



2001.2010



DECADE TO

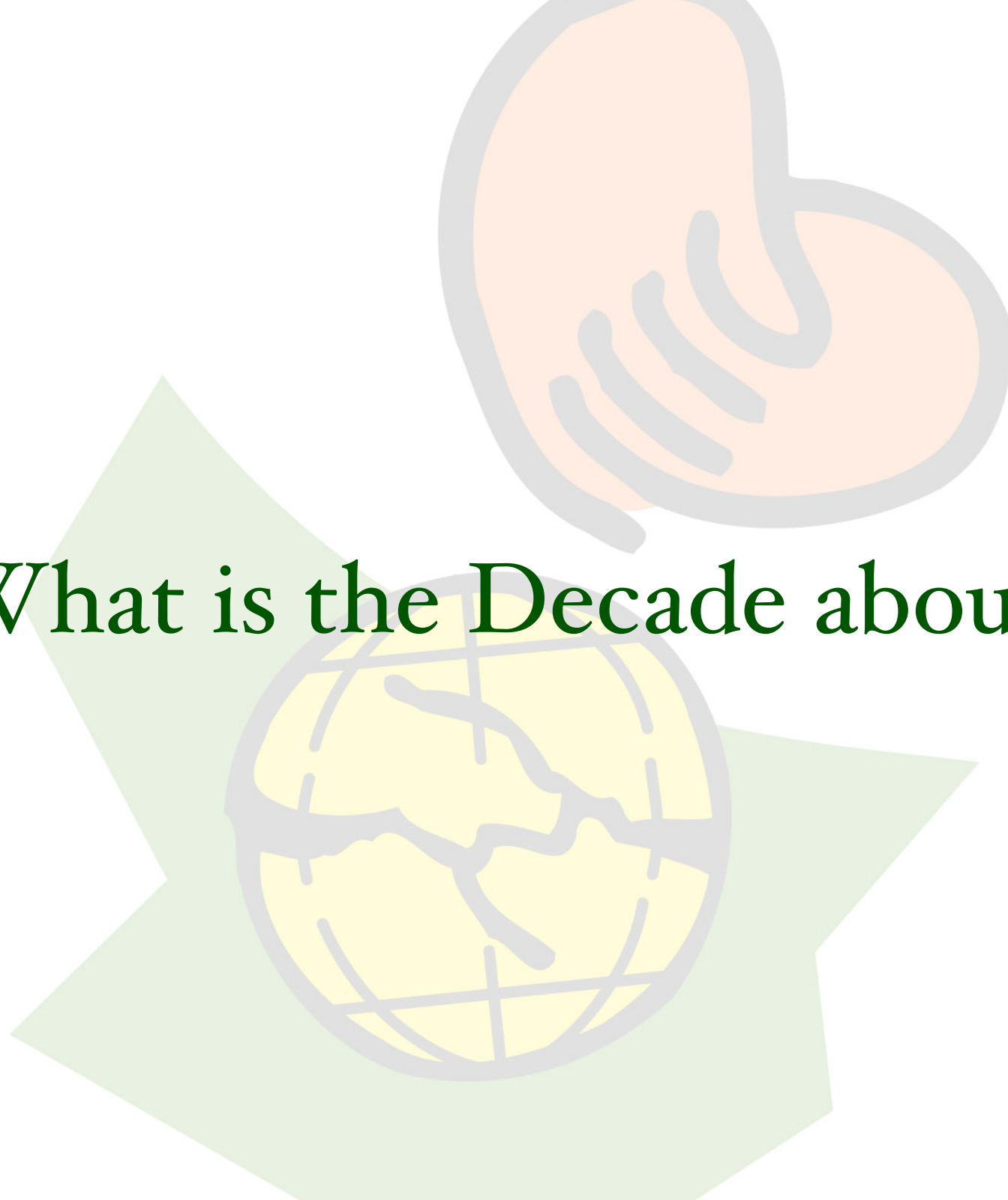
OVERCOME VIOLENCE



Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace



What is the Decade about?







What is the Decade about?







The Decade to Overcome Violence

(2001-2010): *Churches seeking reconciliation and peace* calls churches, ecumenical organizations and all people of good will - to work together at all levels (local, regional, global) with communities, secular movements, people of all living faiths for peace, justice and reconciliation.

What is the Decade about?

-  It calls us to walk with those oppressed by violence, and to act in solidarity with those struggling for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.
-  It calls churches to repent for our complicity in violence, and to engage in theological reflection to overcome the spirit, logic and practice of violence.

What is the DOV?

-  An invitation to address the issue of violence
-  A spiritual journey for individuals, churches and movements
-  A study and reflection process
-  An opportunity for creative projects


Background of the DOV

-  WCC Programme to Combat Racism
-  Decade Churches in Solidarity with Women
-  1994 in Johannesburg: “Apartheid is gone, violence is still with us”
-  Program to Overcome Violence POV
-  1998 Harare: DOV 2001 - 2010

Evolving Issues


-  Amsterdam 1948 - War is incompatible w Gospel
-  Uppsala 1968 - Nonviolent change (MLK Gandhi)
-  Nairobi 1975 - Human Rights, Racism (PCR)
-  Vancouver 1983 - Justice, Peace, Creation (JPIC)
-  Johannesburg 1994 - Overcoming Violence (POV)
-  Harare 1998 - DOV - “wide varieties of violence”
-  Porto Alegre 2006 - Militarism / Health

Amsterdam 1948: War



“War as a method of settling disputes is incompatible with the teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ. The part which war plays in our present international life is a sin against God and a degradation of man.”

Uppsala 1968: M.L. King



Ask the Central Committee to explore means by which the World Council could promote studies on non-violent methods of achieving social change, bearing in mind that the issue of using violent or non-violent methods of social change has been raised in the Reports of Sections III, IV, and VI.

2001.2010



DECADE TO

Programme to Combat Racism



civil rights campaigns in the US, assassination of M.L. King, Apartheid in South Africa...

Canterbury 1969 - Gandhi



...in the Gandhi Centenary year, that the teaching and leadership of Mohandas K. Gandhi in encouraging non-violent political and social change be considered in these studies, in view of his influence on Martin Luther King and the way in which they both sought to make real the teaching of Jesus about love and justice;...




Nemi/Cardiff 1971: Justice



 **VIOLENCE, NONVIOLENCE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE - Exploring Strategies of Radical Social Change**

Geneva 1973: nonviolence training and education

 that the WCC appoint a staff member within its Programme Unit II, to work on training and education in nonviolent methods of social change. Such a person can do much to 'rescue the concept of nonviolence from being misconstrued as passivity and to show the positive possibilities of nonviolent action...



Nairobi 1975: Human Rights



 Emphasis on Human Rights and Structural Violence



Vancouver 1983 - JPIC

 Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation

Seoul 1990 - JPIC Consultation

-  We affirm the full meaning of God's peace. We are called to seek every possible means to establish justice, achieving peace and solving conflicts by active non-violence...
-  We commit ourselves to practise non-violence in all our personal relationships, to work for the banning of war ... and to press governments for the establishment of an international legal order of peace making.

