realities of the Colombian peasantry and the relationship between land, socio-economic justice and peace.

During 2021, SCM Barranquilla also continued participating in the accompaniment processes of the ETCR (Territorial Spaces for Training and Reincorporation). Training activities and early socio-economic reincorporation are



An event that made a mark on the lives of Colombians in 2021 was the *Paro Nacional* (National Strike), in which the people, particularly young people, took to the streets in protest against the unjust measures of the government. Both SCM Bogota and SCM Barranquilla coordinated activities in response to this national situation using art as an expression of resistance and nonviolent protest. Two murals were painted (one in Barranquilla, another in Bogota) in which young people made their representations and analysis of the context and expressed their commitment to social justice and peace.

We intend to continue building collectively and working for an integral peace in the country, for this is part of our mission as a Federation and our convictions as practitioners of an active spirituality that believes in social transformation through action without harm and in dialogue for the construction of God's Kingdom on earth. ■



Regional Executive's Report

After a year of social distancing and reliance on technology to stay connected, WSCF in the Middle East was able to make a resounding comeback in 2021. Both the regional office and the youth were eager to resume our in-person gatherings, which have brought together people of different denominations and faiths¹.

Our programs focused mainly on peacebuilding, tackling topics of importance to the youth², and building their capacities within their specific contexts. Importantly, we reaffirmed the stances we have taken at critical moments, such as the Israeli crimes committed against Palestinians and the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon³.

Worth noting is that the year brought ecumenical triumphs to the region, which we were able to build on and supplement with programs. We note, for example, Pope Francis's pilgrimage to Iraq and the publication of the ecumenical document, "Christians in the Middle East".

As WSCF-ME, we were able to grow and evolve in 2021, welcoming two new SCMs from Syria and Lebanon, solidifying ecumenical efforts in Iraq, making key ecumenical visits in Iraq and Jordan, and more. As for our organisational affairs, we were able to fill key positions within our regional committee, such as the co-regional executive and Executive Committee positions, following a regional assembly.

With the resumption of in-person gatherings, we did not entirely do without the new technology in 2021. Instead,



we found useful ways of integrating it into our work. We expanded and strengthened our online presence on social media, and launched a new website and an e-newsletter.

The Middle East is still undeniably burdened with many challenges, a lot of it having to do with disunity in the region. But there remains an unwavering spirit that yearns for peace, justice, and unity. This spirit is especially evident in the youth.

All in all, it was a fruitful period that gave us high hopes for the future of the ecumenical movement and the role we get to play in its shaping from our position in the Middle East. ■

Mira Neaimeh

Regional Executive for Middle East
Global Program Director for Peace Building and Dialogue

- ¹ See related global program report from WSCF-ME on [page 23](#): "Muslim-Christian Dialogue: 'Religion in the Service of Humanity'".
- ² See related global program report from WSCF-ME on [page 16](#): "Ayia Napa 35: 'Between Youth Influence and Influencing the Youth'".
- ³ See WSCF's statements on Palestine and Lebanon on [page 20](#).

Iraqi Christian Youth Committee: Partaking in the revival of ecumenism in Iraq

SCM Spotlight

The Iraqi Christian Youth Committee (ICYC), which consists of members of the seven main Christian denominations in Iraq, has been active in service for almost 20 years, contributing to the ecumenical movement in the Middle East from its headquarters in Baghdad.

ICYC has been witness to much violence and religious persecution since its inception, but now Iraq has entered an era of relative peace and prosperity. Last

year was an important turning point with Pope Francis's pilgrimage to different areas in the country, his meeting with Iraq's foremost Shiite cleric Ayatollah Al-Sistani, and his historic delivery of a liturgy according to the Eastern rite. The visit was a moment of ecumenical victory and renewal that ICYC decided to build on.

In May of 2021, soon after the papal visit, WSCF-ME organised a Capacity Building Training (CBT) for young Iraqis in Erbil

under the title, "We Are All Brothers in Christ". The experience was enriching to the youth who were encouraged to fraternise, examine important ecumenical documents, and converse with influential figures in Church and media. This training was the first one to be done after several years in Iraq, targeting ICYC youth and others.

Also in May, ICYC partook in a spiritual gathering titled, "Jerusalem: The City of





Divine Peace on Earth”, which was held by the Center for Eastern Studies in Baghdad. The committee then scheduled visits with heads of churches in Baghdad to obtain their blessings and activate means of cooperation, as well as address the challenges facing the youth today.

ICYC then launched a series, “Getting to Know the Church of the Other”, where activities entailed visiting churches of different traditions, getting to know their history, participating with them in prayer, and breaking bread together over a shared meal. The series ran from June 2021 to January 2022, where ICYC managed to visit six different churches

(Syriac Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, Syriac Catholic, Latin, Chaldean, and Presbyterian).

The committee was very active in church service. In August 2021, ICYC members helped facilitate a three-day church event in celebration of The Assumption of the Virgin Mary in the Armenian Orthodox Church of the Virgin Mary (Maskinta). Again, in August, members attended a Syriac Orthodox gathering at the Syriac Orthodox Church of the Virgin Mary where a seminar was given about the relic of the Virgin Mary (Holy Girdle) being kept safe there. In September, committee members helped tidy and

prepare for the inauguration of an altar of the St. Matthew Syriac Orthodox Church. In December, ICYC’s choir group and prayer committee took part in the Latin Church’s prayer service.

The year 2021 was a most productive year. ICYC managed to build momentum for the ecumenical movement in Iraq after a period of stagnation as a result of difficult circumstances. ICYC has renewed its commitment to the youth, to prayer, to gracious gatherings, to building bridges, to peace, and to bolstering the ecumenical spirit. We intend to keep this momentum going in the years to follow with the utmost help and support from WSCF-ME. ■

SCMER STORYTELLING

Sandra Nabil

WSCF-ME’s translator



I’M SANDRA NABIL, AN EGYPTIAN visually-impaired freelance translator with a bachelor’s in specialised translation from the French University of Egypt, and studying for a master’s degree at the Faculty of Al-Asun at Ain Shams University.

As a fresh graduate, I had the academic experience in languages and skills required to produce accurate translations, such as documentary research, lexicography and terminology search, error categories, editing and

proofreading. However, this academic experience was not enough to find a suitable job, either full-time in a translation company or even freelance, because work experience is so much needed.

My translational work for WSCF Middle East (from English to Arabic) gave me an idea of how it works for news translation, since the translator has to be careful with dates, names and places, and to read similar texts before translating.

Besides, the feedback I received on my translations let me discover how I can reformulate my text using richer Arabic words and expressions to remove the impression of literal translation and to produce an attractive text that meets the needs of Arabic speakers.

Finally, I would like to thank Ms. Mira Neaimeh, who gave me this opportunity to translate for WSCF-ME and was keen to update me with detailed feedback on my work. ■

WSCF's Virtual Extraordinary General Assembly

29–31 JULY | ONLINE

The Virtual Extraordinary General Assembly (V-GA) of the WSCF, held on 29 to 31 July 2021, elected the four officers of the Federation for the next quadrennium and welcomed the recently elected general secretary and the newly appointed members of the Executive Committee from the regions.

