

# How can you be part of this?

- Try to be at peace with yourself! Take some time to look at the things that are hurting, that make you bitter or vengeful. Try to let go and forgive!

- Honour the persons next to you. Each of them is made in the likeness of God. Protect the integrity of every child and stand up for the dignity of every woman.
- Seek the company of like-minded persons to create peace with the earth. Protect the space of your co-creatures. God has made them to share this earth with you. Your well-being depends on them.
- Do not give in to those who tell you that wars are something natural and unavoidable. Do not fear tensions and conflicts, but take them as opportunities to find a better and more just solution.
- The world we inhabit is not fair to most of its people. Every hungry child is a disgrace, Every refugee camp a scandal. Do not give in to despair and denial. A better world is possible, Justice for the earth and its peoples can be reached If we all join hands. This is and remains God's blessed world.

# What can you do?

Here are some suggestions for churches, study groups, youth clubs, social institutions:

- Every family, every neighbourhood, every school and every nation need their peacemakers. If you are not yet one of them try to become one. Join committed groups and agencies. Help to dissolve prejudices against foreigners, make space for the rights of minorities.
- Help to strengthen the ecumenical commitment of your church. Go the extra mile to understand the situations of women and men of other faiths. Let not religion divide your community!
- Form a group to study what the Bible says about peace, justice, mercy. Connect this with the needs and problems of today's world. Write your own ecumenical peace declaration and then act on it!

# World Council of Churches

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# Glory to God and Peace on Earth

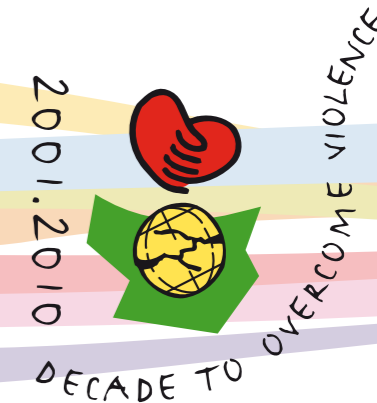
International Ecumenical Peace Convocation



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<http://overcomingviolence.org>  
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en>**



World Council of Churches

# Our mandate

The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation will be the Harvest Festival of the Decade to Overcome Violence and at the same time a planting season for fresh initiatives.

Throughout the Decade many churches and groups have engaged passionately in creating alternatives to violence. They have struggled with the structural and cultural roots of violence.

They have elaborated educational programmes to uphold the value and dignity of life. Large networks of peace initiatives and action groups have come into play.

The WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre decided that these and many other similar efforts need to have a clear focus.

This is what the **International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC)** is called to provide.

At the same time, the Porto Alegre Assembly decided that the churches should be invited to create an **Ecumenical Declaration on Just Peace** to be brought to the IEPC as a compelling expression of our common calling to be instruments of God's peace wherever we live.

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# Our motto

Glory to God and Peace on Earth

The motto sounds familiar, easy and cosy. Christmas-like. But the angels' song over the fields of Bethlehem turns the world around: In Jesus, Mary's son, God comes to live with us. God's peace embraces all of human life, and more: all of creation. That is God's glory.

This is the peace that we as Christians are graced to serve. We are called to be God's peacemakers wherever we live. This is our way to glorify God.

The motto tells us: God's peace is wider than our concepts of peace. «The peace of God surpasses our understanding», says St. Paul. This is very good news indeed. For it helps us to remain realistic in the midst of all the cheap peace talk among us. And, more importantly, the peace of God sustains us in situations of frustration, in anxieties and bitterness. As St. Paul says: «it keeps our minds and hearts in Christ Jesus, our Lord». It keeps us going.

# Themes to study

Here are some thematic areas that tell us what violence does and how we can work to prevent and overcome it, inspired by the power of God's peace.

## ■ Violence in Theology and Theology Against Violence

Dealing Self-Critically with the Legacies of Violence in Christianity's History

## ■ Peace at Heart

Overcoming our Self-Destructive Passions

## ■ Peace Begins at Home

Working to Prevent Domestic Violence

## ■ Peace in the Virtual World

Making space for Alternatives to the Violence Entertainment Industries

## ■ Peace to the Streets

Strengthening Communities Against Urban Violence and Giving a Home to Our Young People

## ■ Peace on Earth is Peace with the Earth

Making the Earth a Sustainable Home for All of God's Creatures

Violence is everywhere.

Many give in to it.

How does the peace of God become a healing and correcting power?

## ■ Peace in the Market Places

Struggling for Dignified Life Between the Extremes of Abject Misery and Shameless Wealth

## ■ Make Peace, not War

Joining the Resistance Movements Against the Old and New Wars

Obviously, you cannot deal with all these themes. But you can choose one or two and work on them. Look out for partners, in your local church, in your community, at the university, on the web site. Consult the DOV/IEPC web site for partners.

<http://overcomingviolence.org>

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