Johannesburg 1994: POV




Programme to Overcome Violence

Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace






Goals of the DOV

-  Addressing holistically the **wide varieties of violence**, both direct and structural, in homes, communities and international arenas, and learning from the local and regional analysis of violence and ways to overcome violence.


Goals of the DOV

-  Challenging the churches to **overcome the spirit, logic and practice of violence**, to relinquish any theological justification of violence and to affirm anew the spirituality of reconciliation and active nonviolence.

Goals of the DOV

 **Creating a new understanding of security**
in terms of cooperation and community, instead
of in terms of domination and competition.

Goals of the DOV

-  Learning from the **spirituality and resources for peace-building of other faiths** to work with communities of other faiths in the pursuit of peace, and to reflect on the issue of religious and ethnic identities in pluralistic societies.

Goals of the DOV










Challenging the **growing militarization** of our world, especially the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Multiple Entry Points

-  local (parish level)
-  ecumenical (on local level)
-  civil society (NGOs)
-  government institutions (public schools etc)
-  international bodies (UN)

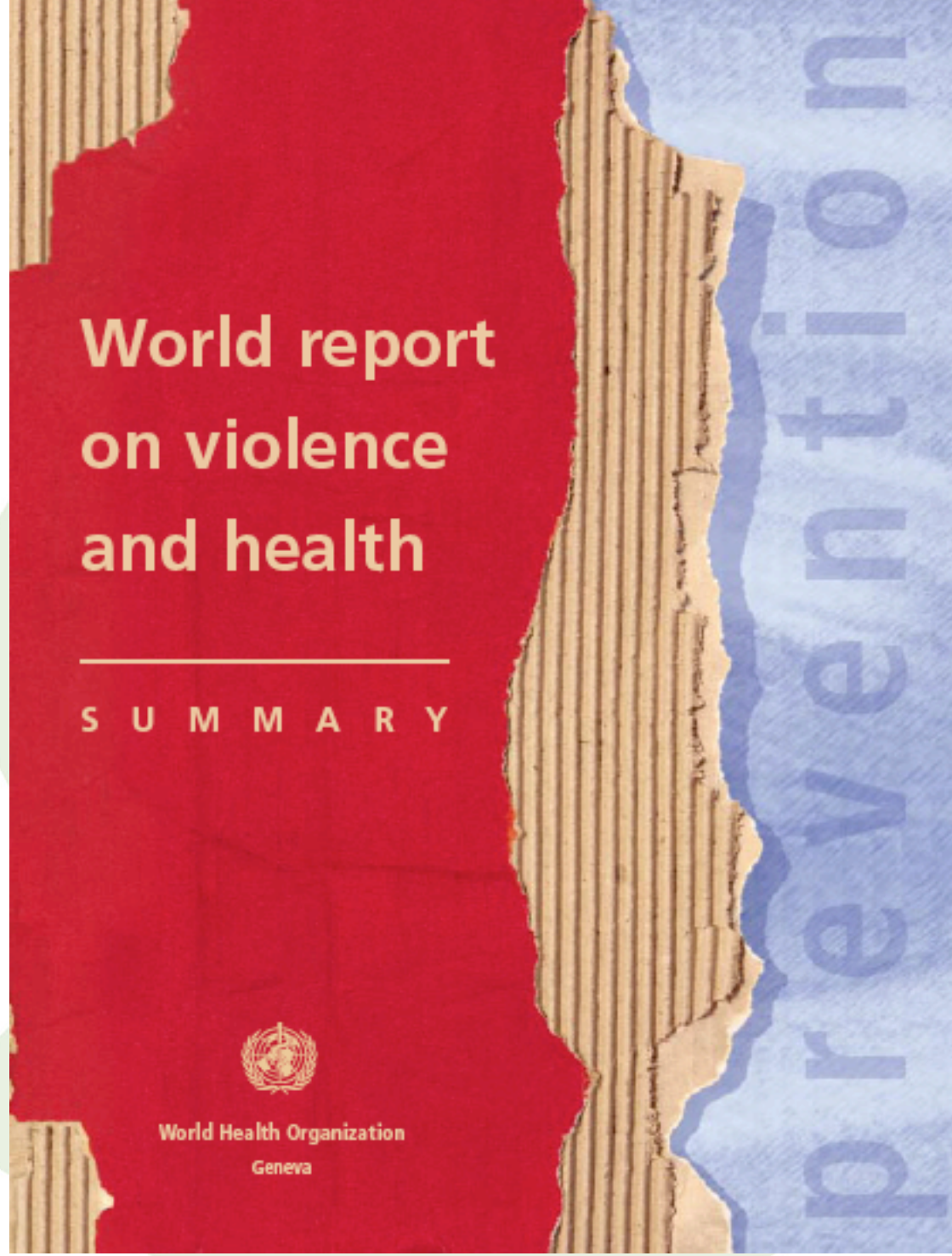
Partners in the DOV

-  Regional & National Ecumenical Organizations
-  Pontifical Council Justice & Peace
-  Member churches, denominational Bodies
-  Ecumenical networks and special ministries
-  International Coalition for the (UN-)Decade
-  WHO, UNESCO
-  Non-Governmental Organizations



UN-Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World







**MORE THAN 1.6 MILLION
PEOPLE DIE FROM VIOLENCE
EVERY YEAR: MORE THAN
4 400 DEATHS EACH DAY.**



GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION
CAMPAIGNE MONDIALE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE

WWW.WHO.INT/VIOLENCE_INJURY_PREVENTION



World Health Assembly: Violence Prevention is a Public Health Priority



An estimated 1.6 million people lost their lives to physical violence in 2000. About half were suicides, one-third were homicides, and one-fifth were casualties of armed conflict.

Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002

WHO Definition



The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.



In 2000, the rate of violence-related death in low- to middle-income countries as a whole was more than twice that in high-income countries, although rates vary between regions and even within countries.

Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002



The majority of violence is non-fatal and results in injuries, mental health and reproductive health problems, sexually transmitted diseases and other problems. Health effects can last years, and may include permanent physical or mental disability.





Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002



Besides the toll of human misery, violence exacts social and economic costs which – though hard to quantify – are substantial.

Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002

The Nature of Violence

-  Physical
-  Psychological
-  Sexual
-  Deprivation or Negligence

Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002

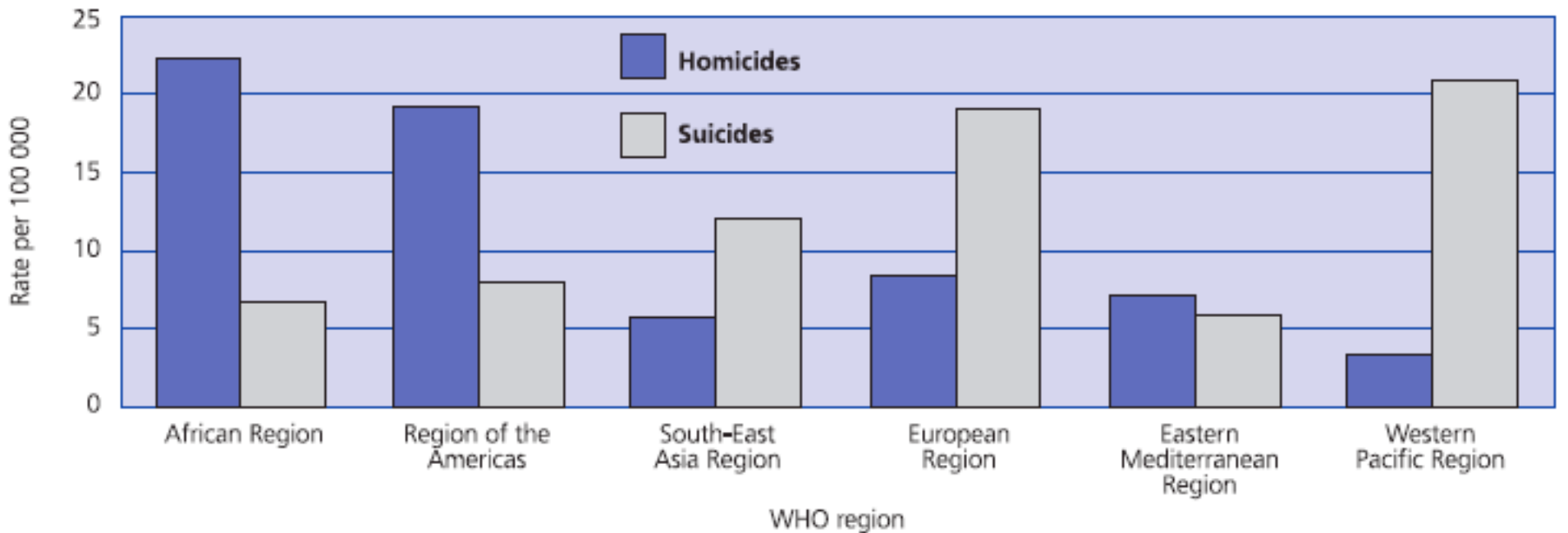
Types of Violence

-  Self-directed (suicide, self-abuse) 50%
-  Interpersonal (family/partner, community) 30%
-  Collective (social, political, economic, armed) 20%

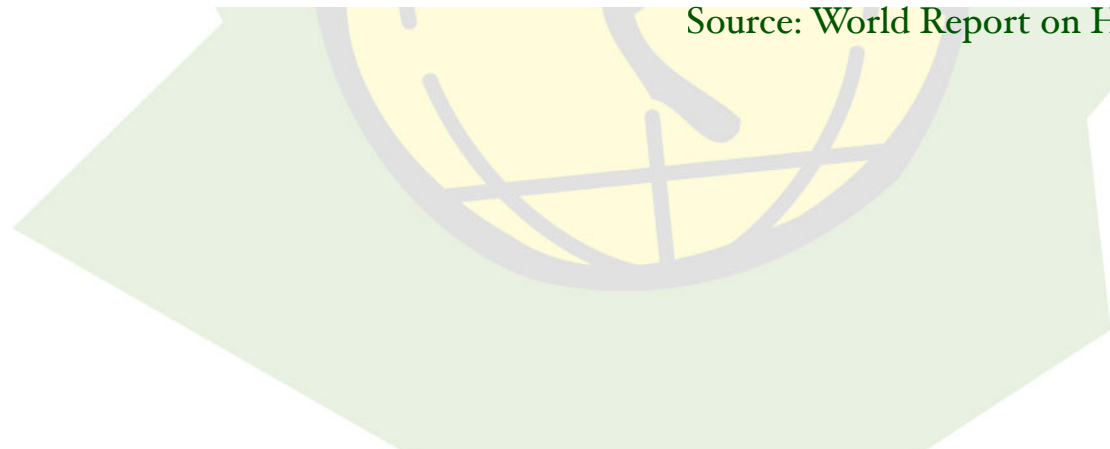
Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002



