



2001.2010



DECADE TO

OVERCOME VIOLENCE



Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace







What is the Decade about?



The Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV)
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 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



What does the DOV do for us?

-  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.
-  It moves the concern for just peace from the periphery of the church to its very center.



Violence!



The DOV is the prophetic ecumenical call to everyone in response to the growing epidemic of violence that holds us in suspense between fascination and fear, passion and indifference.



News good & bad

-  Confusion of conflict and violence
-  War as an institution has ceased to exist
-  No monopoly on violence
-  Lower threshold to resorting to violence
-  Proliferation of weapons (SALW)
-  Big business feeds (on) violence
-  A deeply seated fascination with violence
-  Violence increases to its extremes
-  The human capacity for self-destruction personal/collective is apparent

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





Uppsala 1968

NONVIOLENT CHANGE

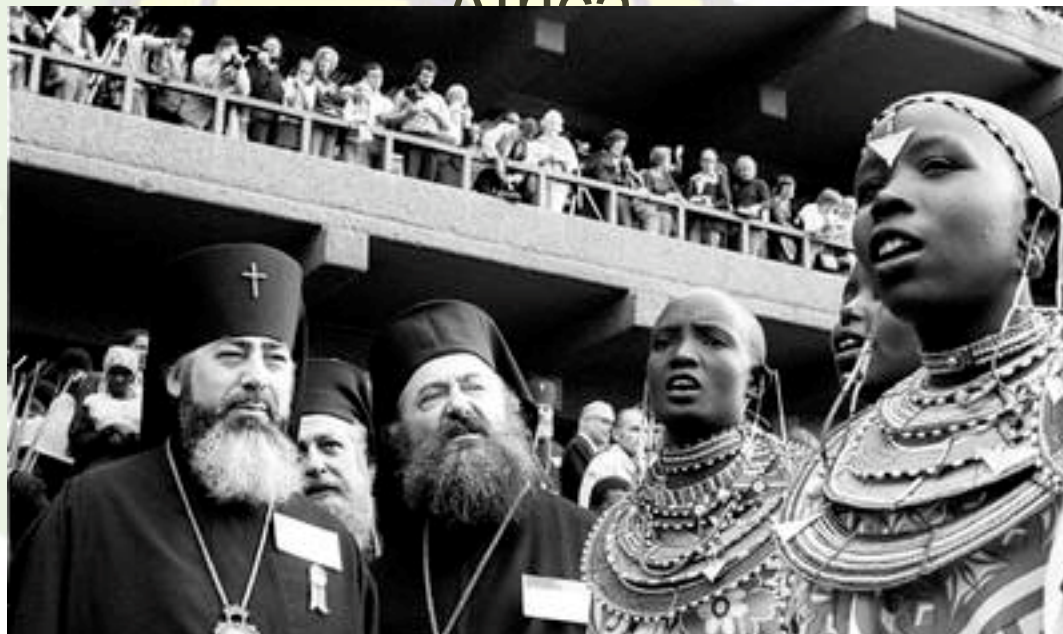
Inspired by Martin Luther King the WCC Executive Committee asks staff to explore means by which the World Council of Churches could promote studies on non-violent methods of achieving social change



Nairobi 1975

HUMAN RIGHTS & RACISM

Emphasis on Human Rights and Structural Violence. Programme to combat racism. Civil rights campaigns in the US, assassination of M.L. King, Apartheid in South Africa



Seoul 1990



JUSTICE, PEACE & CREATION

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-

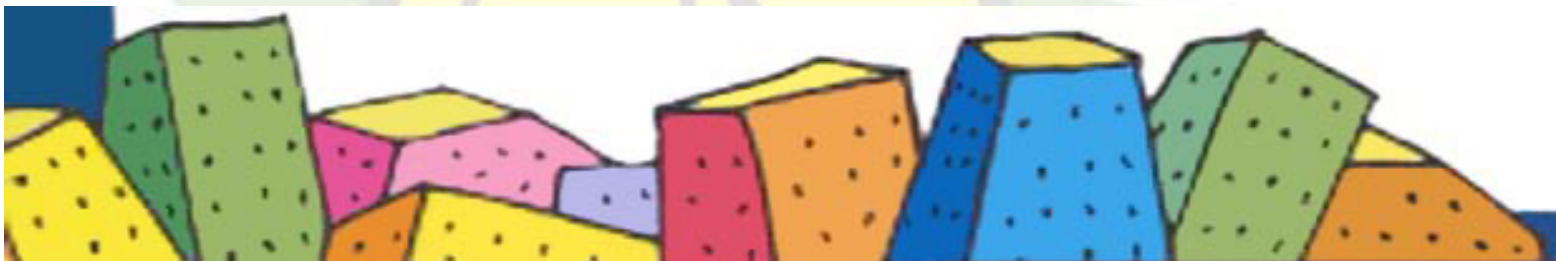




Johannesburg 1994

Programme to Overcome Violence (POV)

Peace to the City Campaign



Harare 1998

OVERCOMING VIOLENCE

Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV)
Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace





Porto Alegre 2006

Vulnerable Populations at Risk Statement on The Responsibility to Protect



Kingston 2011

GLORY TO GOD AND PEACE ON EARTH

Just Peace
Violence Prevention
Non-violence





Background of the DOV

-  WCC Programme to Combat Racism
-  JPIC - Seoul 1990
-  Decade Churches in Solidarity with Women
-  1994 in Johannesburg: “Apartheid is gone, violence is still with us”
-  1995 Program to Overcome Violence (POV)
-  1998 Harare: DOV 2001 - 2010



Amsterdam 1948 - War is incompatible with Gospel



Uppsala 1968 - Nonviolent change (MLK Gandhi)



Nairobi 1975 - Human Rights, Racism (PCR)



Vancouver 1983 - Justice, Peace, Creation (JPIC)



Johannesburg 1994 - Overcoming Violence (POV) - Peace to the City (PCN)



Harare 1998 - DOV - "wide varieties of violence"

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.



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





1989



fall of the Berlin wall - churches “part of the solution rather than part of the problem”?