The election of the new leadership was supposed to take place during the in-person 37th General Assembly (GA), which, unfortunately, had to be postponed due to the limitations posed by the pandemic. But because the election could no longer be delayed, the Executive Committee decided to convene the GA virtually, but only for the sole purpose of conducting the business of elections. The V-GA was not intended to replace the in-person 37th GA that was to take place, as planned, in Germany in 2022.

The V-GA was held in the newly launched WSCF virtual platform created for virtual governance meetings, programs and WSCF e-learning initiatives through Zoom live sessions.

New leaders elected

Seventy-five voting members from 67 countries attended the sessions and elected the new leadership of the Federation through the WSCF virtual platform voting system. The new officers elected were: Geevarghese Mor Coorilos from India as chairperson; Pavlina Manavska from Macedonia and Ramy Farouk from Egypt as co-vice chairpersons; and Ebere Ubesie from Nigeria as honorary treasurer.

The V-GA also welcomed the new general secretary, Marcelo Leites from Uruguay, who was appointed by the Executive Committee in February 2021, and the incoming members of the Executive Committee for the next quadrennium: Marte Sappé Griot and Patrick Holly representing Europe; Malena Lozada Montanari representing Latin America and the Caribbean;¹ Yasmina Rishmawi and Paula Rafaat representing the Middle East; Willy Masaka and Facia Harris representing Africa; and Andika Mongolala and Thi Aung Hnin Wai representing Asia-Pacific.

Shortly after the V-GA, the WSCF released a statement announcing the new leadership of the Federation and congratulating the elected officers. In the statement, WSCF requested the support of the movements, ecumenical

¹ Natália Miguel Blanco, the other Executive Committee member representing LAC, was appointed by the WSCF-LAC Regional Assembly in November 2021.



bodies and partners for the new leadership and the Federation. It expressed appreciation to the outgoing officers—Georgine Kengne Djeutane, Immanuel Gopala Kitnan, Salma Charaf and Bronwyn Claire—and acknowledged the role of Acting Chairperson and WSCF V-GA Moderator Bronwyn Claire, Outgoing Vice-chairperson Salma Charaf, and former General Secretary Necta Montes (2015–2021) for their commitment to the Federation and the Virtual General Assembly.



Virtual Extraordinary General Assembly

WORLD STUDENT
CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

The Extraordinary V-GA 2021 will be held in an online platform <https://wscf.ch/vga-2021/login> where all the voting and some non-voting members of the WSCF will have access. The V-GA will formally open on July 29th and it will last until July 31st.

The ELECTION proceeds between the 29th and the 31st of July.

TIMETABLE of the ZOOM LIVE SESSIONS 12-14 GMT/UTC • Day 1 & 3: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88680196498> • Day 2: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89847022718>

July 29 / DAY 1

- 15-20' **Opening Worship:** Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-7
- 90' **Plenary I:**
 - Welcome and Opening Speech: WSCF acting Chairperson
 - Roll Call (depending on the platform registration; including all the participants, non-voting members as well)
 - Adoption of the agenda
 - Adoption of the rules of procedures
 - Appointment of the Credential Committee
 - Report of the Search Committee/ Nomination Committee
 - Official opening of the V-GA
- 5' **Closing Prayer (Worship Team)**

July 30 / DAY 2

- 20' **Biblical Study:** John 4:13-14
- 5' **Responsive Prayer (WT)**
- 90' **Thematic Module:** Keynote Speech + Regional Testimonies "Looking for justice in a world that is suffering"
- 40' **Keynote Speaker**
- 30' **Regional testimonies**
- 20' **Questions from participants (3-5 questions)**
- 5' **Closing Prayer**

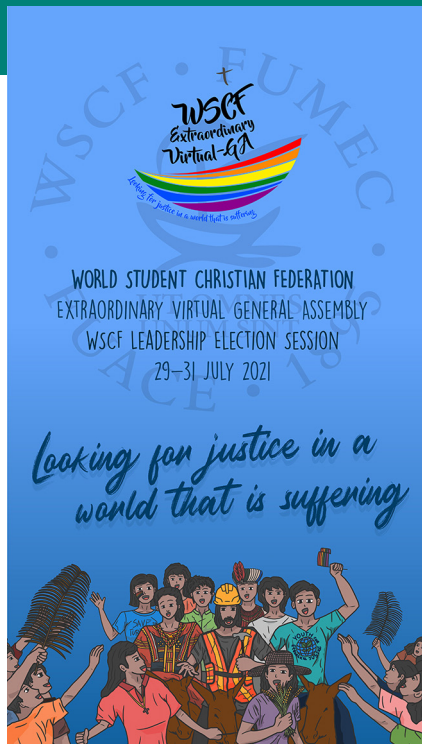
July 31 / DAY 3

- 20' **Biblical Study:** Revelation 21:1-6 "New Heaven, New Earth"
- 90' **Plenary II: Business session:**
 - Report from the Search Committee/ Credential Committee on election results
 - General Secretary approbation
 - Installation of the New Officers and ExCo
- 5' **Interregional Closing prayer**
- 30' **37th In Person General Assembly: Host Committee Greetings and invitation**
- Closing prayer**

Check you time zone: www.timeanddate.com/time/map

Note: Live interpretation will be available at the live sessions. Documents will be translated into the official WSCF languages.





Contemplating a suffering world

The three-day assembly was framed with prayer, with Days 1 and 3 devoted to business sessions, and Day 2 to an open session on the Assembly theme, "Looking for justice in a world that is suffering". The delegates talked about the pandemic and how it has exacerbated already existing crises, revealing great threats to democracy and human rights. Reflecting on the Assembly theme led the participants to contemplate the role that ecumenical and student movements have to play under such challenging circumstances, ultimately affirming the importance of a healing Christian presence in a suffering world.

The open session, streamed live on WSCF's Facebook page, began with a biblical study led by Prof. Dr. Kuzipa Nalwamba from the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey. Rev. Dr. Chris Ferguson, general secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, gave the keynote presentation, followed by regional testimonies from the SCMs: Solomon Mbaweme Banda, SCM of Zambia; Robbie Tulip, SCM Australia; Natalia Vasilevich, SCM Belarus; Jorge Nuñez, SCM Cuba; Nidal Abou Zouluf, SCM from WSCF-ME; and Erin Hancock, SCM USA. Former WSCF General Secretary Necta Montes moderated the open session.