Homicide and suicide rates by WHO region, 2000

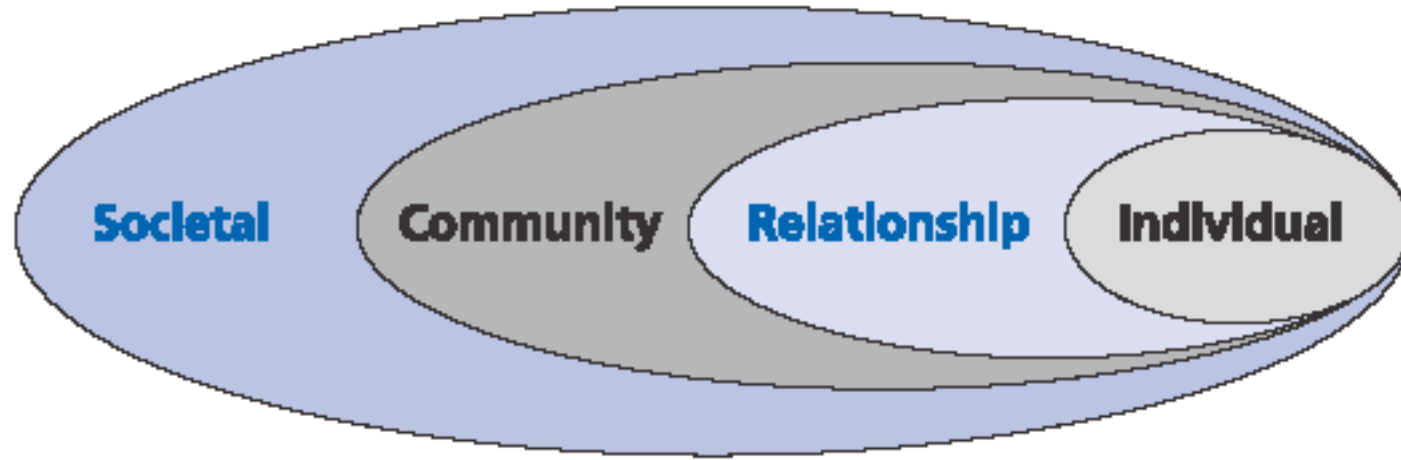


Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002



Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace

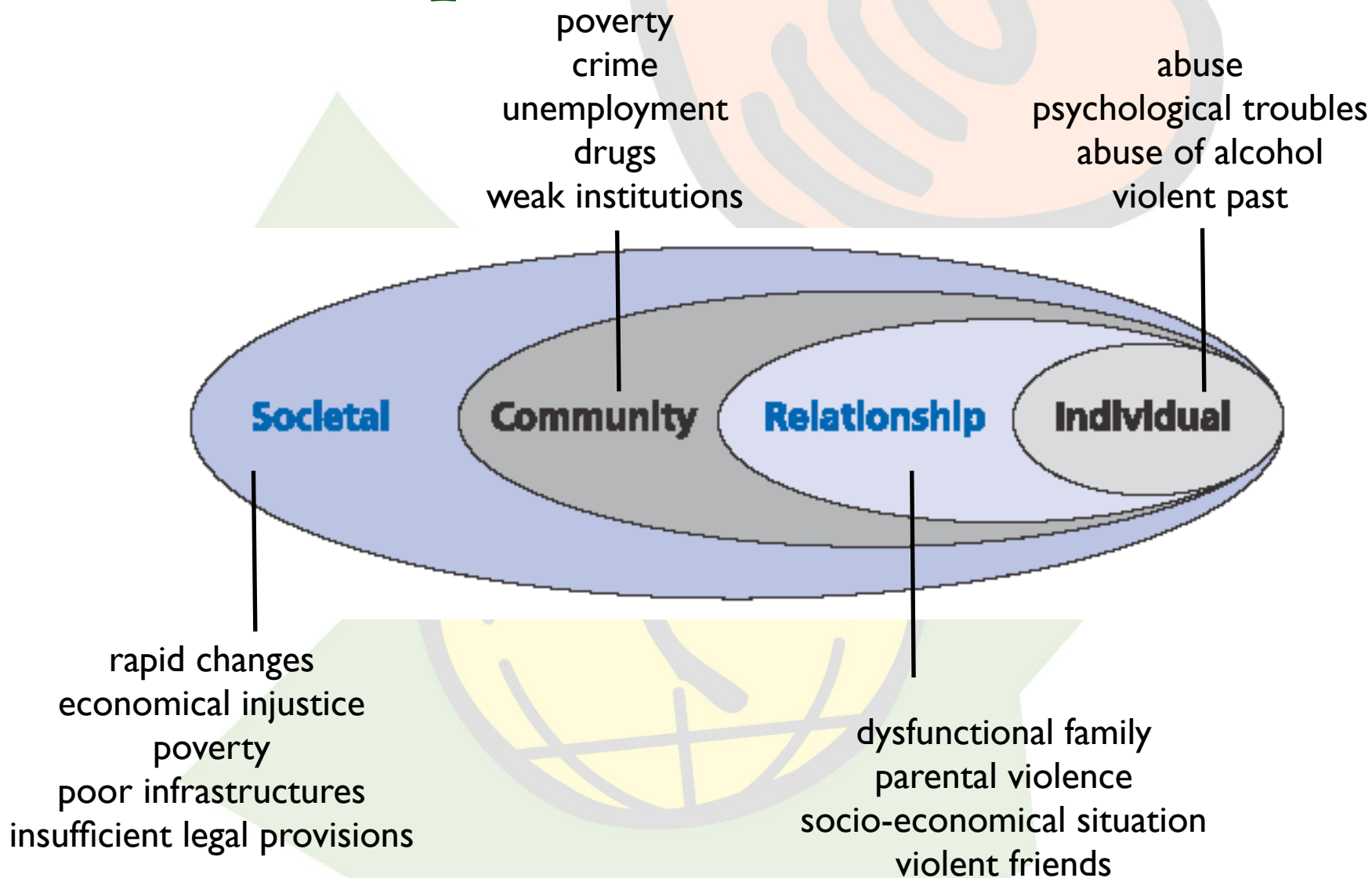
Levels at which violence takes place



An ecological model of interpersonal violence



Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace



Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002

Hunger is the biggest killer







According to the UN report on world hunger, a child younger than 5 dies of hunger every 5 seconds.

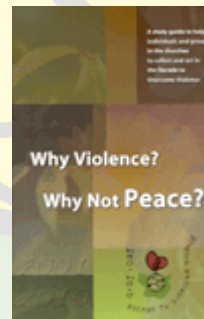


Hunger is one of the consequences of the world's economic and military priorities.



Four Themes for the DOV

-  The spirit and logic of violence
-  The use, abuse and misuse of power
-  Issues of justice
-  Religious identity and plurality





Issues churches address frequently...