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

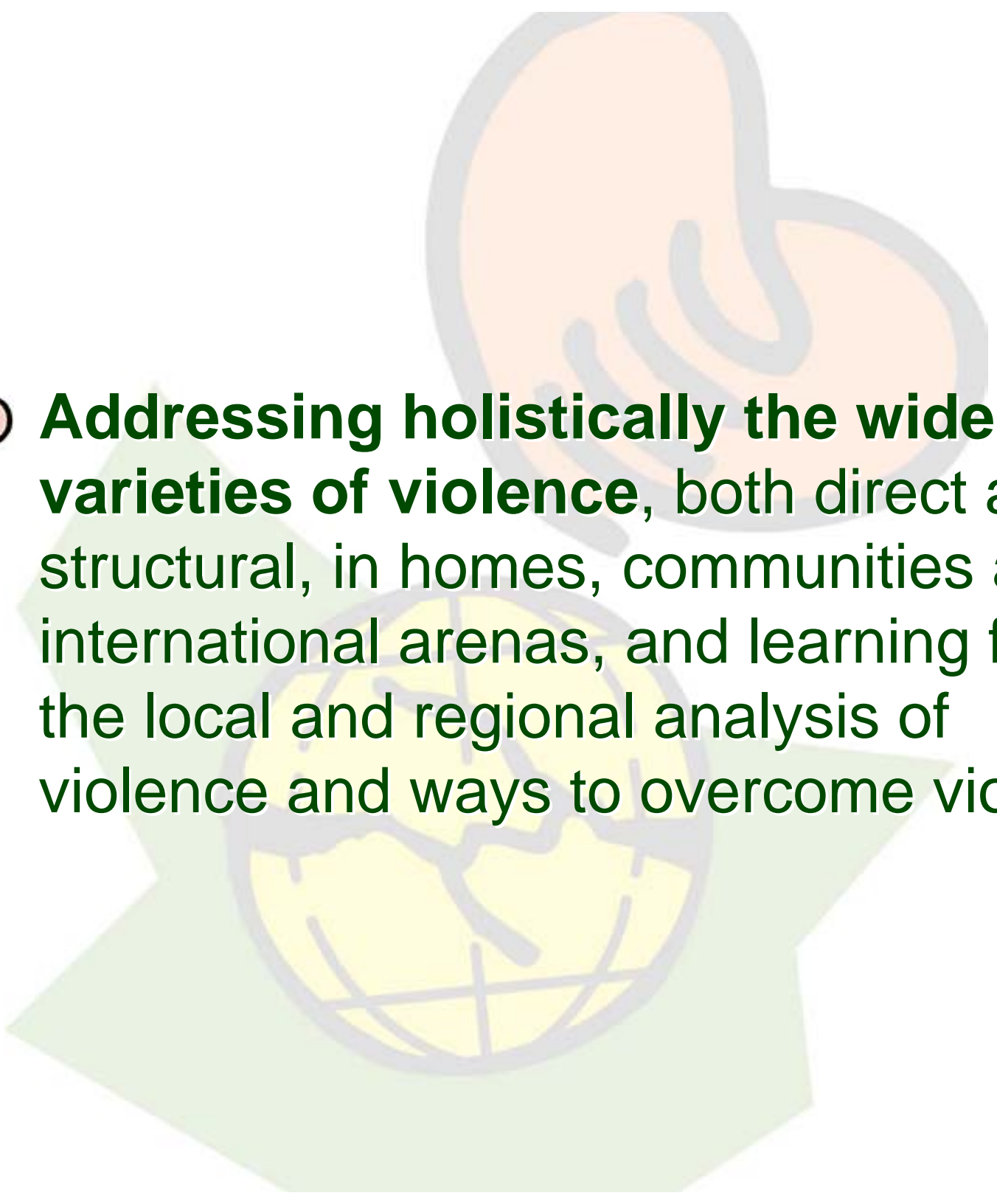


Goals of the DOV



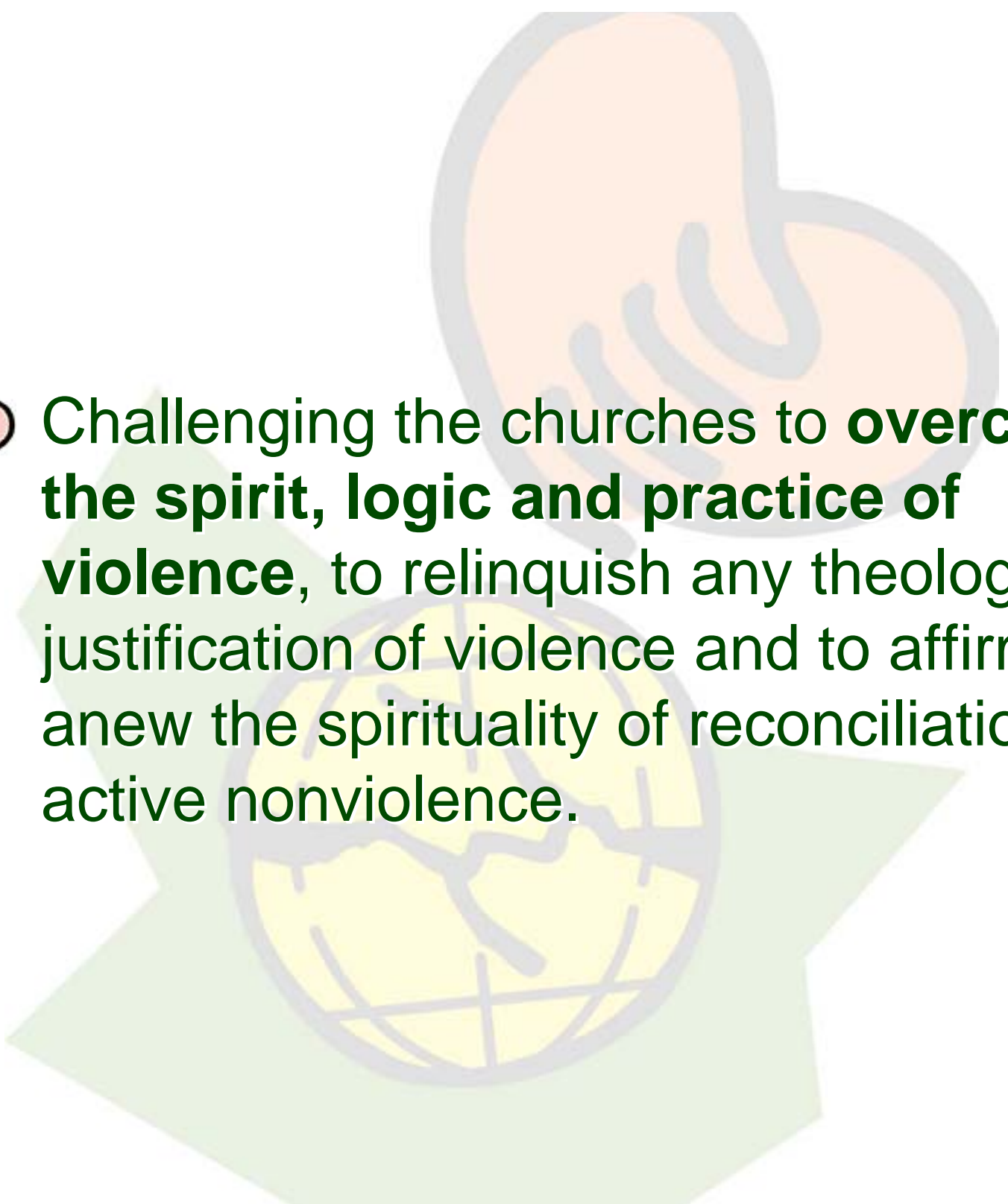


Addressing holistically the wide varieties of violence, both direct and structural, in homes, communities and international arenas, and learning from the local and regional analysis of violence and ways to overcome violence.





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.



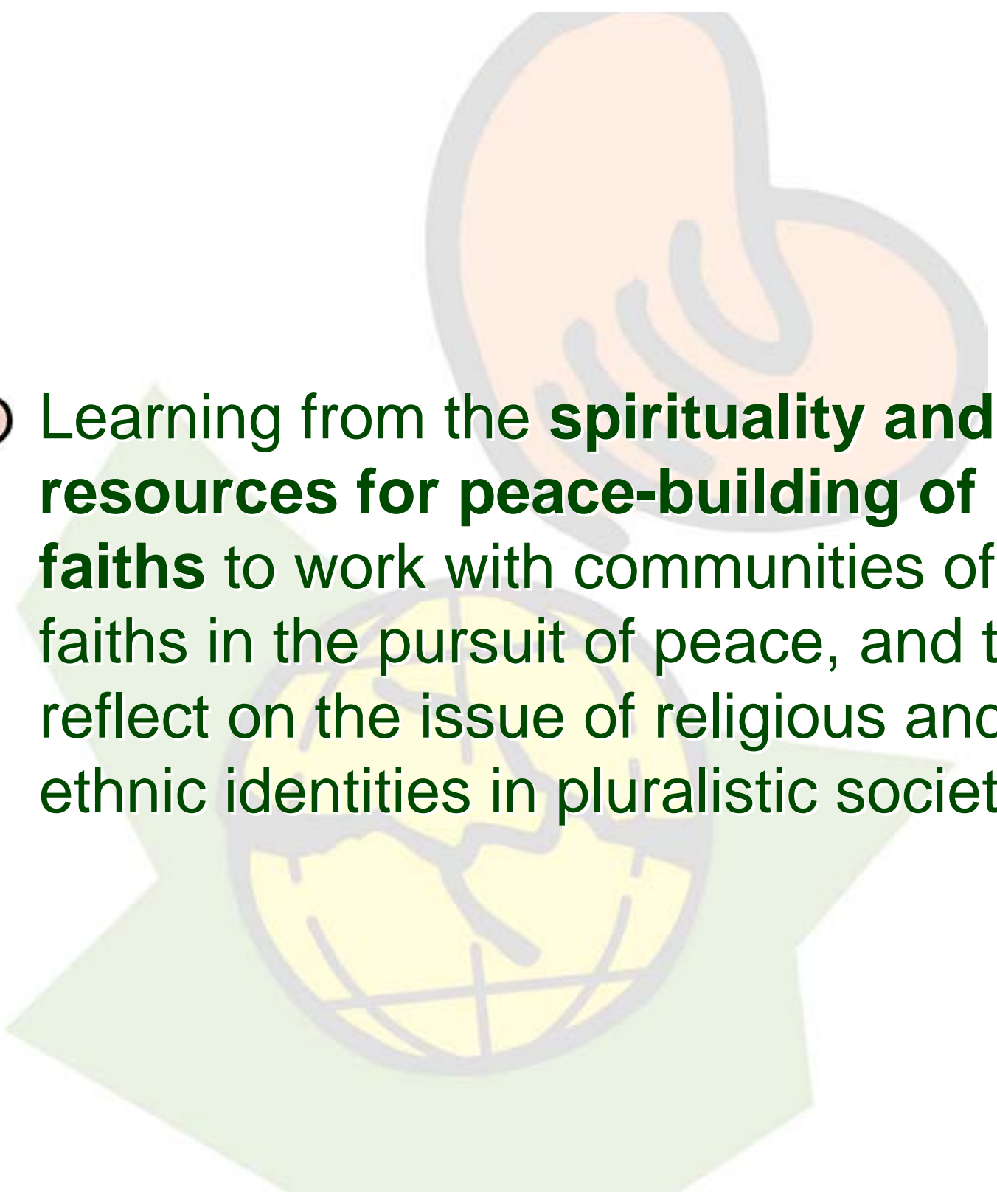


Creating a new understanding of **security** in terms of cooperation and community, instead of in terms of domination and competition.