Links to the livestream of Day 2 open session:

- facebook.com/wscfconnect/videos/1890577554438615 (Part 1);
- facebook.com/wscfconnect/videos/201239345350528 (Part 2) ■

Global Leadership and Staff 2021



OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON

- **Geevarghese Mor Coorilos** (India) Orthodox

CO-VICE CHAIRPERSONS

- **Pavlina Manavska** (Macedonia) Methodist
- **Ramy Farouk Mahrous Sarofim Hanna** (Egypt) Coptic Orthodox

HONORARY TREASURER

- **Ebere Ubesie** (Nigeria) Anglican

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AFRICA

- **Facia Harris** (Liberia) Pentecostal
- **Willy Masaka** (DR Congo) Presbyterian

ASIA-PACIFIC

- **Hnin Wai Thi Aung** (Myanmar) Anglican
- **Andika Mongilala** (Indonesia/Australia) Presbyterian

EUROPE

- **Marta Sappé Griot** (Italy) Waldensian Church
- **Patrick Holly** (Ireland) Roman Catholic

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- **Malena Lozada Montanari** (Argentina) Methodist
- **Natália Miguel Blanco** (Brazil) Methodist

MIDDLE EAST

- **Yasmina Rishmawi** (Palestine) Independent
- **Paula Raffat** (Egypt) Coptic Orthodox

NORTH AMERICA

- VACANT

PARTNER REPRESENTATIVE

- **Salters Sterling**, WSCF Centennial Fund

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Inter-Regional Staff

GENERAL SECRETARY

- **Marcelo D. Leites** (Uruguay) Independent

FINANCE OFFICER

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

INTER-REGIONAL OFFICE ASSISTANT

- **María Camila U. Bonilla** (Colombia) Independent

Regional Executives / Global Program Directors

AFRICA

HIGHER EDUCATION

- **Christopher Chimangeni** (Malawi) Catholic

ASIA-PACIFIC

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY & DIALOGUE

- **Chung Hiu Fan/Fanny Chung** [INTERIM] (Hong Kong)

EUROPE

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

- **Natia Tsintsadze** (Italy) Orthodox

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

- **Dianet de la Caridad Martínez Valdés** (Cuba) Presbyterian

MIDDLE EAST

PEACE BUILDING & DIALOGUE

- **Mira Neaimeh** (Lebanon) Orthodox

NORTH AMERICA

ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY

- VACANT

ORGANISATION Financial Report

Consolidated Financial Summary 2021

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.

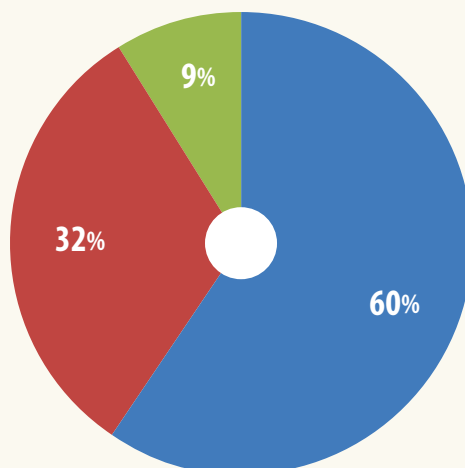
The Trustees of the World Student Christian Federation, USA, Inc. is a not-for-profit charitable organisation incorporated in the State of New York. This 2021 financial summary combines information from the Geneva-based Inter-Regional Office (IRO) and five (5) regional offices in Beirut, Trento, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, and Lilongwe, which cover the world.

INCOME YEAR 2021

Total Federation - Income Year 2021

Undesignated*	\$ 349,524	60%
Designated*	184,758	32%
WSCF-related sources	51,024	9%
TOTAL INCOME	\$585,306	

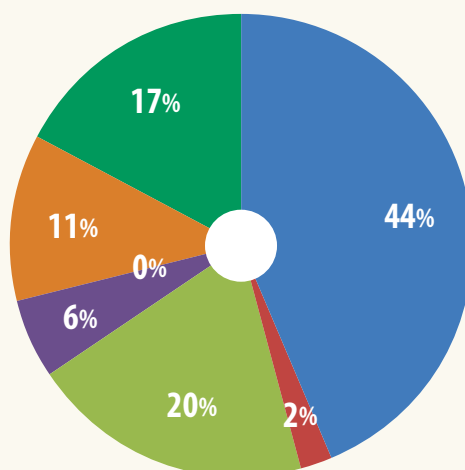
* Churches & Agencies



THE YEAR 2021 has been for the Federation a year of recovery following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The consolidated result shows in 2021 a nice surplus of US\$72,000 resulting from higher funding received from our partners for programmatic activities and core expenses kept well under control.

Total Federation - Income Year 2021

Geneva	\$ 255,511	44%
Africa	13,157	2%
Middle East	115,936	20%
Latin America	33,035	6%
North America	0	0%
Asia-Pacific	66,989	11%
Europe	100,678	17%
TOTAL INCOME	\$585,306	



INCOME

Total income increased by 48% up to US\$ 585,306. This is after deconsolidating the Ecumenical Institute in the Middle East with which the Federation is now reviewing its business relationship. However, it should be noted that despite this very significant upturn in the funding, the overall level is below 2019 (pre-COVID) levels.

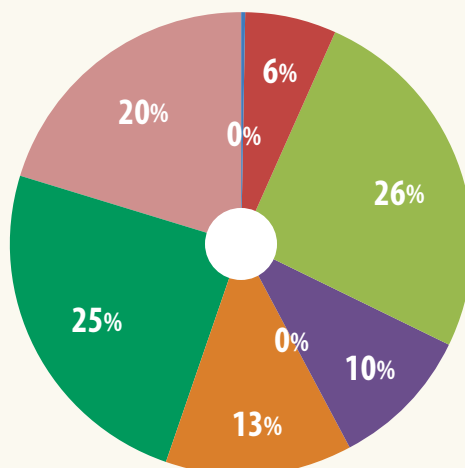
EXPENSES YEAR 2021

Total Federation - Expenses Year 2021

Program/Geneva	\$ 1,626	0%
Africa	32,611	6%
Middle East	132,369	26%
Latin America	50,413	10%
North America	0	0%
Asia-Pacific	67,497	13%
Europe	125,849	25%
Global Services/Geneva	102,618	20%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$512,983	

TOTAL EXPENSES \$512,983

NET RESULT \$72,323



EXPENSES

Total expenses of US\$512,983 increased by 29%.

NET RESULT

The year 2021 reported a net profit of US\$72,323, which had a positive impact on the cash flow from operating activities available at the end of the year.

Partners and Donors 2021

- Apostolic Youth Federation (AYF)
- Bronwyn Claire
- Centennial Fund
- David Stevens Foundation
- David Cleary and Vera Papp
- Ecumenical Youth Committee
- Eilif Anker Tanberg
- EMW Hamburg
- European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe
- Inbaraj Jeyakumar
- Iraqi Christian Youth Committee
- Jean-Luc de La Soujeole
- Jenna Yango Leonard
- KAICIID
- Karibu
- Khartoum Orthodox University Youth Movement
- Louise Klein
- MISSIO
- Natalia Vasilevitch
- National Participation Committee
- Otto per Mille fund of the Waldensian Church in Italy
- Palestine Youth Ecumenical Movement
- Presbyterian Church USA
- Program Participants
- Robert Tulip
- Ruth Conway
- Saint George Youth Movement
- Salters Sterling
- SCM Australia
- SCM Denmark
- SCM Finland
- SCM Germany
- SCM Italy
- SCM Korea
- SCM Norway
- SCM Taiwan
- SCM UK
- Société Genevoise de Protestants Dissiminés
- United Church of Canada
- William Spartham
- WSCF Centennial Fund
- YMCA Japan
- Zuzana Babicova

Annual Report 2021

Twenty twenty-one was a splendid year of continued capital growth for the investments of the Centennial Fund of the World Student Christian Federation. The capital value of the investments increased by over 20%. Such an increase while the effects of COVID-19 were still being felt confirmed the wisdom of the investment policy being pursued by the trustees as advised by their investment advisory committee.