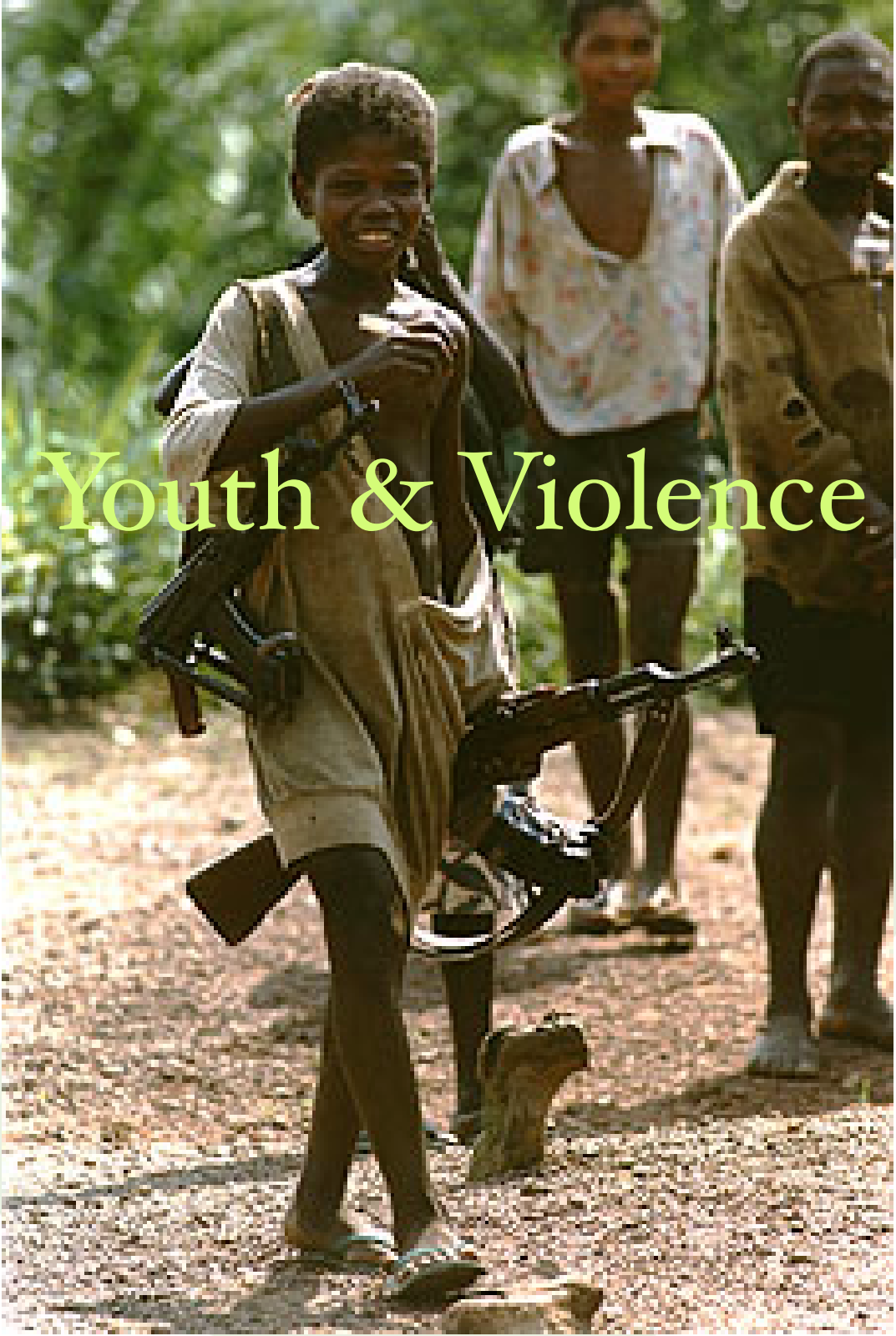


Domestic violence



Economic globalization





Youth & Violence

Culture of Peace



WCC Activities related to the DOV

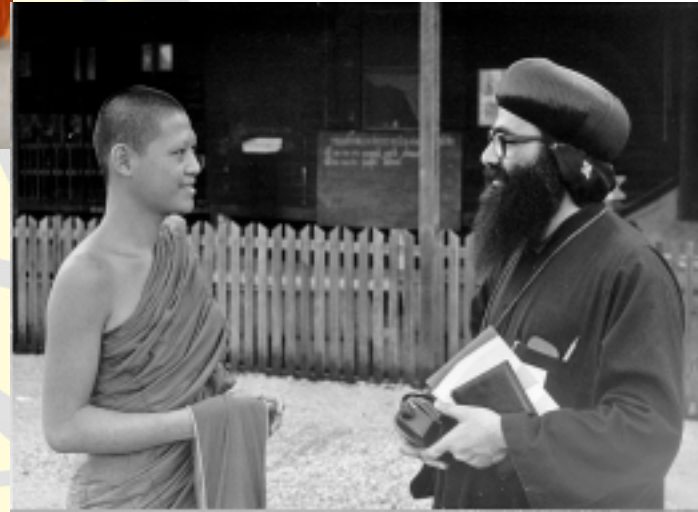


Activities of the WCC

-  Launches worldwide
-  DOV Study Guide
-  Interactive Website www.overcomingviolence.org
-  Annual Focus
-  International Day of Prayer for Peace - Sept 21
-  DOV Newsletter/Updates
-  Council-wide programs



Inter-religious Relations & Dialogue



Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace

Interfaith Initiatives

-  Religion, Power and Violence (Conference, DVD)
-  Critical Moments Conference
-  “Thinking Together” think tank
-  Current Dialogue www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/interreligious/index-e.html
-  Global Priorities Campaign to change budget priorities www.globalpriorities.org
-  International Day of Peace Vigil www.idpvigil.org

International Affairs

-  Impunity, Restorative Justice
-  Advocacy (UN)
-  Human Rights
-  Peace building and disarmament, small arms

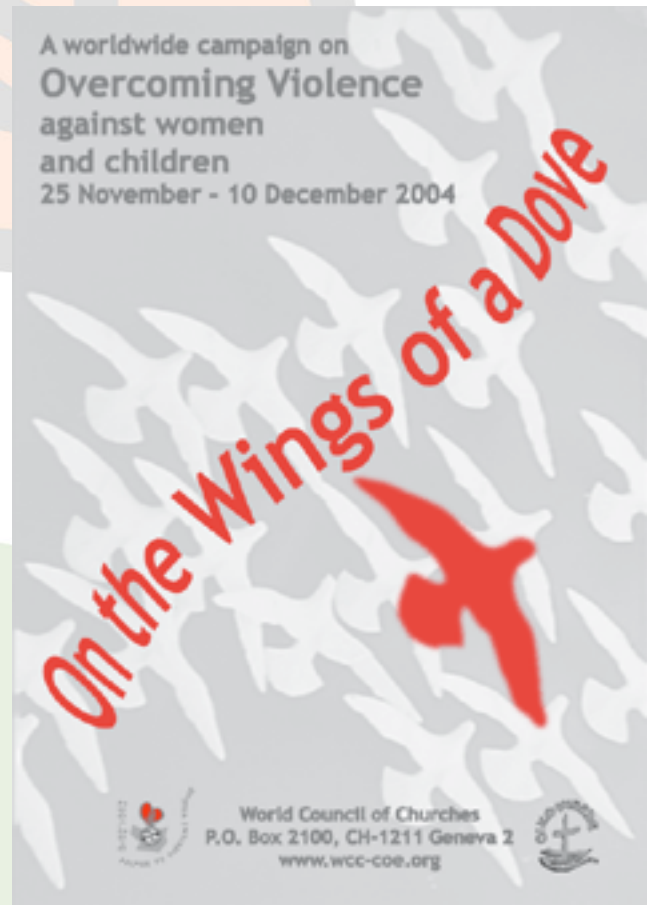
Ecumenical
Accompaniment
Programme
in Palestine
and Israel





Justice, Peace, Creation

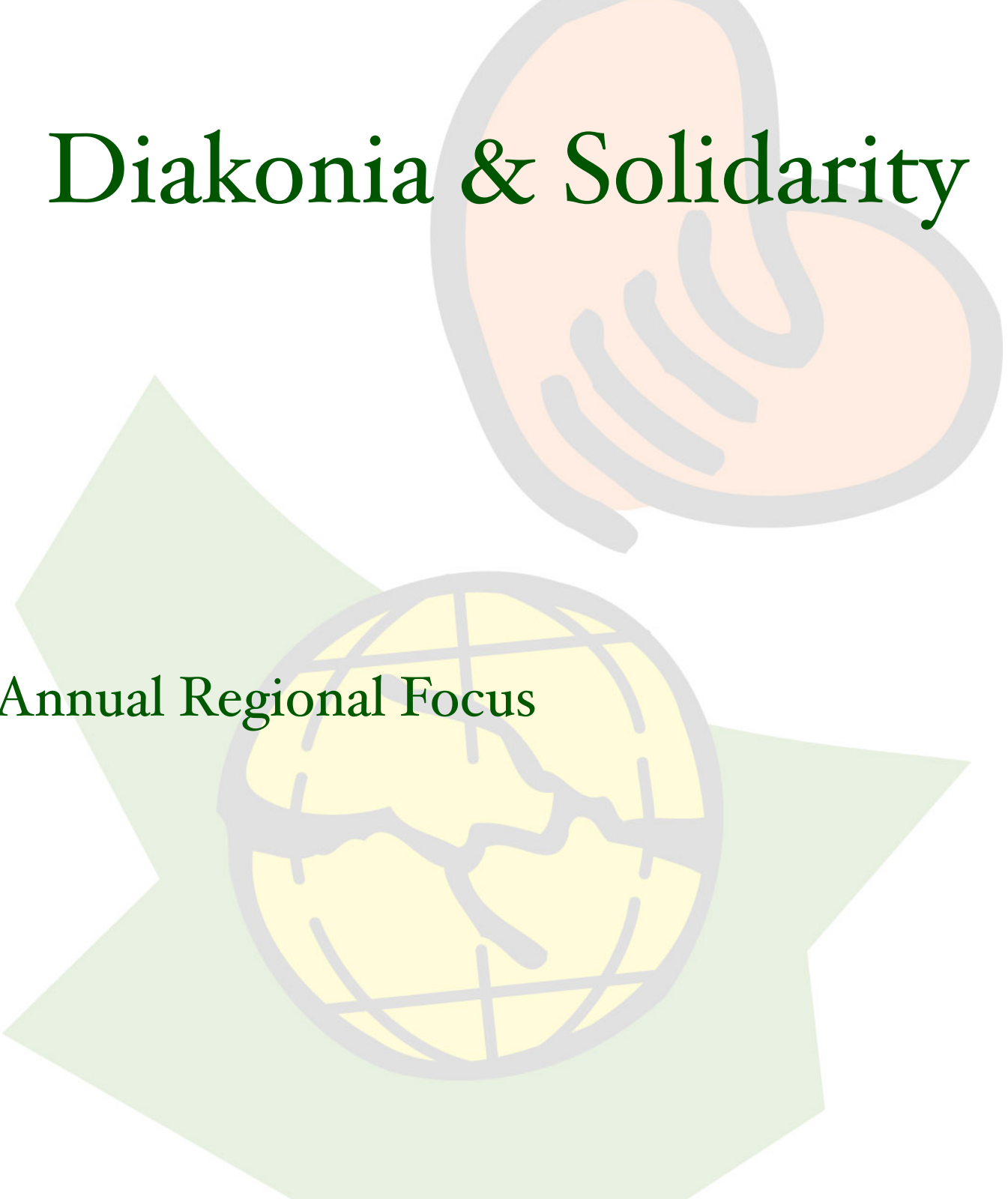
-  Women
-  Youth
-  Alternatives to Globalization
-  Environment