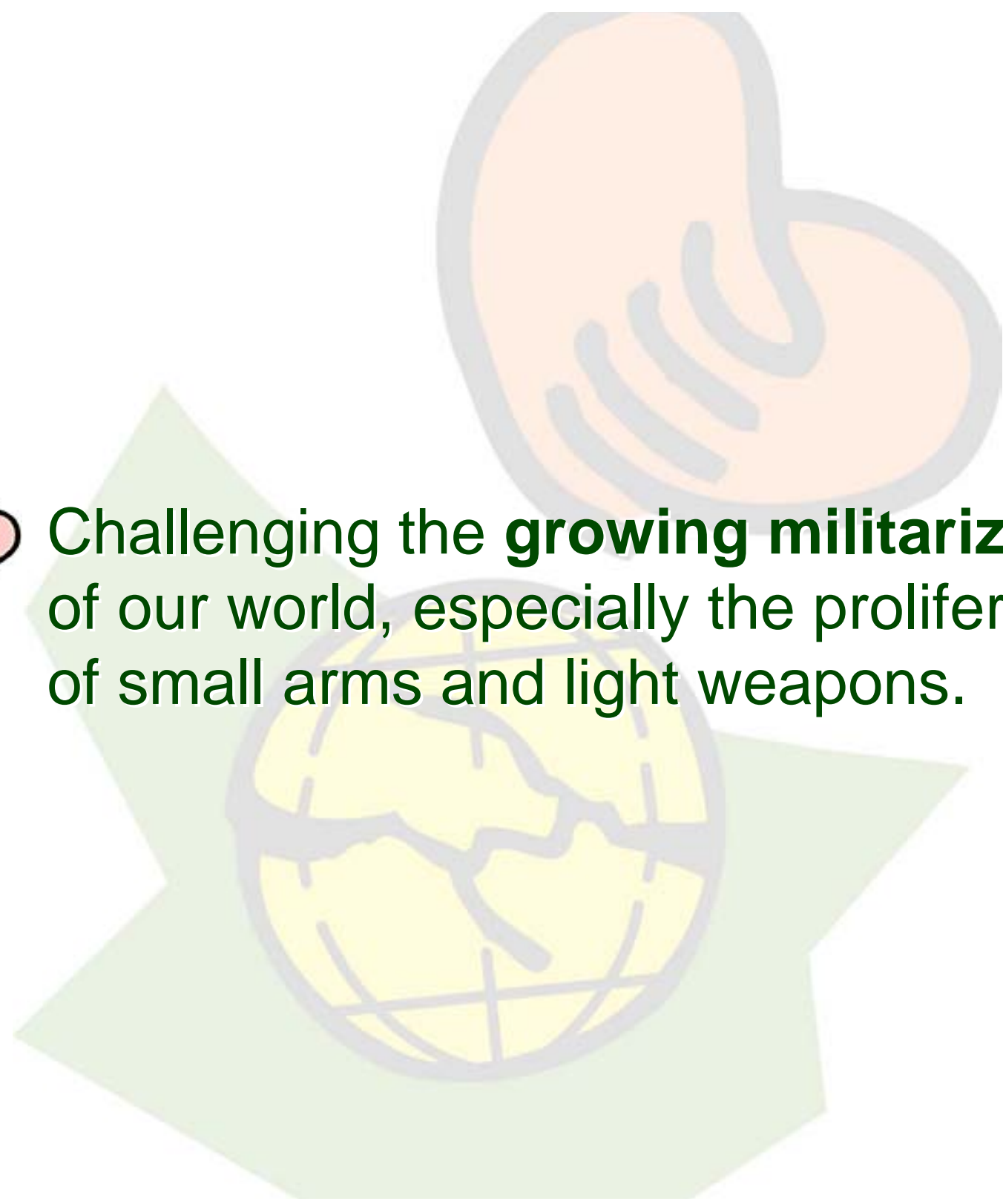


Learning from the **spirituality and resources for peace-building of other faiths** to work with communities of other faiths in the pursuit of peace, and to reflect on the issue of religious and ethnic identities in pluralistic societies.





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)










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





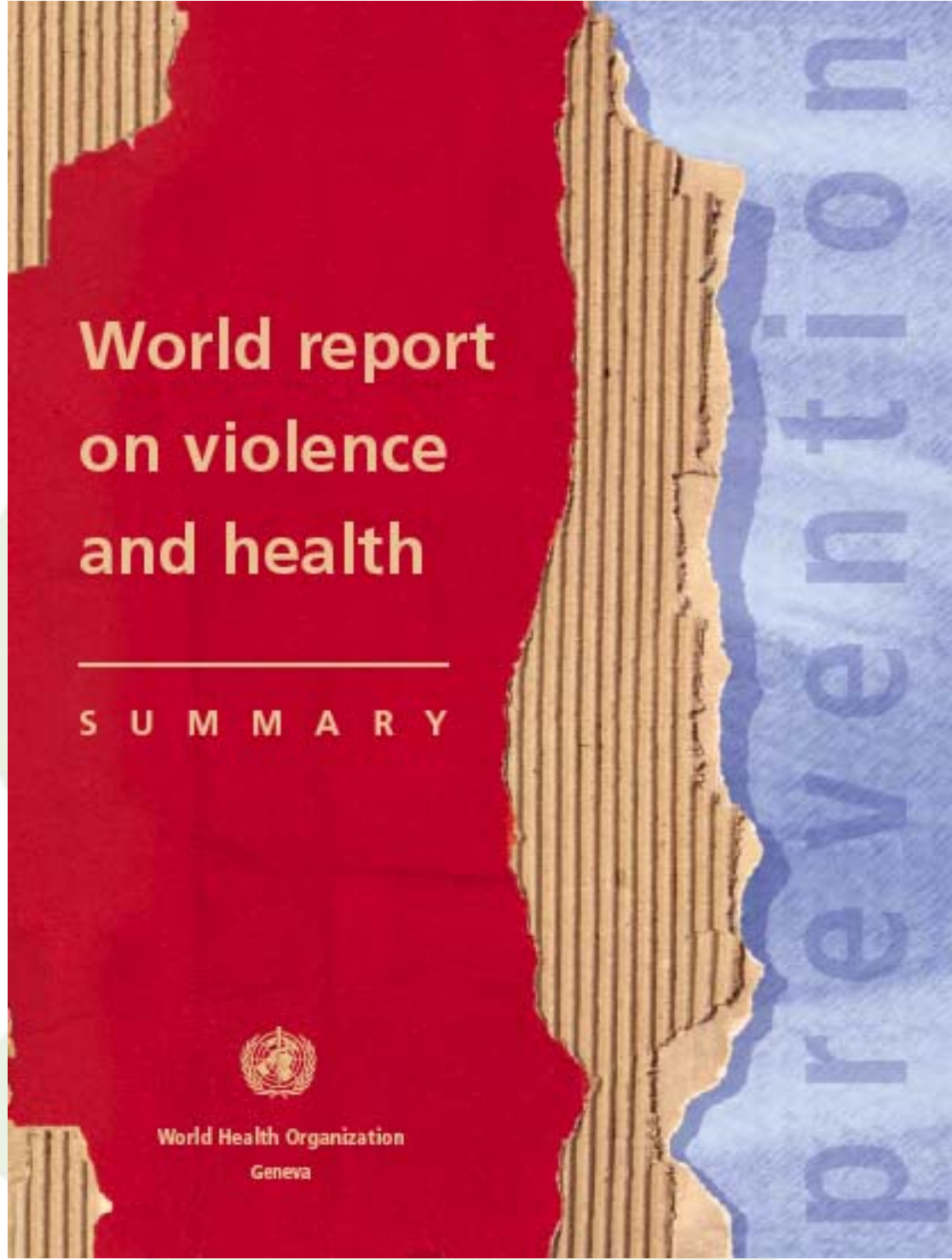
Partners in the DOV

-  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, VPA
-  Non-Governmental Organizations