The annual grant of the trustees to the Inter-Regional Budget of the Federation has been maintained at \$US 40,000 and the buoyancy of the investments has allowed the Trustees to have conversations with the general secretary of the Federation about other forms of support for the Inter-Regional Office. However, as I write, hostilities in the Ukraine have had a significant effect on confidence in the investment markets with the consequence that the capacity of the Trustees to increase their support for the Federation may be constrained in the short to medium term.

In 2021, we said farewell to Bronwyn Claire who ceased to be a trustee when her term of office as treasurer of the Federation came to an end at the virtual General Assembly. Bronwyn had been the first treasurer to have been a trustee of the Fund. Her contribution to the work of the Trustees was immensely valuable. She had both a macro and a micro grasp of the finances of the Federation and was an excellent interpreter of the financial needs of the organisation at Trustees meetings. We wish her well as she develops her career.

In Bronwyn's place, we welcomed Eberé Ubesie, the new treasurer of the Federation. Eberé is a fully-qualified chartered accountant, living and working in Nigeria. She is a most committed member of the Student Christian Movement in Nigeria and she brings a new perspective from the Global South to the consideration of the business of the Fund alongside Jannes from Indonesia and Shali from Namibia.

Earlier in 2021, we said goodbye to Necta Montes whose term of office as general secretary of the Federation had come to an end. Necta had worked alongside Jean-Luc de La Soujeole since March 2015 to provide the administrative services which the Centennial Fund requires to ensure good governance practice. She was assiduous in her attention to the

welfare of the Fund and inspirational in the way she was able to endow our business discussions with the developing vision of the Federation. Necta takes with her the very best wishes of the trustees as she returns to graduate studies in ecumenical theology with special reference to the role of women religious as activists in opposing totalitarian government.

In Necta's place, the trustees welcomed Marcelo Leites as general secretary of the Federation. Marcelo joined the Federation staff originally as the staff member for Latin America and the Caribbean with special responsibility—as mandated at the General Assembly in Bogota 2015 of which he was the organising genius—for the global Ecological Justice program. In the implementation of that program, Marcelo worked with remarkable zeal and immense success. He formed mutually supportive alliances with other non-governmental organisations working in the same field and brought real kudos for the contribution of the Federation to a very wide audience.

We welcome to the table of the Centennial Fund working with Jean-Luc, and we especially recognise the additional functions which Jean-Luc has assumed



Salters Sterling, President, Centennial Fund Trustees

Financial Overview 2021

CENTENNIAL FUND	ACTUAL 2021 (US\$)	ACTUAL 2020 (US\$)	VARIATION 2021/2020 (US\$)	BUDGET 2022 (US\$)	VARIATION 2022/2021 (US\$)
Dividends on shares	24,642	19,849	4,793	21,000	(3,642)
Asset Appreciation / Realised	7,332	10,243	(2,911)	-	(7,332)
Asset Appreciation / Unrealised	414,430	80,608	333,822	43,580	(370,850)
Exchange Gain	-	87,518	(87,518)	-	-
Sundry Income	-	4	(4)	-	-
Total Income	446,404	198,221	248,182	64,580	(381,824)
Sundry Expense	-	3,371	(3,371)	-	-
Exchange Loss on LO Investment	67,276	2,441	64,835	-	(67,276)
LO Bank charges	9,315	8,081	1,234	10,000	685
WHT Foreign sources not refundable	4,255	3,219	1,036	3,800	(455)
Commissions and taxes LO	782	1,216	(433)	800	18
Investment Expenses	81,628	18,327	63,301	14,600	(67,028)
Audit Fees	2,950	2,980	(29)	2,980	30
Legal Fees	3,541	-	3,541	-	(3,541)
Board of Trustees Meeting	-	-	-	7,000	7,000
Governance	6,492	2,980	3,512	9,980	3,488
General Assembly 2022	-	-	-	80,000	80,000
Utilisation of the GA reserve	-	-	-	(80,000)	(80,000)
Net GA 2022	-	-	-	-	-
IRO office expenses	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	-
IRO yearly grant	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	-
Contribution to the Bible & Theology Program	-	5,790	(5,790)	-	-
Total CF cash contribution to WSCF	40,000	45,790	(5,790)	40,000	-
Total Expenses	128,120	67,097	61,023	64,580	(63,540)
Surplus / (Deficit)	318,284	131,124	187,160	-	(318,284)

given the organising responsibilities for the Berlin General Assembly that Marcelo has had to assume immediately on taking up office. By such an evolving process is the work of the Centennial Fund refreshed.

It would be altogether neglectful not to record the passing of Dorothy Wyman, a Senior Friend of the Federation for more than 70 years. As a Senior Friend she was generosity personified. Every year her annual contribution from Canada arrived without fail. May she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

As advised in the annual report last year, Ilari Rantikari replaces me as president of the Trustees. He will be a wonderfully competent and committed successor and I wish him God's Blessing in the work. My very best thanks go to Jannes Hutagalung, vice-chair of the Fund, whose international business and political experience has been of enormous benefit to our deliberations; to Bruce Rigdon, our treasurer, whom I first met more than 60 years ago and whose theological wisdom,

wrought in the world of God's contemporary workshop, has illuminated so many of our deliberations; to Mathieu Durrelman, our longest-serving trustee, whose continued presence at the table, because of his financial knowledge, his colleagues have requested; to Sheryl Johnson who, though not always able to attend meetings because of her hospital role in California, was devoted to the welfare of the affairs of the Fund as a student representative; and to Shali Kapepo, whose role as a government auditor in Namibia brought a healthy air of forensic questioning to the work of the Fund.

They have been wonderfully inspiring colleagues with whom to work, and I am most deeply grateful to them as I am to Jean-Luc de La Soujeole whose supportive role as finance officer of both Fund and Federation has made it sublimely easy to be the president of the Fund for the past seven years.

Salters Sterling
President, Centennial Fund Trustees

WSCF AFFILIATED, ASSOCIATED, AND CONTACT MOVEMENTS

TOTAL: 115 movements in 95 countries

SCM – Student Christian Movement | MEC – Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano

Membership 2021

Africa

30 movements
in 27 countries

- ANGOLA ▶ Christian Council of Angola [CONTACT MOVEMENT]
- BENIN ▶ Jeunesse Chrétienne Universitaire et Scolaire du Benin
- BURUNDI ▶ Département des Jeunes, Église Épiscopale du Burundi
- CAMEROON ▶ Mouvement des Etudiants Protestants du Cameroun
- CÔTE D'IVOIRE ▶ Association Chrétienne des Elèves et Etudiants Protestants de Côte d'Ivoire
- DR OF CONGO ▶ Association des Jeunes et des Étudiants Chrétiens
▶ Fédération Nationale des Jeunes Protestant
- ETHIOPIA ▶ Haymanote Abew Ethiopian Students' Association
▶ The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
- GAMBIA ▶ SCM Gambia
- GHANA ▶ Ghana SCM
- KENYA ▶ Kenya SCM
- LESOTHO ▶ SCM Lesotho
- LIBERIA ▶ National Student Christian Council - SCM Liberia
- MADAGASCAR ▶ Mpianatra Kristiana Malgasi
- MALAWI ▶ Christian Youth Association of Malawi
- MOZAMBIQUE ▶ SCM Mozambique
- NAMIBIA ▶ SCM Namibia
- NIGERIA ▶ SCM Nigeria
- RWANDA ▶ Mouvement des Étudiants au Service Social au Rwanda
▶ Rassemblement de la Jeunesse Etudiantine à l'Action
- SENEGAL ▶ Mouvement des Jeunes de l'Eglise Protestante du Sénégal
- SIERRA LEONE ▶ SCM Sierra Leone
- SOUTH AFRICA ▶ Federation of South African Christian Students
- SOUTH SUDAN ▶ Sudanese Students Christian Mission
- TANZANIA ▶ Tanzania Student Christian Fellowship
- TOGO ▶ Association Chrétienne d'Elèves et Etudiants du Togo
- UGANDA ▶ Uganda SCM
- ZAMBIA ▶ SCM Zambia
- ZIMBABWE ▶ SCM Zimbabwe