Diakonia & Solidarity

 Annual Regional Focus



Faith & Order

-  Theological Reflection on Peace:
-  Interrogating and Redefining Power
-  Anthropology
-  Ethnic and national identity
-  Liturgy

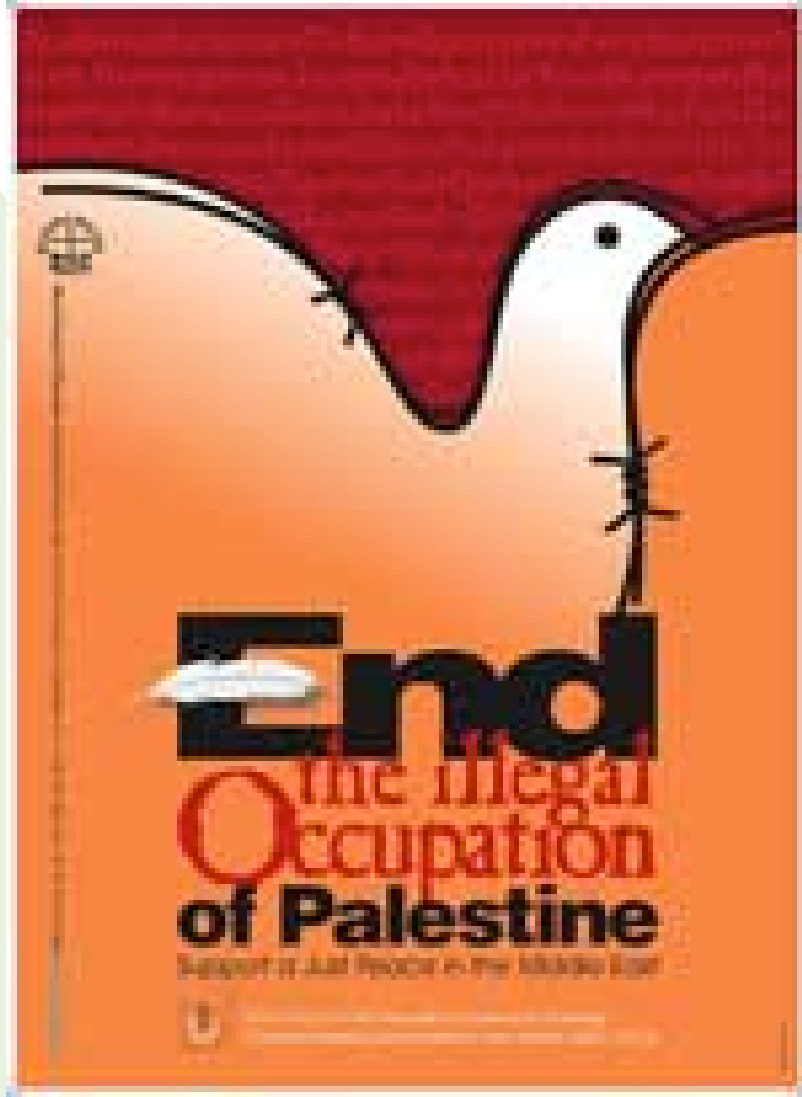
Annual DOV Focus

-  Solidarity - encourage local & regional churches
-  Understanding - move beyond stereotypes
-  Celebration - highlight peace and justice work