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



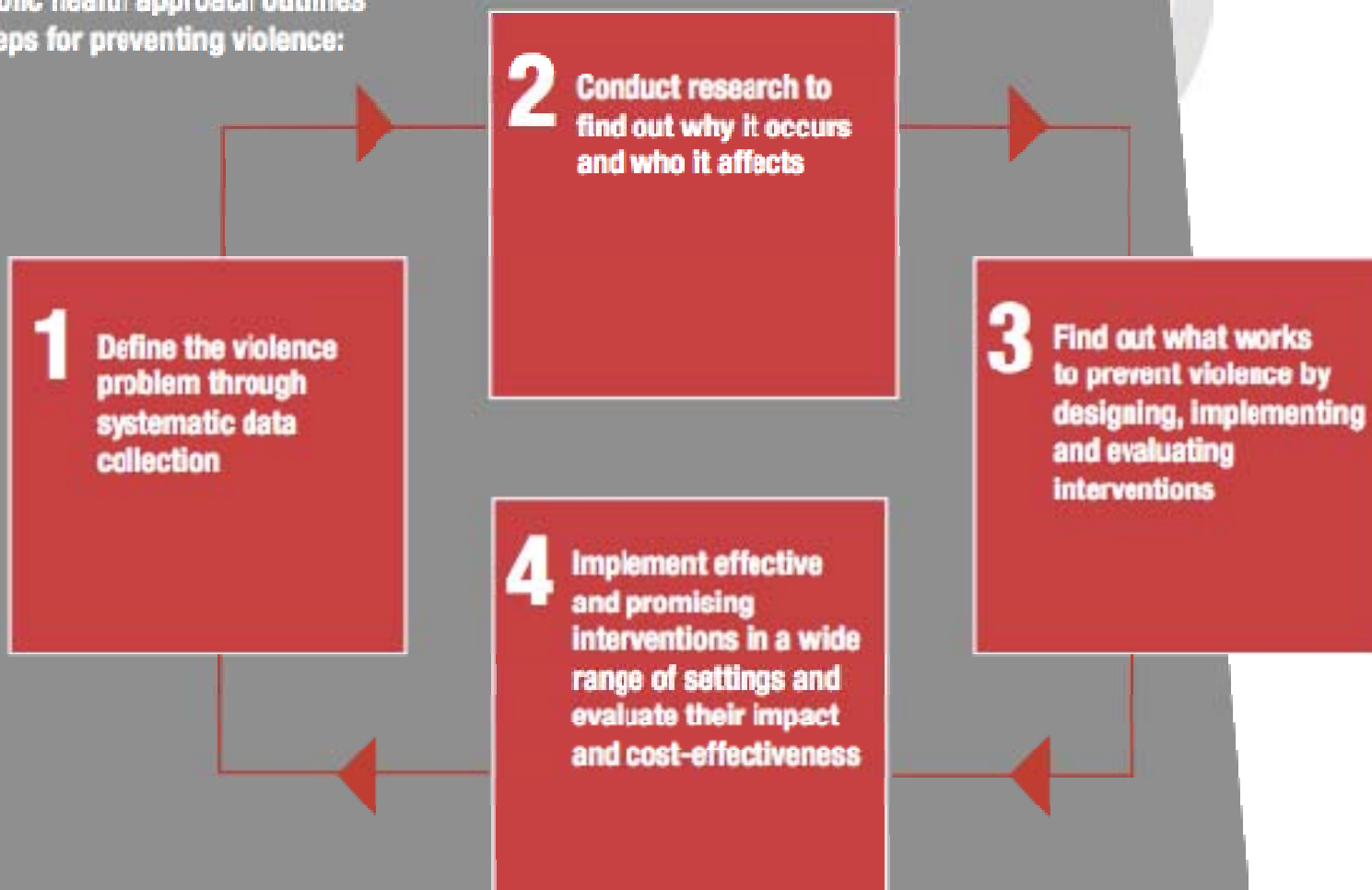




World Health Assembly: Violence Prevention is a Public Health Priority



The public health approach outlines four steps for preventing violence:





4400 people die every day from violence





GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION
CAMPAGNE MONDIALE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE
VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE / ALLIANCE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE



Violence - 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.



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.

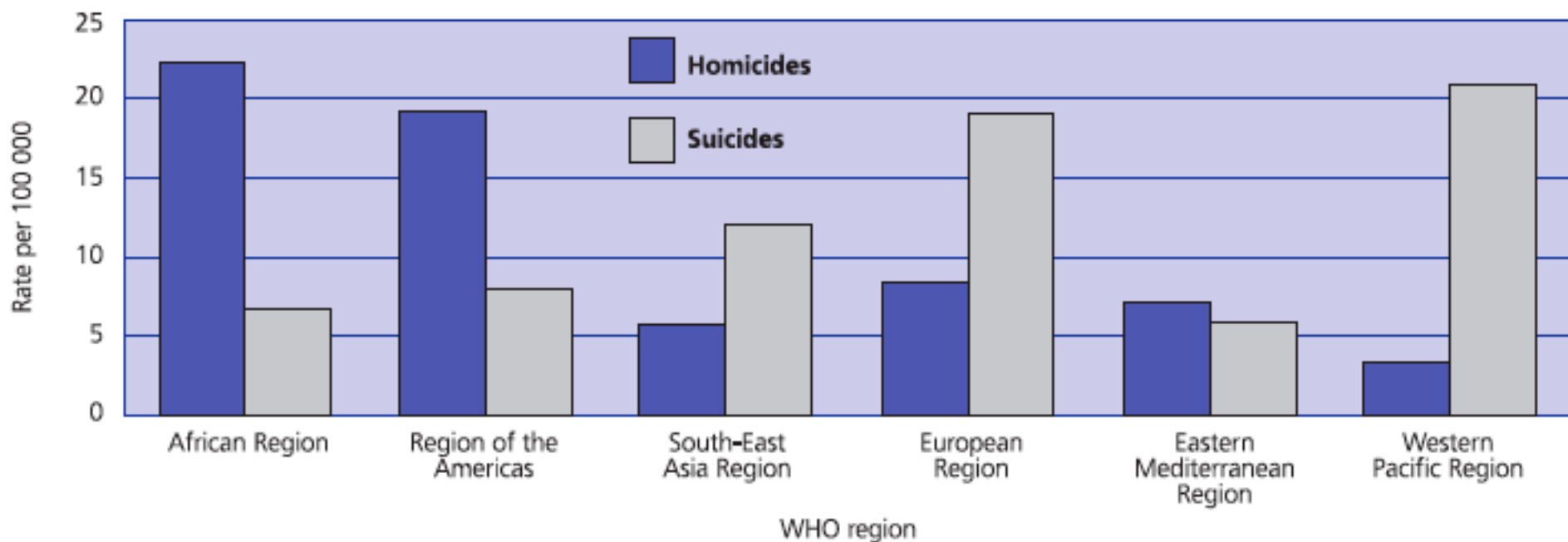
Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002

