

The **International Ecumenical Peace Convocation** (IEPC) will celebrate the achievements of the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV), which began in 2001. At the same time, the event seeks to strengthen the churches' position on peace, provide opportunities for networking and deepen the common commitment to just peace and processes of reconciliation. Through first-hand accounts from Living Letters visits and Expert Consultations, stories of struggle and peacemaking will be shared and celebrated.

Venue of the IEPC: Kingston, Jamaica – University of the West Indies

Known to many as a beautiful Caribbean island and a tourist destination, Jamaica also suffers from extremely high levels of violent crime exacerbated by poverty, drugs and politically motivated violence. Through close cooperation with the Jamaica Council of Churches and the Caribbean Conference of Churches, the WCC and its partners will bring a message of peace to Jamaica. The WCC has formed a partnership with the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) in Jamaica. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in a service project benefitting the VPA during the IEPC.

The IEPC

Now more than ever, the ecumenical family must stand in solidarity against all forms of violence and work to actively promote peace in our own communities. Four themes of peace will be explored during the event: **Peace in the Community, Peace with the Earth, Peace in the Marketplace, Peace among the Peoples.**

A wide range of plenary sessions and workshops will explore the four themes. Topics include:

- The role of the churches in ethnic conflicts
- Media and music violence: what peacemakers need to know
- Mediation and conflict resolution: healing the wounded healer
- Capacity building for peace and community organizing: best practices in advocacy
- The responsibility to protect: the churches' role

What to expect during the IEPC

The IEPC will equip peacemakers with creative and effective tools for preventing and overcoming violence and for promoting peace and justice within their own communities once they return home.

During the seven-day event, participants will be involved in the following:

- Exploration of the four peace themes
- Assessing peace statements and declarations of the churches to this day
- Learning and sharing through plenary sessions and workshops
- Celebrating God's peace through spiritual and cultural events
- Proclamation of the Ecumenical Declaration on Just Peace
- Involvement with a service project with the Violence Prevention Alliance in Kingston

What to expect after the IEPC

Participants will go home equipped to advance the cause of peace and reduce violence. They will come away with useful tools and resources for grassroots-level peacemaking and violence prevention. They will also have a deeper spiritual reaffirmation of the importance of peace work. An expanded knowledge of successful methodologies for peacemaking and an enhanced network of professional contacts will also help participants to further peace and reduce violence.

Who will attend

Persons involved in peace work, violence prevention and peace building – whether through research, advocacy or project implementation – who will tell their stories, compare experiences and learn from one another. Participants will come from: Member Churches, DOV partners, Specialized Ministries, Regional Ecumenical Organizations, National Councils of Churches, Living Letters delegates, Expert Consultations, DOV reference and drafting groups, and peace activists.



An invitation to invest in peace

“It is with a sense of deep anticipation that the Caribbean Conference of Churches and the Jamaica Council of Churches prepare to make the IEPC a memorable and life changing experience.”

**Gary Harriott (Rev.), General Secretary,
Jamaica Council of Churches**

The IEPC is shaping up to be a challenging and momentous event. The goal is to have 1,000 participants from all over the globe attend this event. Facilitating such a meeting has financial implications, and the WCC would like to solicit your help in this area. The more you can help, the closer we will be in making this important event a reality.

The WCC has set up an IEPC reserve to which it will add as its own finances permit. Contributions have already been received and pledges made by Member Churches and Specialized Ministries. Fundraising continues through these two major sources together with additional efforts with foundations, local congregations and individuals. Income will also come from registration fees.

By supporting the IEPC you will strengthen the churches' position on peace, provide opportunities for networking, and deepen our common commitment to processes of reconciliation and peace. Contributions will be used to:

- enable participants and networks from the global south to participate
- facilitate a wide range of seminars and workshops (list available on request)
- produce preparatory materials related to the programmatic content and spiritual life
- fund the overall event organisation such as meeting facilities, transportation, visits to local communities, exhibitions and spiritual and cultural events
- support of a local peace initiative in Kingston.

As churches, partners and networks we all have a strong stake in ensuring the success of the IEPC. Now more than ever the churches have an important role to play as peacemakers in our communities.

We thank you in advance for your commitment to and support of this important event in our ecumenical journey together.

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.



A man learns to walk again after losing his leg from a land mine placed in a war zone in Angola

Cover photography: A memorial in Kingston, Jamaica to the many children killed under violent circumstances



The International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC)

May 17-25, 2011 | Kingston, Jamaica



**Another world IS possible
Glory to God and Peace on Earth**

"The IEPC will empower churches and ecumenical partners to become self-confident in their witness for peace with justice."

**Rev. Dr. Fernando Enns
Mennonite Church in Germany
WCC Central Committee member**

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The IEPC is a programme of the
World Council of Churches



**International Ecumenical
Peace Convocation**