Asia-Pacific

21 movements
in 21 countries

- AUSTRALIA ▶ Australian SCM
- BANGLADESH ▶ Bangladesh SCM
- BHUTAN ▶ Bhutan SCM
- CAMBODIA ▶ Cambodian Student Christian Mission [CONTACT MOVEMENT]
- HONG KONG ▶ SCM Hong Kong
- INDIA ▶ SCM India
- INDONESIA ▶ Gerakan Mahasiswa Kristen Indonesia
- JAPAN ▶ Japan Student YMCA
- KOREA ▶ Korea Student Christian Federation
- MALAYSIA ▶ Malaysia SCM
- MYANMAR ▶ Myanmar SCM
- NEPAL ▶ Nepal SCM
- NEW ZEALAND ▶ SCM Aotearoa
- PAKISTAN ▶ SCM Pakistan
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA ▶ SCM Papua New Guinea
- PHILIPPINES ▶ SCM Philippines
- SINGAPORE ▶ SCM Singapore
- SRI LANKA ▶ SCM Sri Lanka
- TAIWAN ▶ Taiwan Student Christian Federation
- THAILAND ▶ SCM Thailand
- TIMOR LESTE ▶ Movimento Estudante Cristao Timor Leste

Europe

30 movements
in 25 countries

- ARMENIA ▶ St Trinity Youth Organization [CONTACT MOVEMENT]
▶ Youth Union of Jervezh
- AUSTRIA ▶ Evangelische Hochschulgemeinde in Österreich (EHS)
- BELARUS ▶ Centre Ecumena
- BRITAIN ▶ SCM
- BULGARIA ▶ Christian Youth Council in Bulgaria
- CROATIA ▶ Studentski Evandeoski Pokret (STEP) [CONTACT MOVEMENT]

- CZECH REPUBLIC ▶ Oikumené – Akademická YMCA
▶ YWCA v České Republice [CONTACT MOVEMENT]
- DENMARK ▶ YMCA and YWCA Denmark
- FINLAND ▶ Ortodoksinen Opiskelijaliitto (OOL)
▶ Suomen Kristillinen Ylioppilasliitto
- FRANCE ▶ Association des Etudiants Protestants de Paris - Fédération
▶ L'Action Chrétienne des Etudiants Russes -
Mouvement de Jeunesse Orthodoxe (ACER-MJO)
- GEORGIA ▶ Young Christians for Peace and Democracy
- GERMANY ▶ Evangelischen Studierendengemeinden in Deutschland (ESG)
- ICELAND ▶ Kristilega Skólahreyfingin – KSH [CONTACT MOVEMENT]
- IRELAND ▶ Ireland SCM
- ITALY ▶ Federazione Giovanile Evangelica Italiana
- LITHUANIA ▶ Vilnius Evangelical Lutheran Academic Youth Fellowship
- MACEDONIA ▶ Youth group of the United Methodist Church in Skopje
[CONTACT MOVEMENT]
- NETHERLANDS ▶ Nieuwe Afdeling Utrecht der Societas Studiosorum
Reformatorem (SSR-NU)
▶ ThelnnBetween
- NORWAY ▶ Norges Kristelige Studentforbund
- POLAND ▶ Fellowship of Orthodox Youth in Poland
- ROMANIA ▶ Asociația MIRA [CONTACT MOVEMENT]
- SLOVAKIA ▶ EKUNET Slovakia
- SPAIN ▶ Milicia de Santa María [CONTACT MOVEMENT]
- SWEDEN ▶ Kristna Studentrörelsen i Sverige
- UKRAINE ▶ SCM Ukraine [CONTACT MOVEMENT]

Latin America and the Caribbean

14 movements
in 13 countries

- ARGENTINA ▶ MEC en Argentina
- BOLIVIA ▶ MEC Bolivia
- BRAZIL ▶ Movimiento Ecueménico de Estudiantes de Teología
- CHILE ▶ MEC Chile
- COLOMBIA ▶ MEC Barranquilla
▶ MEC Bogotá
- ECUADOR ▶ Coordinadora Ecueménica de Pastoral Juvenil
- CUBA ▶ MEC Cuba
- EL SALVADOR ▶ MEC Salvadoreño [CONTACT MOVEMENT]
- HAITI ▶ MEC ACEH Haiti
- MEXICO ▶ MEC por la Equidad
- PERU ▶ MEC Perú
- URUGUAY ▶ Espacio Estudiantil Cristiano - MEC Uruguay
- VENEZUELA ▶ MEC Venezuela

Middle East

18 movements
in 7 countries

- EGYPT ▶ Coptic Catholic Youth Egypt
▶ Ecumenical Youth Committee
▶ High School Youth Committee
▶ National Participation Committee
▶ Orthodox University Youth Committee
▶ Right & Justice
▶ University Student Christian Association
▶ University Youth Mission of Nile Synod
- IRAQ ▶ Iraqi Christian Youth Committee
- JORDAN ▶ Saint Georges Youth Movement
- LEBANON ▶ Apostolic Youth Federation
▶ Armenian Church University Student Association
▶ Dioceses Youth for Church
▶ Orthodox Youth Movement - Lebanon
▶ Young Christian Students (JEC)
- PALESTINE ▶ Palestine Youth Ecumenical Movement
- SUDAN ▶ Khartoum University Youth Caucasus Movement
- SYRIA ▶ Orthodox Youth Movement - Syria

North America

2 movements
in 2 countries

- CANADA ▶ Canada SCM
- USA ▶ SCM USA

2021: YEAR IN REVIEW

BLACK – WSCF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS
BLUE – SCM ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS WITH WSCF PARTICIPATION
GREEN – PARTNER-ORGANISED INITIATIVES WITH WSCF PARTICIPATION

DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	REGION	THEMATIC PROGRAM	PROGRAM STRATEGY / WORK AREA
JAN–JUNE	WSCF-LAC search process for new regional executive	LAC		Governance; Organisational Development
19 JAN	Interaction between Churches in an Ecumenical Framework – webinar with Dr. Michel Abs, MECC	ME	PEACE BUILDING	Theological Dialogue
22 JAN	Week of Prayer for the Unity of the Church: From the Sorrow of Silence to the Joy of Hope – co-organised by WSCF-ME and the Youth Ecumenical Committee in Lebanon Online	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
25 JAN	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
25 JAN	WSCF Europe International Coffee Break – conversations with SCMs Online	Europe		MOVEMENT BUILDING
26 JAN	Christian Unity Project for Youth – webinar with Fr. Temon Al Souryany, Coptic Orthodox Church	ME	PEACE BUILDING	Theological Dialogue
2 FEB	Crisis as Opportunity for Unity – webinar with Georges El Hage, Synodos	ME	PEACE BUILDING	Theological Dialogue
6 FEB	WSCF-ME Regional Committee Meeting Online	ME		Governance; Organisational Development
8 FEB	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
8 FEB	Launching of new WSCF-ME website	ME		Communications
9 FEB	Youth Engagement in the Ecumenical Movement – webinar with Joy Eva Bohol, WCC	ME	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
12 FEB	Launching of WSCF-ME Instagram account	ME		Communications
16 FEB	Youth Testimonials in the Ecumenical Movement – webinar with youth from JEC, WCC, and AYF	ME	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
17 FEB	Universal Day of Prayer for Students – UDPS 2021 Online	Global		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
19–21 FEB	WSCF European Regional Committee meeting Online	Europe		Governance; CAPACITY BUILDING
21 FEB	Launching of WSCF-ME Ecumenical Figures Instagram Competition Online	ME		Theological Dialogue; Communications
22 FEB	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	PEACE BUILDING	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
22 FEB	WSCF Europe International Coffee Break – conversations with SCMs Online	Europe	PEACE BUILDING	MOVEMENT BUILDING
23 FEB	The Role of the Ecumenical Youth Building Another Possible World – webinar with Marcelo Leites	ME	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
24–26 FEB	Mainstreaming intersectionality in the youth field in search of a cooperative approach among youth organisations and other stakeholders – consultative meeting Online	Europe	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	CAPACITY BUILDING; ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
2–3 MAR	Information Session and Partners meeting Online	Europe	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
2 MAR	Gender & Development in the Ecumenical Movement: Convergence & Prospects – webinar with Necta Montes	ME	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
5 MAR	Tree-planting exercise – northern and southern part of Malawi	Africa	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ECUMENICAL TRANSFORMATIVE DIAKONIA
5–7 MAR	Regional Capacity-Building Training: Together Forward Online	ME	PEACE BUILDING	CAPACITY BUILDING
6 MAR	The Myanmar Coup and the Threat to Democracy – international webinar organised by SCMs of Australia and Indonesia (GMKI)	A-P	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY

DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	REGION	THEMATIC PROGRAM	PROGRAM STRATEGY / WORK AREA
8 MAR	International Women's Day – social media campaign Online	Global	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
8 MAR	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
9 MAR	Commitment between Faith & Politics – webinar with Mira Neaimeh	ME	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
13 MAR	WSCF Asia-Pacific 23rd Regional Committee Meeting – Part 1 Online	A-P		Governance; Organisational Development
15 MAR	COVID-19 Vaccination & Stateless People – webinar organised by WCC as part of UN-CSW65, with Mira Neaimeh as speaker	ME	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
16 MAR	Women Leadership – webinar with Myriam Sfeir, LAU	ME	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
17 MAR	Regional Executive Committee meetings Online	Africa		Governance
21 MAR	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – social media campaign Online	Global	PEACE BUILDING; IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
22 MAR	World Water Day – social media campaign Online	Global	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
22 MAR	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	PEACE BUILDING	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
23 MAR	Safeguarding Humanity – webinar with Ramzi El Hage, CRS	ME	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
23 MAR	Faith Forward: Faith-based Roadmap for Women in Peacebuilding – webinar organised by WCC as part of UN-CSW65, with participation of Mira Neaimeh	ME	PEACE BUILDING; IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
30 MAR	Leadership is Service & Responsibility: I am involved, I participate, I am responsible – webinar with Alain Osta	ME	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY; CAPACITY BUILDING
APR–SEPT	Participation in Gender Justice School – organised by ACT Alliance	LAC	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	CAPACITY BUILDING
6 APR	WSCF Statement of Solidarity with students in Myanmar	Global	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
6 APR	You are all Brothers: The Dimensions of the Pope's Visit to Iraq – webinar with Lina Zari, Emile Amin, and Fr. Nehme Saliba	ME	PEACE BUILDING	Theological Dialogue
6 APR	Distribution of PPEs – organised by SCM Malawi at a selected school in Malawi	Africa		ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
10 APR	WSCF Asia-Pacific 23rd Regional Committee Meeting – Part 2 Online	A-P		Governance; Organisational Development
13 APR	Film showing: "Against the Current" – produced by the Adyan Foundation Online	ME	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
16 APR	Feeling Safe in God's Presence: Positive Steps to End Sexual Harassment in the Faith Environment – Activity 1 (digital workshop) of the "Radical Inclusivity" campaign Online	Europe	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS; CAPACITY BUILDING
22 APR	Earth Day – social media campaign Online	Global	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
22 APR	Ecumenical Celebration for the 20th Anniversary of Charta Oecumenica – organised by NCC in Switzerland, University of Friborg Institute for Ecumenical Studies, and CEC	Europe	PEACE BUILDING	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS; ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
26 APR	WSCF Europe International Coffee Break – conversations with SCMs Online	Europe		MOVEMENT BUILDING
29 APR	Call to Peace and Justice – joint statement with Cuba-based and international FBOs on continuing U.S. blockade of Cuba	Global	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
29 APR	SCM Cuba National Assembly – with the WSCF General Secretary and WSCF-LAC Chairperson in attendance Online	LAC	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
5 MAY	WSCF Statement on the Human Rights situation in Colombia	Global	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
7 MAY	Let Us Rejoice Together in the Resurrection: Cast Your Nets – Easter Celebration Rmeileh, Lebanon	ME	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	REGION	THEMATIC PROGRAM	PROGRAM STRATEGY / WORK AREA
10–11 MAY	Ecumenical visits in Iraq	ME		Theological Dialogue; Partnership
12 MAY	I International Vigilia for Peace in Colombia – an online event organised by Qonakuy, AIPRAL, WCRC, DiPaz, Red Create, and ALC Communication Agency	LAC	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
12–16 MAY	We are All Brothers in Christ – capacity-building training for Iraqi youth	ME	PEACE BUILDING	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
14 MAY	WSCF Solidarity Statement with the Palestinian People – jointly signed by WSCF general secretary, ME regional executive, and ExCo member from SCM Palestine	Global	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
19 MAY	Regional Youth Leaders' meeting Online	Africa		Governance; Organisational Development
21 MAY	Ecumenical Prayer for Christian Unity and for the Future of Europe – organised by the European Parliament, Conference of European Churches, and Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union	Europe	PEACE BUILDING	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
24 MAY	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	PEACE BUILDING; MENTAL HEALTH	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
31 MAY	WSCF Europe International Coffee Break – conversations with SCMs Online	Europe		MOVEMENT BUILDING
31 MAY – 1 JUNE	Reconciled with Creation: A Call for Urgent Action on Climate and Biodiversity – 13th Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) hosted by the CEC; with the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe	Europe	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
5 JUNE	WSCF Pentecost Event – live on Facebook Online	Global		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
7 JUNE	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	PEACE BUILDING	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
10 JUNE	Palestinian-Israeli Peace Call, Together WSCF – international webinar hosted by Indonesia SCM (GMKI), with WSCF General Secretary and SCM Palestine	A-P	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
14–18 JUNE	Confessing Church Today: Combating Right-wing Populism as Christians – WSCF Europe Study Session, in partnership with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe Online	Europe	PEACE BUILDING; INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY; CAPACITY BUILDING
21 JUNE	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
21 JUNE	Publication of WSCF-ME 2020 Annual Report Online	ME		Communications
28 JUNE	God Loves Us All – WSCF social media campaign celebrating International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia	Global	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
28 JUNE	WSCF Europe International Coffee Break – conversations with SCMs Online	Europe		MOVEMENT BUILDING
5 JULY	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
10 JULY	Does God need a Gender? – Activity 2 (digital workshop) of the "Radical Inclusivity" campaign Online	Europe	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
14 JULY	Regional Communiqué on the July 11 protest events in Cuba	LAC	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
15 JULY	WSCF Africa Regional Committee meeting Online	Africa		Governance; Organisational Development
19 JULY	Get Together! – informal gathering of SCMs in Europe Online	Europe	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	CAPACITY BUILDING; MOVEMENT BUILDING
19–23 JULY	Hope in Adversity – capacity-building training for Syrian youth	ME	PEACE BUILDING	CAPACITY BUILDING
20–22 JULY	8th Summer School On Human Rights: Ensuring Security of Worship Places & Religious Communities – organised by the Conference of European Churches	Europe	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY; CAPACITY BUILDING
24 JULY	Launch of official V-GA flyer on WSCF social media channels Online	Global		GOVERNANCE; Communications

DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	REGION	THEMATIC PROGRAM	PROGRAM STRATEGY / WORK AREA
24 JULY	Launch of WSCF V-GA platform for delegates (online: wscf.ch)	Global		GOVERNANCE; Organisational Development
27 JULY	Upgrade of WSCF Africa website and social media accounts	Africa		Communications
27 JULY	WSCF V-GA European Delegates Meet & Greet Session Online	Europe		CAPACITY BUILDING; GOVERNANCE
28 JULY	WSCF V-GA Asia-Pacific Region Pre-meeting	A-P		CAPACITY BUILDING; GOVERNANCE
28 JULY	II International Vigilia for Peace in Colombia – an online event organised by Qonakuy, AIPRAL, WCRC, DiPaz, Red Create, and ALC Communication Agency; with WSCF-LAC testimony by Dianet Martínez	LAC	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
29–31 JULY	WSCF Virtual Extraordinary General Assembly Online	Global		GOVERNANCE; Organisational Development; BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
11 AUG	Intergenerational Dialogue on Peace and Security – organised by Ring for Peace and the Youth Media Team of Religions for Peace; with Marcelo Leites as one of the speakers	Global	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
12 AUG	International Youth Day 2021 WSCF Celebrations Online	Global		ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
12 AUG	International Youth Day 2021: Climate change and care for creation – a 5-hour virtual hackathon organised by the WCC, with WSCF Europe's Natia Tsintsadze facilitating one of the working groups	Global	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
12 AUG	Regional Training on Agri-Business Online	Africa		ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
12 AUG	Taiwan Ecumenical Forum (TEF) Steering Committee Meeting – The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan Online	A-P		Partnership
23 AUG	Prophet of God's Oikumene, a celebration of the life of Philip Potter – WCC webinar celebrating the centenary of Philip Potter, with WSCF-LAC's Dianet Martínez as one of the speakers	Global		ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
24 AUG	National Movement Staff and Coordinators Meeting 1: South Asia – SCM India, SCM Pakistan, Bangladesh SCM, SCM Sri Lanka	A-P		MOVEMENT BUILDING; Organisational Development
27 AUG	Release of Redbook 2020 Online	Global		Communications
31 AUG	Regional training on Leadership Online	Africa		CAPACITY BUILDING; Organisational Development
31 AUG – 2 SEPT	Safer and Stronger Communities in Europe (SASCE) Training Session – Conference of European Churches	Europe	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
6–15 SEPT	How to be a Christian Feminist – Activity 3 (seminar-training) of the "Radical Inclusivity" campaign; organised in collaboration with SCM Sweden (KRISS) and the Swedish Ecumenical Women's Council Online	Europe	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
9 SEPT	National Movements Staff and Coordinators Meeting 2: Northeast Asia – Taiwan SCM and Japan SCM/Japan Student YMCA	A-P		MOVEMENT BUILDING; Organisational Development
10 SEPT	National Movements Staff and Coordinators Meeting 3: Pacific – SCM Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia SCM and SCM Timor Leste	A-P		MOVEMENT BUILDING; Organisational Development
12–14 SEPT	Time to Heal: G20 Interfaith Forum 2021 – Bologna, Italy	Europe	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
13–15 SEPT	Communication for Social Justice in a Digital Age – online symposium organised by WCC and WACC with Brot für die Welt, Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), Evangelische Mission Weltweit (EMW), and WSCF	Global		ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
21 SEPT	III International Vigilia for Peace in Colombia / International Day of Peace – an online event organised by Qonakuy, AIPRAL, WCRC, DiPaz, Red Create, and ALC Communication Agency	LAC	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY

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DATE	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	REGION	THEMATIC PROGRAM	PROGRAM STRATEGY / WORK AREA
27 SEPT	WSCF Europe International Coffee Break – conversations with SCMs Online	Europe		MOVEMENT BUILDING
30 SEPT	General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches (CEC)	Europe		CAPACITY BUILDING; Partnership
2–7 OCT	Ayia Napa 35: Between Youth Influence and Influencing the Youth – Leadership Training Program Egypt	ME	PEACE BUILDING	CAPACITY BUILDING
4–7 OCT	Conference of the World Council of Religious Leaders on Faith and Diplomacy: Generations in Dialogue – a hybrid conference produced by Religions for Peace International and Ring for Peace with support from the German Federal Foreign Office Lindau, Germany	Global	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
4 OCT	Joint Statement of Solidarity with the People of Lebanon and a Call to Action – issued by WSCF Middle East and the Youth Ecumenical Committee in Lebanon	ME	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
7 OCT	Senior Friends Gathering Egypt	ME		ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
8–10 OCT	WSCF-ME Regional Assembly: Building Strategies that Respond to Contemporary Regional Concerns Cairo, Egypt	ME		Governance; Organisational Development
16 OCT	Ecumenical visits in Jordan	ME		Theological Dialogue; Partnership
28 OCT	United Church of Canada 4th Partner Council Meeting 2021 Online	IRO		Partnership
4–7 NOV	WSCF European Regional Assembly Online	Europe		Governance; CAPACITY BUILDING
11 NOV	Launching of WSCF-ME Newsletter Online	ME		Communications
19 NOV	ExCo and Staff Meeting: Defining steps towards the next WSCF General Assembly Online	Global		Governance
19 NOV	Prayer Day for the Region	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
22–25 NOV	Regional Climate Best Practice Workshop – ACT Alliance Jordan	ME	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
25–28 NOV	WSCF-LAC XIV Regional Assembly and Consultation on Democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalisms Mexico City	LAC	PEACE BUILDING; IDENTITY & DIVERSITY	Governance; Organisational Development; CAPACITY BUILDING; BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
25 NOV – 10 DEC	End Violence Against Women Now! – WSCF ‘16 Days of Activism’ social media campaign Online	Global	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY; PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
26 NOV	Mgr. Toufic Bou Hadir Youth Service Requiem – a memorial prayer gathering Lebanon	ME		BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
27 NOV	Indigenous People’s Rights in Asia-Pacific – webinar organised by the WSCF-AP Human Rights Justice and Peace Committee	A-P	IDENTITY & DIVERSITY; PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
29 NOV – 3 DEC	ACT Alliance Electronic General Assembly	Global	ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
10 DEC	International Human Rights Day – WSCF commemoration Online	Global	PEACE BUILDING	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
13–15 DEC	Religious Consultation on Social Cohesion in Iraq – organised by the WCC and the Middle East Council of Churches Beirut, Lebanon	ME	PEACE BUILDING; INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
15–19 DEC	Muslim-Christian Dialogue: Religion in the Service of Humanity Beirut, Lebanon	ME	PEACE BUILDING; INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
18 DEC	Religious Diversity is the Wealth of the World – Interfaith Conference organised by SCM Indonesia (GMKI) with WSCF Chairperson Bishop Coorilos as one of the speakers	A-P	INTERFAITH DIALOGUE	ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY
24 DEC	Release of WSCF official Christmas Card on WSCF’s social media channels	Global		