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



The Nature of Violence

-  Physical
-  Psychological
-  Sexual
-  Deprivation or Negligence

Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002



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



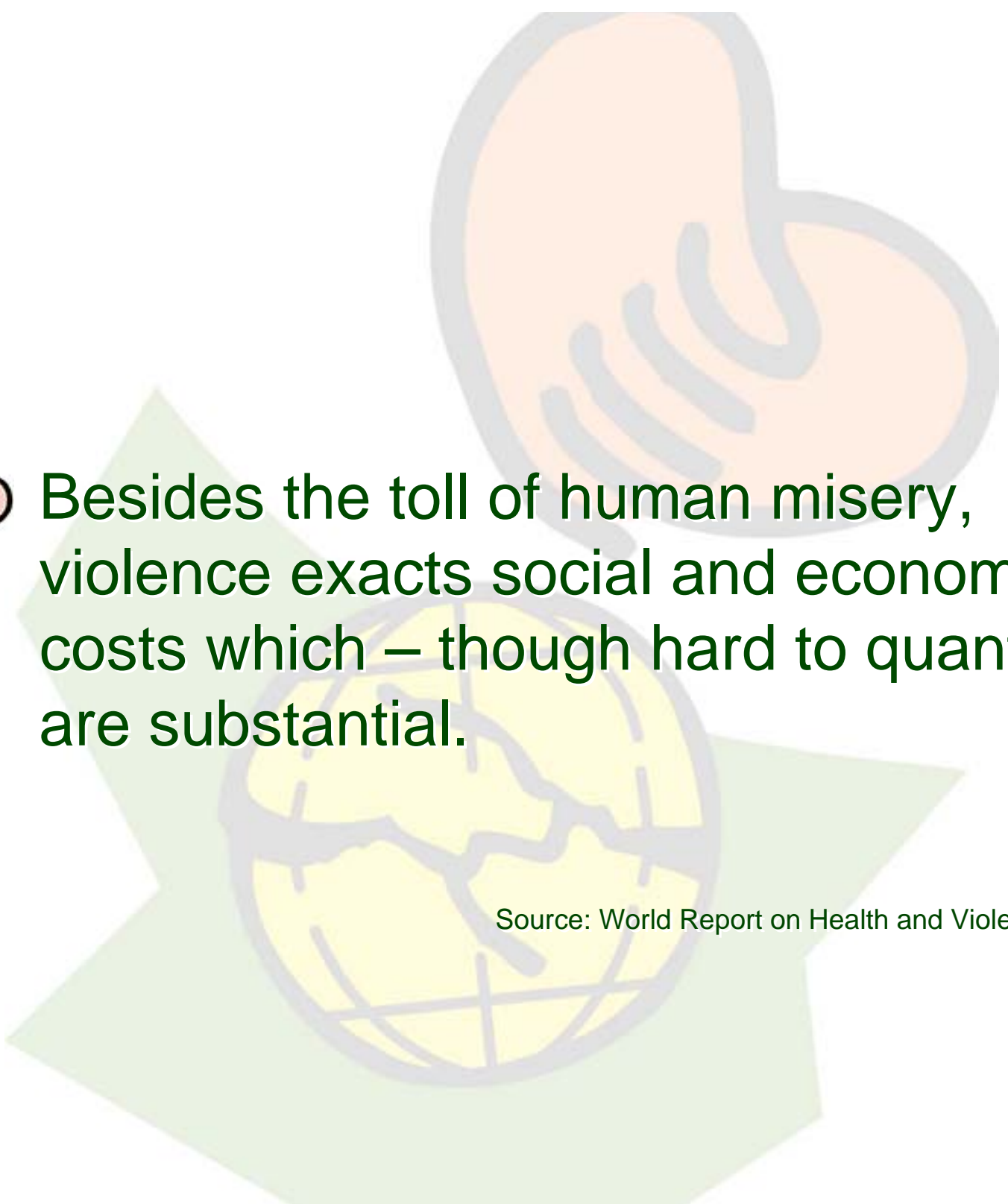
The majority of violence is non-fatal and results in injuries, mental health and reproductive health problems, sexually transmitted diseases and other problems. Health effects can last years, and may include permanent physical or mental disability.

Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002



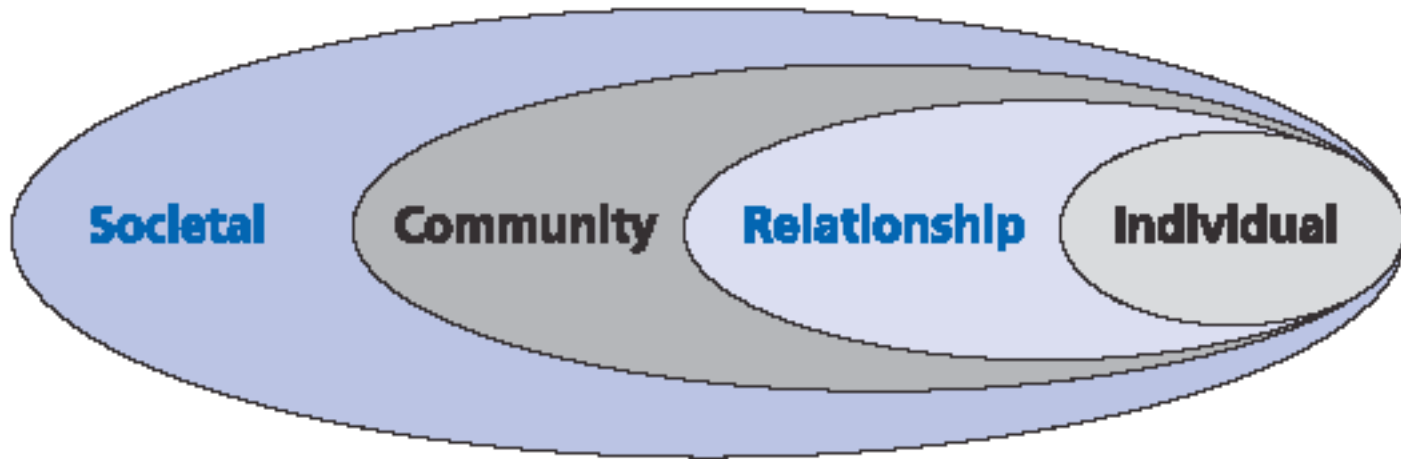
Besides the toll of human misery, violence exacts social and economic costs which – though hard to quantify – are substantial.

Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002



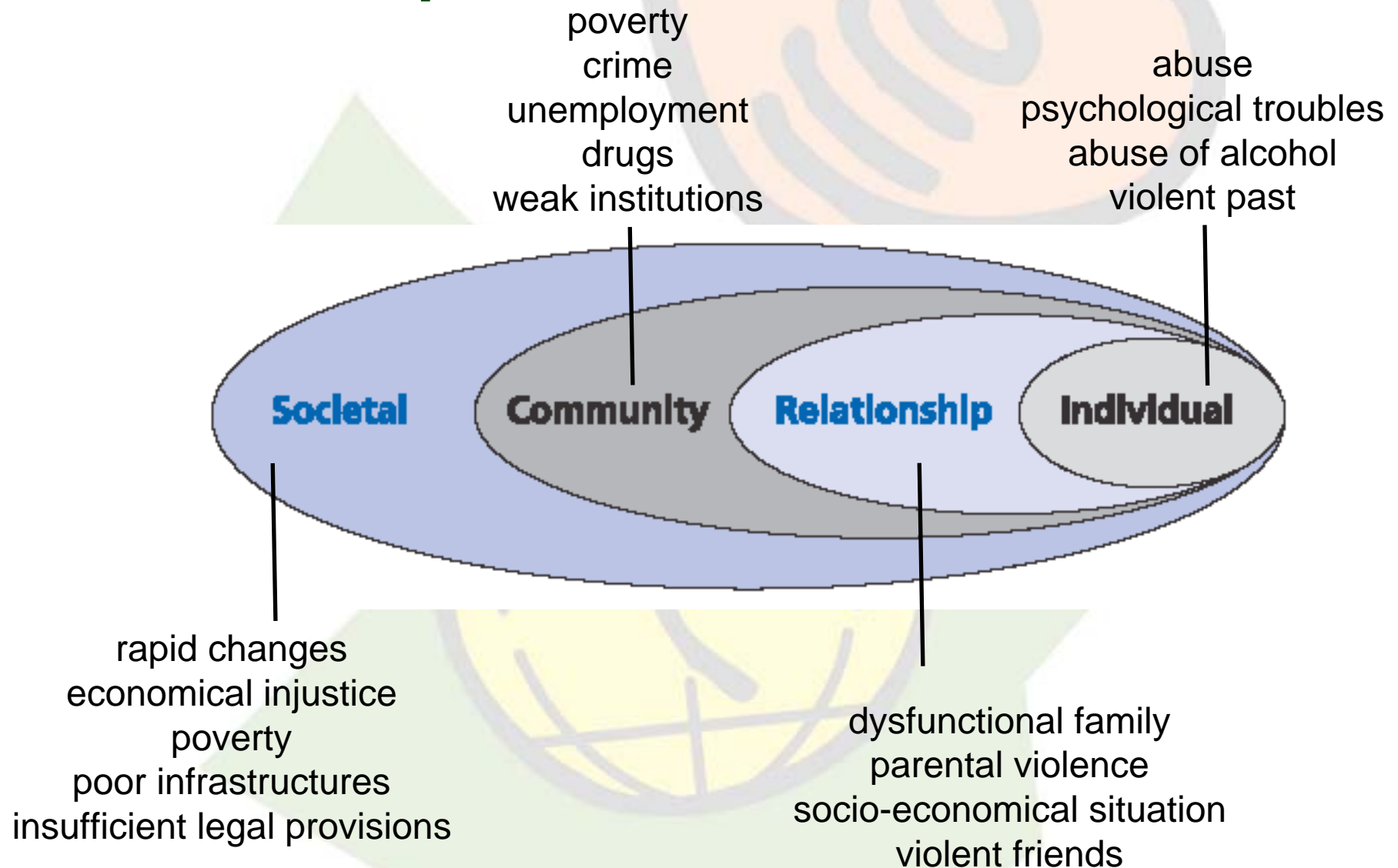


Levels at which violence takes place





An ecological model of interpersonal violence



Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace

Source: World Report on Health and Violence, WHO 2002



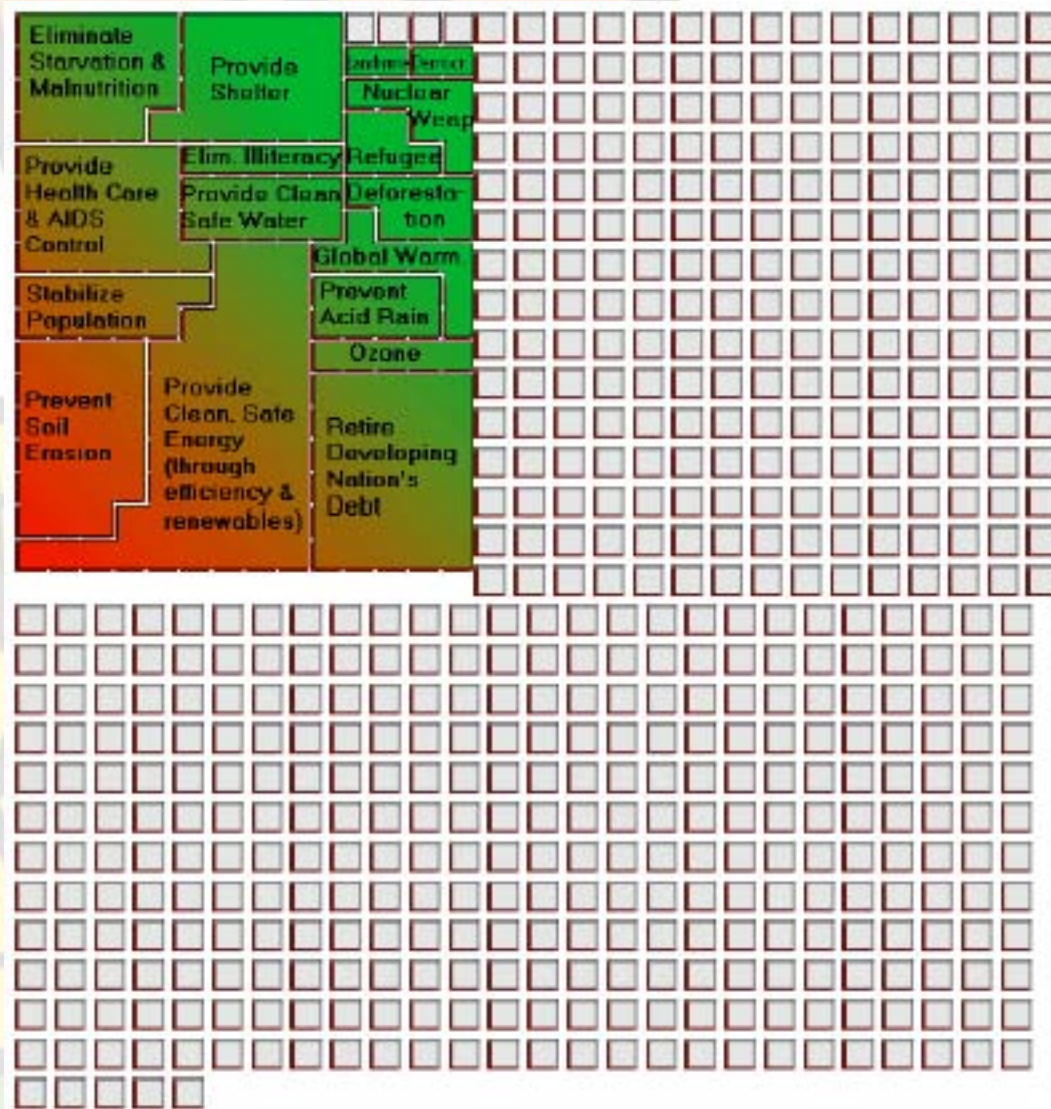
Militarism kills without war



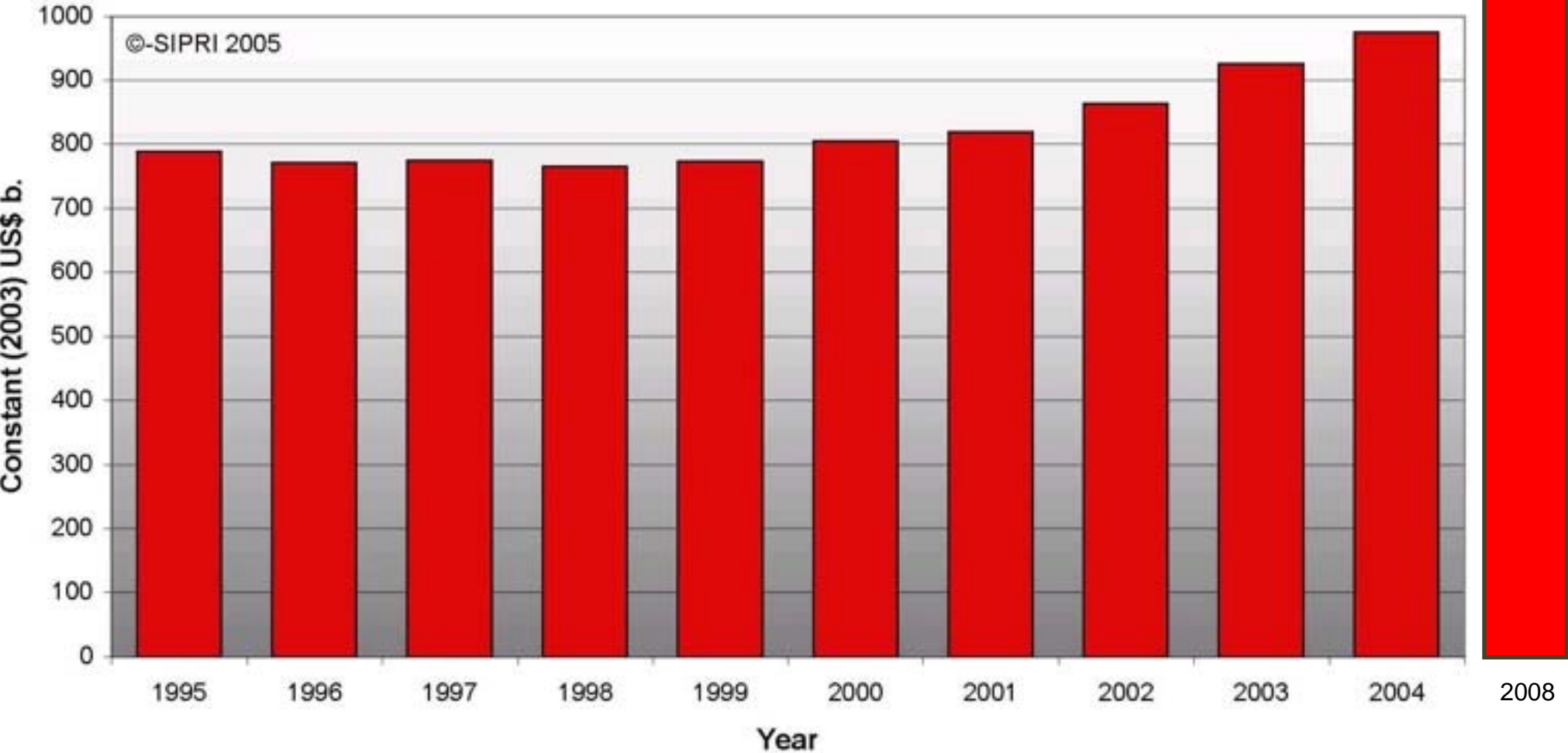
1 square = \$ 1 Bio.
50% of the \$ 950 Bio world-wide are spent by the US



1/3 of the world military expenditures would be needed to address the world's pressing issues



World Military Expenditure, 1995–2004



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.