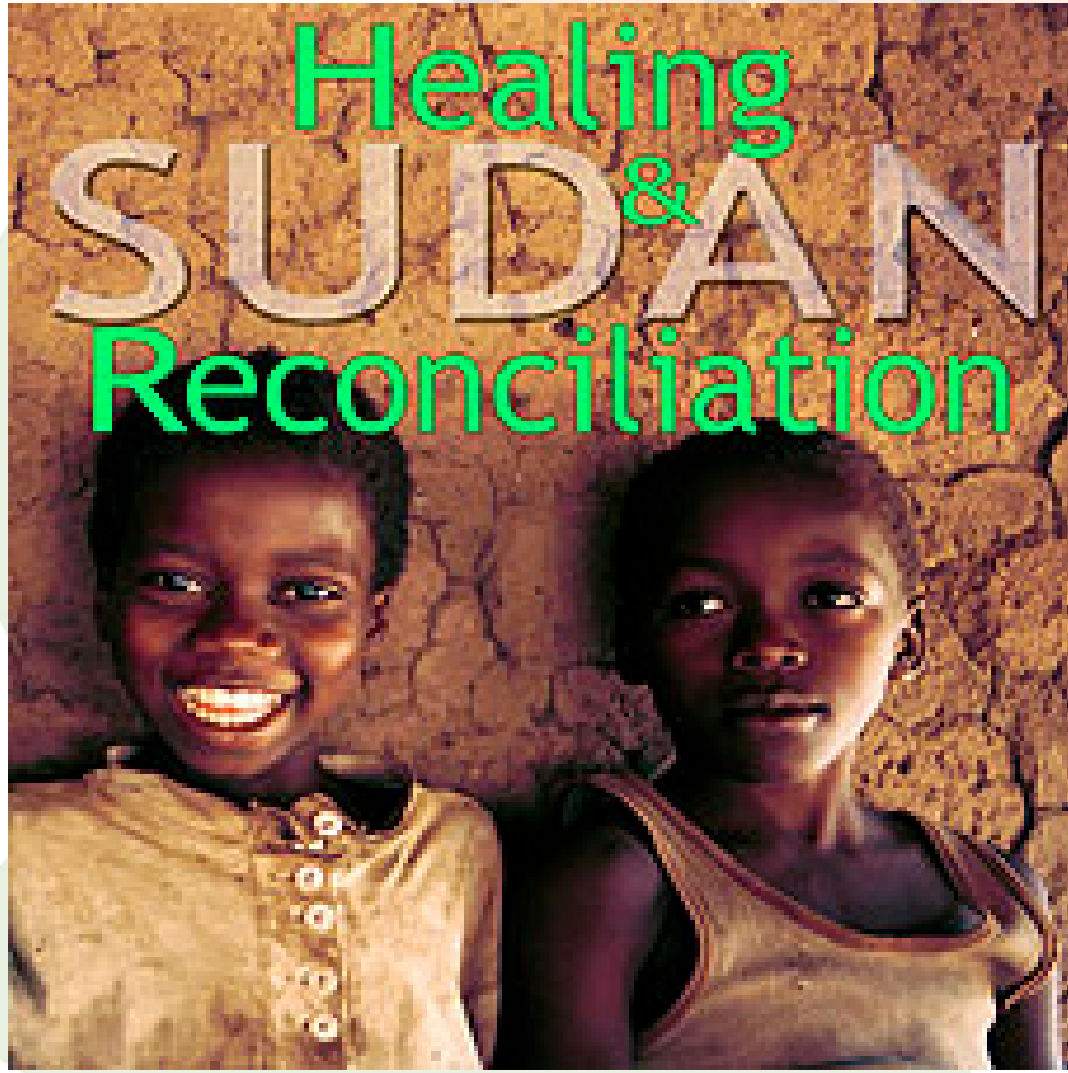
Annual DOV Focus 2002



Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace

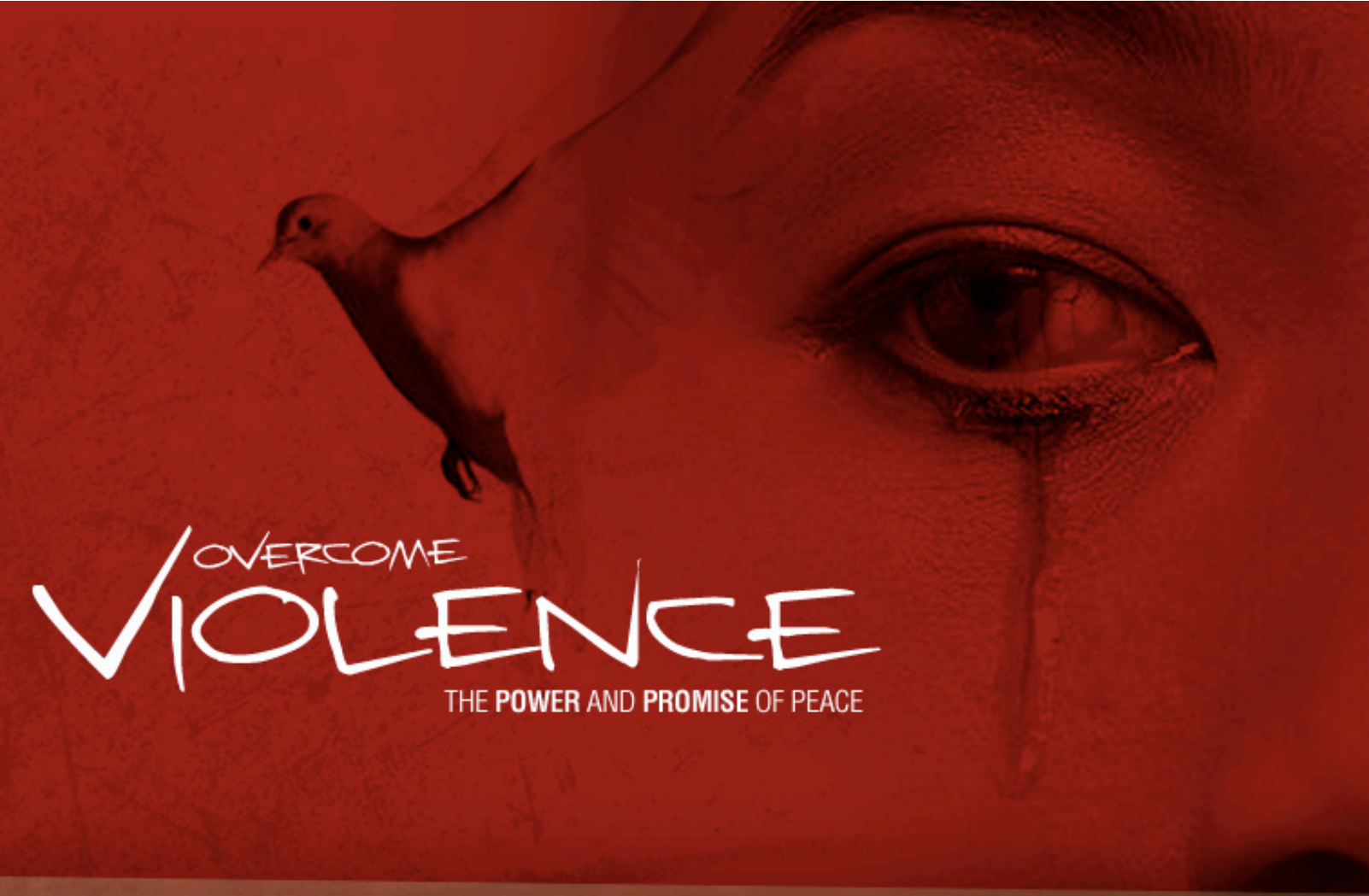


Annual DOV Focus 2003





2004 - USA



2005 - Asia



Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace



2006 - Latin America

Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace








God, in your grace,
transform the world

**World Council of Churches
9th Assembly**

14-23 February 2006

Porto Alegre, Brazil

DOV at the 9th Assembly

-  Plenary “Youth Overcoming Violence” - Message and recommitment for the mid-term
-  Ecumenical Conversation: Churches Responding to New Threats to Peace and Human Security
-  Mutirao: DOV Quo Vadis (mid-term) etc
-  DOV Exhibit
-  Peace Vigil in the city



2007 - Europe

 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC)



2008 - The Pacific





2009 - The Caribbean





International Day of Prayer for Peace

21 September 2005

The World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. An ecumenical fellowship of churches founded in 1948, today the WCC brings together over 340 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches representing more than 550 million Christians, and works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church.

<http://www.wcc-coe.org>

The Decade to Overcome Violence

The Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-2010): Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace, calls churches, ecumenical organizations and all people of good will to work together at all levels (local, regional, global) with communities, secular movements and people of all living faiths, for peace, justice and reconciliation.

It calls us to walk with those oppressed by violence, and to act in solidarity with those struggling for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

It calls us to repent for our complicity in violence, and to engage in theological reflection to overcome the spirit, logic and practice of violence.

As an initiative of the World Council of Churches, the Decade is a global movement. It attempts to strengthen existing peace networks as well as inspire the creation of new ones.

<http://www.overcomingviolence.org>

Copies of this brochure in several languages may be downloaded from the DOV website and are available on request from the DOV office.

Photos: WCC **Cover Illustration:** Asia Focus Banner

The mural project was commissioned by the Christian Conference of Asia from Lei Garcia and Ugatahi. It is a collective creation of young Filipino visual artists who are also community organizers. Dr Hope Antoine, Lei Garcia and Ugatahi conceptualized the mural.



an initiative of the World Council of Churches

God, you are the God of life.

