

The Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV)

The Decade to Overcome Violence 2001-2010 – *Churches seeking reconciliation and peace* was launched by the World Council of Churches with the aim of moving concerns for peace, justice and reconciliation from the periphery of the church to its centre. The DOV runs parallel to the UN International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World. It addresses a wide variety of violence at all levels – individual, inter-personal and collective – while seeking to relinquish any theological justification of violence and promoting just peace.

<http://overcomingviolence.org>

Moving towards the IEPC, what can you do?

Write – You are invited to participate in the IEPC by creating your own or your community's declaration on just peace. Learn more about the IEPC declaration on Just Peace.
<http://overcomingviolence.org/en/resources/documents/declarations-on-just-peace.html>

Pray – Call your church, Bible study group and other friends to prayer and fasting for peace and the IEPC.
<http://overcomingviolence.org/en/iepc/participate.html>

Study – Learn about violence and peace by using the Decade to Overcome Violence study guides in your church.
<http://overcomingviolence.org/en/resources/wcc-resources/books.html>

Donate – Funding continues to be needed for the IEPC, particularly to ensure participation from all around the world. Make a donation online <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/who-are-we/donation.html> or contact iepc@wcc-coe.org to enquire about how best to help.

Organize – Are you interested in a local event during the Ecumenical Peace Convocation? Would you like to be involved in such an event? Please visit the IEPC web pages and let the DOV/IEPC office know:
<http://overcomingviolence.org/iepc>



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For more information: www.overcomingviolence.org/iepc
For inquiries or suggestions write to: iepc@wcc-coe.org
For information on or input to the Declaration on Just Peace write to: peacedeclaration@wcc-coe.org

IEPC0409/10m

International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC)

Glory to God and Peace on Earth

Kingston | Jamaica | May 17-25 | 2011



International Ecumenical Peace Convocation

The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC)

The **IEPC** will be a “harvest festival” celebrating the achievements of the Decade to Overcome Violence which began in 2001. At the same time it encourages individuals and churches to renew their commitment to nonviolence, peace and justice.

The **IEPC** will bring together a wide spectrum of people witnessing to the peace of God as a gift and responsibility of the entire human family. It seeks to strengthen the church's position on peace, provide opportunities for networking and deepening our common commitment to the processes of reconciliation and just peace.

The **IEPC** will be a place and time for:

- celebrating** God's peace and the good will of God's people;
- working** on our theology of peace and relinquishing any theological justification of violence;
- telling** our stories of failure and success, and listening to examples of good practice;
- equipping** ourselves with creative and effective tools for preventing and overcoming violence, and promoting peace and justice;
- committing** ourselves to a theology and practice of nonviolence, peace and justice;
- proclaiming** an Ecumenical Declaration on Just Peace.

Glory to God and Peace on Earth

The IEPC will encourage churches and their theologians to reflect and promote peace and justice. Jesus' great commandment "Love your neighbour as yourself" is a guiding light for the gathering and its four main themes.

Peace in the Community

Peace begins with us, with our neighbours.

Our self-understanding and that of others around us determine our ways of relating with the wider world.

If we as Christians believe that peace on earth must begin at home, how do we ensure that in our communities? How do we overcome racism, sexism and similar cultures that violate the lives of so many?

Peace with the Earth

Peace on earth includes peace with the earth.

Human beings are called to take responsibility for nature. Today's challenges in regard to ecology, climate change, and natural resources make it

urgent to consider our views and actions. What are Christian ways to care for creation? What can people of faith do on both the personal and the collective levels?

Peace in the Marketplace

Some see no way for the market to be peaceful, others see it as the way to peace and prosperity.

The crises of the early 21st century compel us to take a critical look at our core assumptions about wealth and poverty, growth and sustainability, and how they are obstacles to justice and generate violence. What is the role of Christians in the world's markets, both as participants and in our ministries of reconciliation?

Peace among the Peoples

Working for peace is a form of discipleship.

Resolving conflicts between nations, races and religions is an act of faith. An inter-dependent world means Christians must prevent violence and promote reconciliation in new ways.

But how? Does our identity include others or exclude them? Is our religion identified with the rule of law or the use of force? Who allows 'Dooms-Day' weapons in the household of God? Are churches helping build up international capacity to keep peace and break down national capacity to wage war?