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





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



other WCC activities

-  Impunity, Restorative Justice
-  Advocacy (UN)
-  Human Rights

Ecumenical
Accompaniment
Programme
in Palestine
and Israel





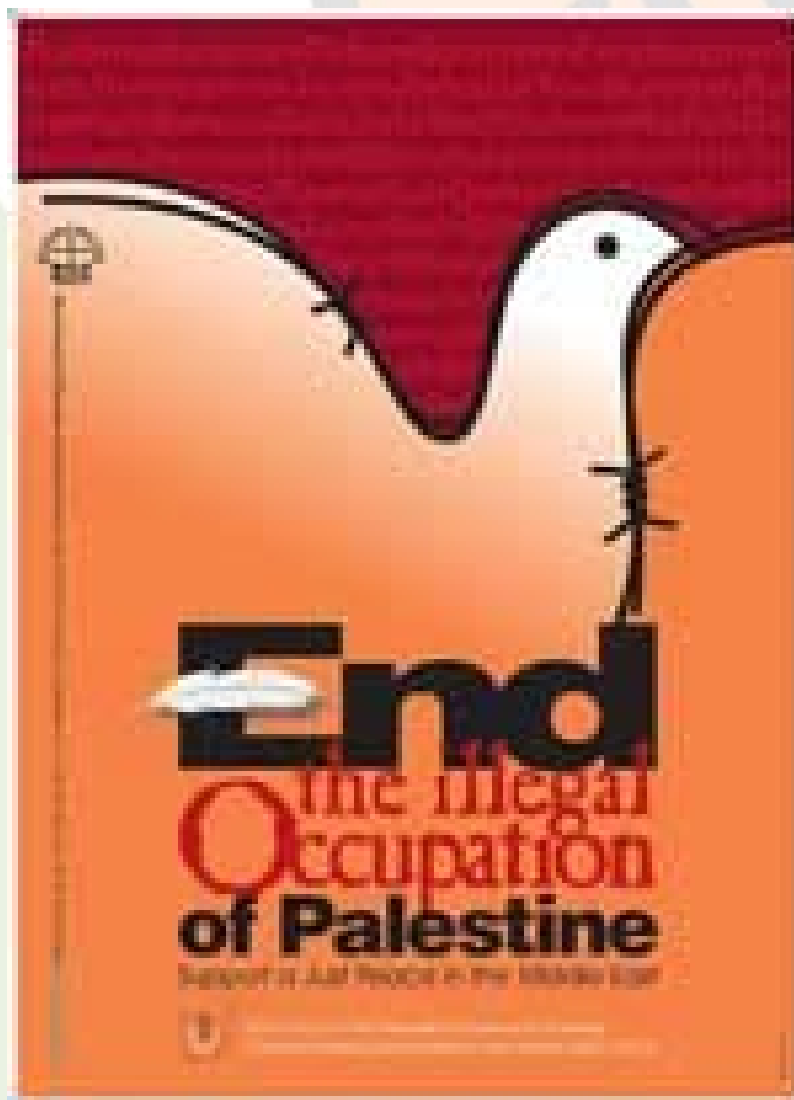
Annual DOV Focus

-  Mobilising Churches & Communities into the DOV
-  Promote Understanding & Awareness
-  Solidarity - Encourage Local & Regional Churches
-  Celebration - Highlight Peace and Justice Work



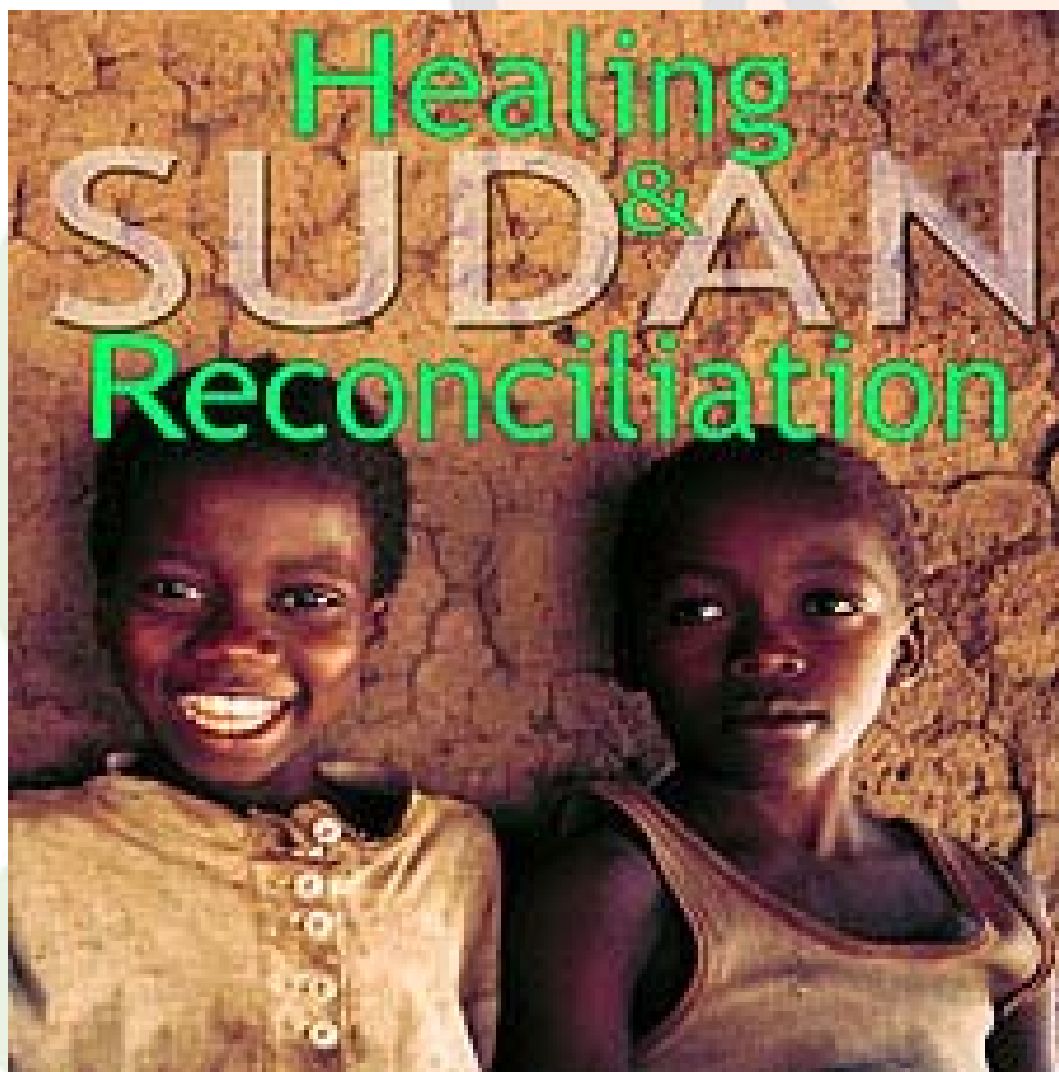
Annual DOV Focus 2002

Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace





Annual DOV Focus 2003





2004 - USA

OVERCOME VIOLENCE
THE POWER AND PROMISE OF PEACE

2001-2010 DECADE TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE
CHURCHES SEEKING RECONCILIATION AND PEACE

FOCUS 2004: USA

COORDINATED BY THE ISG DOP COMMITTEE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT www.wcc-oca.org/04