Prayer for humanity

WE COME TO YOU at all times and in all places, because we know that you are always present in our world, in our daily history.

During this global crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we recognize our fragility as human beings, and with humility, we intercede so that your peace and justice are done in our world. We also turn to you with grateful hearts because now you reveal yourself in multiple ways, offering hope for all of your creation.

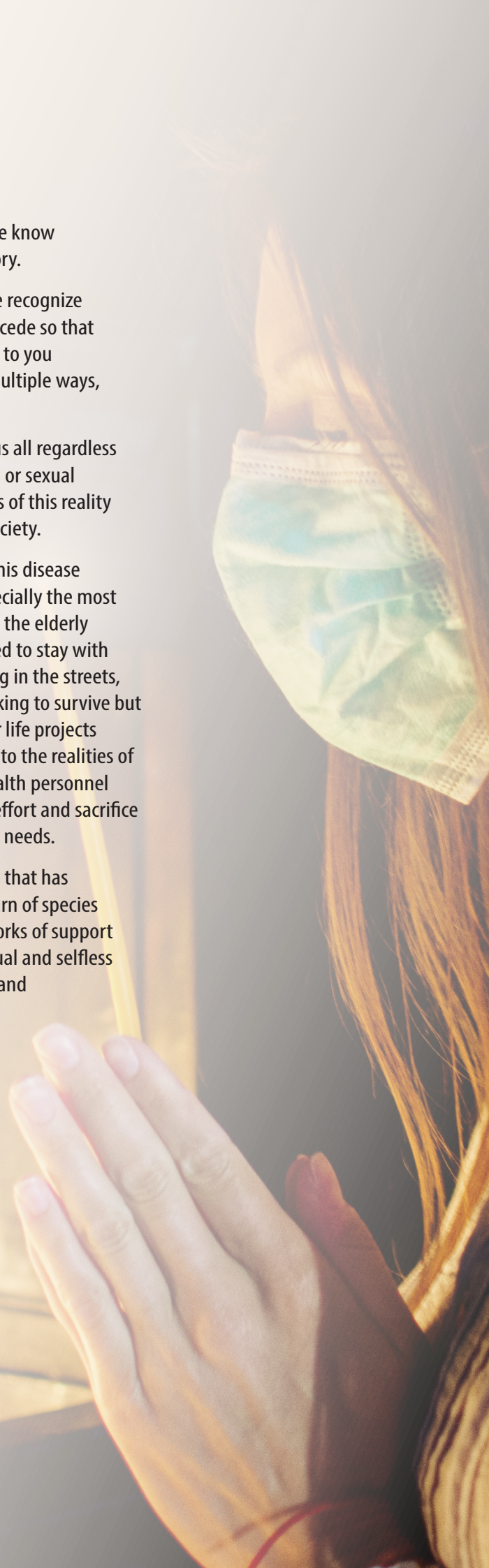
Certainly, this virus has spread very fast and has reached us all regardless of social, racial, ethnic, geographical origin, age, ideology, or sexual orientation. However, we recognize that the consequences of this reality are different for each individual, each community, each society.

We pray for the families of all those who have died from this disease and for those who are sick or at risk of the contagion, especially the most vulnerable: impoverished and marginalized communities, the elderly living alone, children and women victims of violence forced to stay with their aggressors at home, displaced peasants, people living in the streets, immigrants at the borders, those who must continue working to survive but without access to health care, young people who see their life projects postponed without economic solvency, citizens subjected to the realities of war and armed conflict, Afro-descendant populations, health personnel and all people who day by day put their lives at risk with effort and sacrifice to guarantee social services, medical care, food, and other needs.

May we, O God, recognize your presence in the good news that has emerged from this context: the healing of nature, the return of species that seemed extinct, the oxygenation of the air, the networks of support and sorority among so many people who have given mutual and selfless help, the extra time for resting, reading, caring for family and children, and other activities that we usually do not do because of the dynamics of study and work.

In isolation and quarantine, you have extended your sanctuary to our homes. We have made room for you in our families and our hearts. In the readjustment of our lives, you have offered the opportunity to restore Creation and to make us more aware of the need for its care and our harmonious relationship with it.

We do not know when this uncertainty will end. There are many social and economic challenges that we face now and that will come in the future, but we are sure that you, God of Life, will be leading our steps so that our faith is visible in the commitment to your justice and your peace. Amen.



WSCF STRATEGIC PLAN



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.

THEMATIC PROGRAMS

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Promote climate justice—upholding the youth and student voice—through advocacy in international governance bodies in partnership with church and ecumenical institutions; train students and youth leaders to fight climate change, campaign for indigenous peoples' rights, and create lasting change for the Earth.

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND DIALOGUE

Initiate processes of dialogue and develop among SCMs a theological understanding of human sexuality; support inclusive churches and movements that affirm the dignity of the LGBTQ+ and welcome their participation and leadership; equip the SCMs in speaking up for the rights of all communities that suffer discrimination.

PEACE BUILDING AND DIALOGUE

Mobilise the Federation in efforts geared toward overcoming violence and building peace; equip the SCMs in leading initiatives that address the issues and root causes of conflict and violence; facilitate dialogue among youth of different faiths and backgrounds to share experiences and knowledge, and find new ways to build peace.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Create spaces for SCMs and young people from different faiths to dialogue, learn from one another, and work together on common issues; encourage members of the SCMs to take positive action for the healing and rebuilding of communities, and provide sanctuary to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Engage with other student movements in campaigns promoting education as a right for all and advocating against unjust policies that deny people access to higher education; support local and global efforts protecting education from increasing commercialisation, and providing more young people greater access to higher education.

PROGRAM 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 and violence, wars, and natural disasters, and advocate for systemic change in the different contexts and in the world.

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.

WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

INTER-REGIONAL OFFICE: ECUMENICAL CENTRE, 5 ROUTE DES MORILLONS • PO BOX 2100, CH 1211, GENEVA 2, SWITZERLAND
TEL: + 41 22 791 6358 • FAX: + 41 22 791 6152 • EMAIL: WSCF@WSCF.CH • WEBSITE: WWW.WSCF.CH