Transform us in the depths of our hearts
into people, through whom your peace
is carried forth into your world.





Send your Spirit into the hearts of those
who are captured in the net of violence
be it as perpetrators or as victims
and let us never give up the search
for the chance to talk to them.








Decade to Overcome Violence
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International Day of Prayer for Peace - September 21

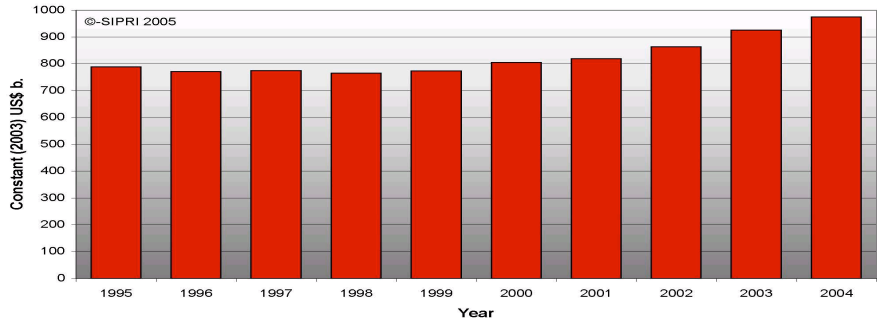
-  The WCC calls churches to
-  pray for peace during services on Sept 21
-  observe 24-hour peace vigils
-  pray in particular for churches in the region
of the Annual Focus

Issues & Trends

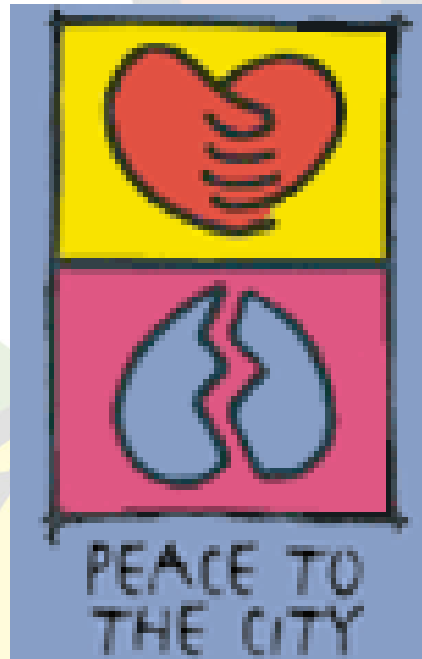
-  Terrorism & Counter-terrorism
-  Commercialization of violence
-  Suicide
-  Gender, Conflict and Violence
-  Violence in the church
-  Stories, Examples, Practises
-  The Responsibility to Protect (UN Reform)

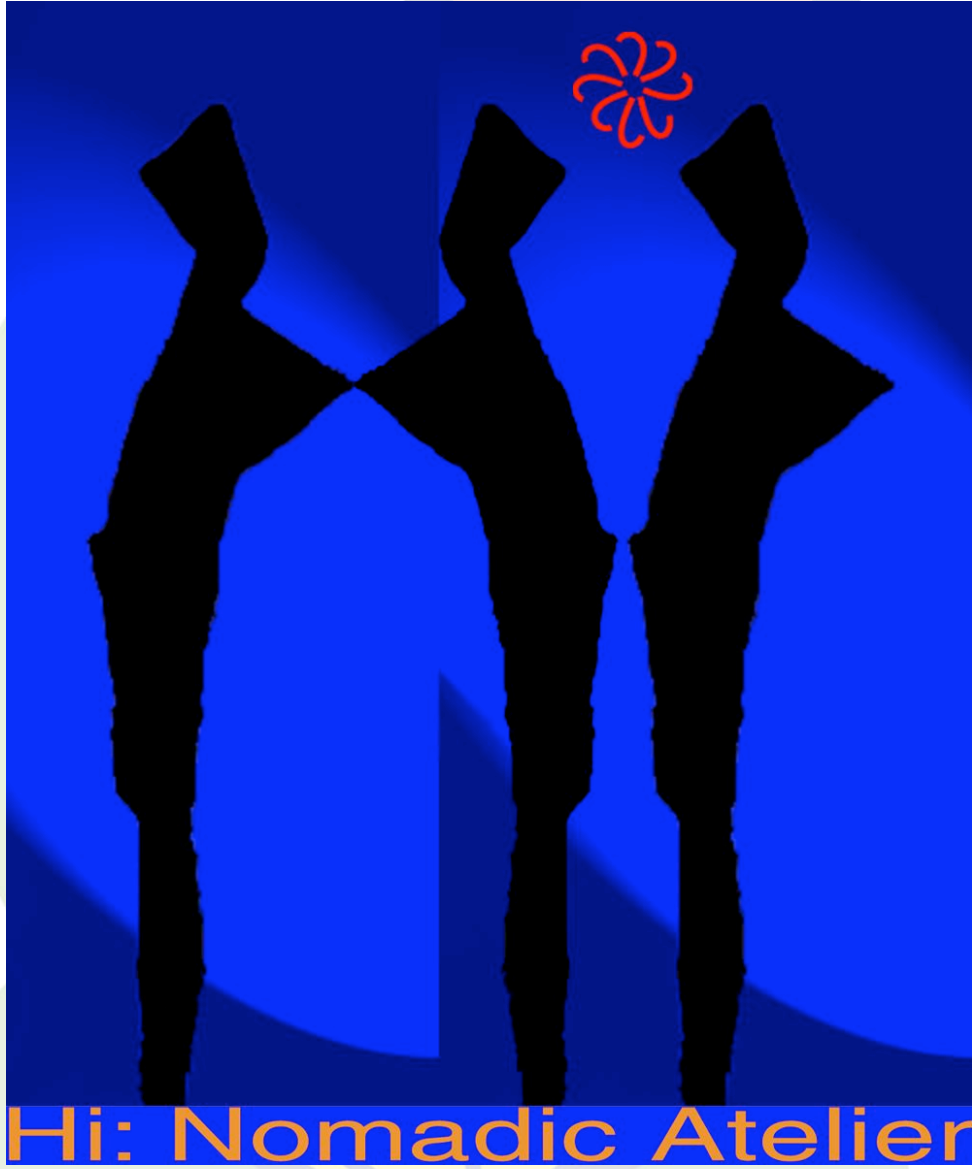


World Military Expenditure, 1995–2004








PEACE TO THE CITY!





**Hi:Nomadic Art and Digital Diaspora Story-Telling Atelier:
"Yess-u-Du" and "Our Story Tree"**


Challenges...

-  DOV as a spiritual journey - transformation
-  Inter-church and inter-religious cooperation
-  Breaking the silence - finding adequate language
-  Confusion of conflict and violence
-  Including environmental issues

The Gospel of Jesus Christ Compels us to Promote a Culture of Nonviolence

Neal Blough

Peace begins with you



Violence? - Say NO!



Peace? - Do it with simple and profound acts!



You can receive periodic updates from
the WCC/DOV by signing on at

<http://onlineservices.wcc-coe.org/>



www.overcomingviolence.org