2005 - Asia





2006 - Latin America

Y todavía buscamos la paz

2001-2010

DECADE PARA SUPERAR LA VIOLENCIA

2006 Foco América Latina
Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias
www.clai.org.ec

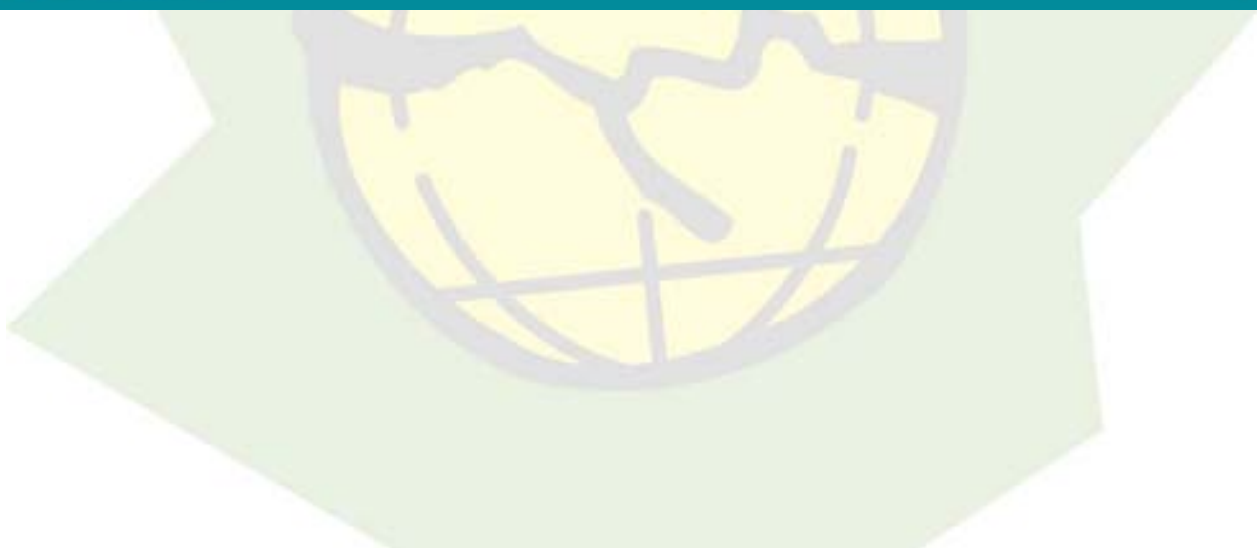


Europe Focus 2007

Make me a Channel of Your Peace
Challenged to overcome violence in Europe





Decade to Overcome Violence
Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace

World Council of Churches










seeing, naming, overcoming

-  Trafficking - thousands of people, mostly women and children are subject to exploitation
-  Youth - the violence industry is aiming at youth as prime consumer
-  Migration - European countries face this major challenge of our time of globalization
-  Militarization - military spending, service, and development jeopardizes just peace



-  Domestic and Interpersonal Violence – causes more deaths than armed conflict
-  Human Security - a common task beyond borders and above national interests
-  The Environment - facing the consequences of violence towards the earth
-  Violence in the Church – looking within ourselves
-  A Theology of Just Peace - churches moving from just war theory to just peace practise



Charta œcumenica

-  We Believe in "One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church"
-  On the Way Towards the Visible Fellowship of the Churches in Europe
-  Our Common Responsibility in Europe








I. We believe in “the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church”.

 A common call to faith



On the Way Towards the Visible Fellowship of the Churches in Europe

-  1. Proclaiming the gospel together
-  2. Meeting one another
-  3. Acting together
-  4. Praying with one another
-  5. Continuing dialogue

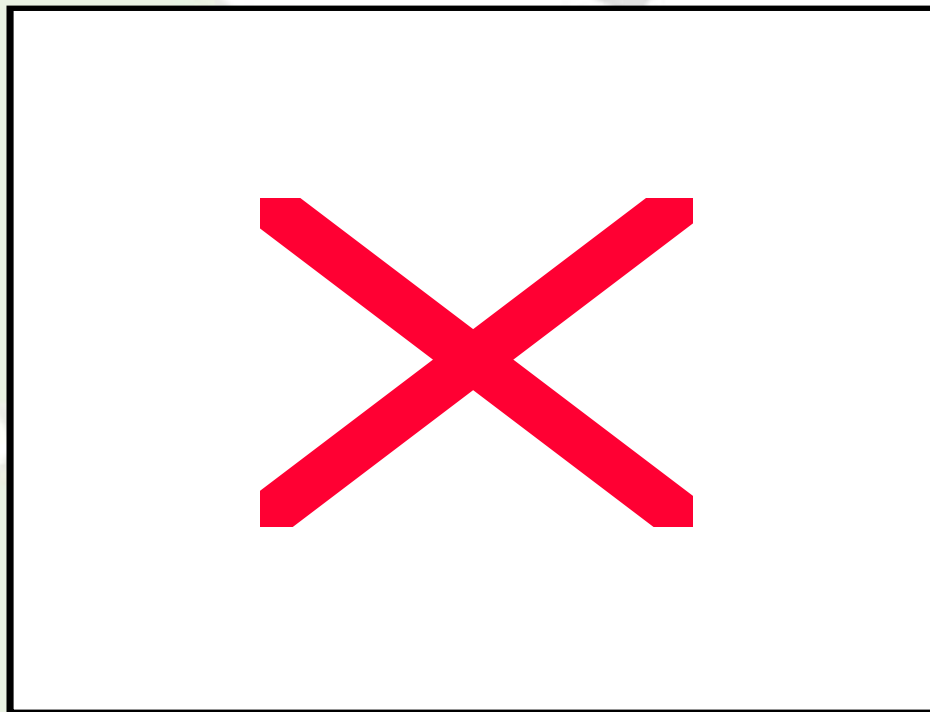


Our Common Responsibility in Europe

-  1. Helping to shape Europe
-  2. Reconciling peoples and cultures
-  3. Preserving creation
-  4. Deepening fellowship with Judaism
-  5. Cultivating relations with Islam
-  6. Encounter with other religions and world-views



2008 - The Pacific





2009 - The Caribbean

Theme to be set









2010 Africa





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



International Day of Prayer for Peace

21 September 2007

Make me a channel of your peace

An Initiative of the World Council of Churches

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.






Amen

St. Francis of Assisi





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 march and vigil in the city






Issues & Trends

-  Terrorism & counter-terrorism
-  Commercialization of violence -entertainment
-  Suicide
-  Gender roles and gender violence
-  Confusion of conflict and violence
-  Violence in the church
-  Stories, examples, practises
-  The Responsibility to Protect (UN Reform)
-  Evidence-based violence prevention (WHO)



The DOV Coordination Office

-  Awareness building - understand violence and learn non-violence
-  Communication - highlight creative initiatives of violence prevention and peace making
-  Networking - facilitate links and collaboration among actors in the field





Assembly Mandate



-  Consultative process to develop an ecumenical declaration on just peace
-  International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) to be held in 2011
-  “Living Letters” team visits



9th Assembly Mandate








-  in looking to the second second half of the DOV, endorses that the regional foci be continued;
-  that more sharing of successful examples be developed to encourage churches and local congregations to respond to overcoming violence in their own contexts supported by international mutual visits; ...



-  that a process of wide consultation be undertaken towards developing an ecumenical declaration on “just peace”;
-  and finally, that the conclusion of the DOV be marked by an International Ecumenical Peace Convocation.



Challenges...

-  hidden forms of violence
-  violence in the church/by clergy
-  world sports events
-  networking, informing each other, living letters
-  assessment of theological, spiritual work
-  help churches own the Decade
-  confusion of conflict and violence



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 gentle acts!



What are the biggest obstacles for building communities of peace for all in your context?



How is the church a community of peace for all in your context?



In what way do you expect the DOV to be helpful in building communities of peace for all?



What are your dreams for the second half of the Decade and in what ways could these dreams come true?



Global Links

 www.who.int/topics/violence/en

 www.unesco.org

 www.idpvigil.com

 www.peaceday.org

 www.globalpriorities.org



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

www.oikumene.org/e-news



www.overcomingviolence.org