



Evangelische Kirche
in Deutschland

7TH SUMMER SCHOOL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

7-10 July 2020 - ONLINE / CET

Challenges for Human Rights in the time of COVID -19

*The Summer School is made possible through contributions from the CEC Member Churches
& supported by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain*

2020 marks a unique point in the history of Christianity in Europe, and indeed the entire world. This year Christians in many countries are prevented from gathering in person to commemorate and celebrate in Easter services the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ... The reason is legal measures to slow down the spread of the highly contagious Sars-CoV-19 virus and especially for vulnerable groups lethal Covid-19-disease caused by it. The prohibition of Easter celebrations in churches is just one example of far reaching restrictions on the exercise of many human rights and civil liberties world-wide, which are part of an effort to make physical distancing effectively prevent person-to-person infections.

Because there has not been any comparable restriction of religious freedom or many other fundamental rights in modern times, and because these rights are usually seen as the legal backbone of our democracy and the rule of law in Europe the Thematic Group on Human Rights of the Conference of European Churches has closely considered the issues at stake and published a discussion paper. It also recommended to the Conference of European Churches to change the topic of this year's Summer School on Human Rights to reflect further on them.

For the first time in its history, the Summer School will not take place as a physical gathering, but as a series of online seminars.

We cordially invite all interested people from the CEC membership and its partners to participate in either one or more of these webinars.

Please find the programme on the following pages. Registration is via Vanessa Barreto barreto@cec-kek.be

DAY ONE
Tuesday, 7 July 2020

Webinar 1

Tuesday, 15:30-17:30

Prayer

Rev. OKR'in Sabine Dressler / Rev. OKR Frank Kopania

Opening remarks by:

Dr Elizabeta Kitanovic

Rev. OKR'in Sabine Dressler

Rev. Dr Patrick Roger Schnabel

**Do not wash your hands from Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law obligations
during COVID - 19!**

The 2020 COVID–19 pandemic has left most of the human population in a state of shock. The pandemic challenged and affected all fundamental rights in Europe and around the globe. European values such as democracy, human rights and rule of law were affected to such an extent that the European Union and the Council of Europe organised the common initiative - Wash your hands and defend human rights: EU and Council of Europe actions in the time of COVID-19. Two leaders from CEC member churches, Bishop Bosse- Huber from Germany and Metropolitan Emmanuel from France, will each present their analysis on the current state of play. They will share their reflections on the importance of the protection of European values, as well as on the belief that no one should be left behind, and they will respond as church leaders to the question: *How has COVID affected Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law in Europe?*

Moderator: Dr Jørgen Skov Sorensen, General Secretary of CEC

- a) Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber,
Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)
- b) Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Ecumenical Patriarchate
- c) The Venerable Dr Leslie Nathaniel, Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe and the Eastern Archdeaconry, Church of England

DAY TWO – Voices of Churches
Wednesday, 8 July 2020

Webinar 2

Wednesday, 9.55 - 11:30

Prayer
(Orthodox Tradition)

**Challenges for the CEC churches in the time of COVID-19 in the area of Freedom of Religion or Belief
and other fundamental rights – case studies**
(Session I)

In democratic countries in Europe, democracy, human rights and rule of law are business as usual. In times of normality, the right to freedom of religion or belief is taken for granted by the majority of people in Europe. During the pandemic, European governments reacted in various ways by limiting the right to freedom of religion or belief. Some traditions like the Orthodox one, the practice of the 'shared spoon' (a centuries-old practice for the receiving of communion) raised questions on whether communion is source of health or source of disease. In some Protestant traditions, adapting to the new ways of worship has also proven to be a difficult exercise. How CEC member churches reacted to limits set on religious freedom and how the states of various European countries attempted to derogate from human rights standards will be presented in the 3 webinars.

Country report on the consequences of limitation of freedom of religion or belief (7 min)

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Patrick Schnabel, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) & Ms Kiernyn Wurts, European Baptist Federation (EBF)

- a) Rev. Dr Tomi Karttunen, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
- b) Fr. Dr Sorin Selrau, Director of Romanian Patriarchate office in Brussels
- c) Italy – Rev. Luca Negro, President of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy
- d) France – Rev. Christian Krieger, President of CEC
- e) Romania – Dr Fr Emanuel-Pavel Tăvală, University of Sibiu
- f) Portugal – Bishop Jorge Pina Cabral, President of COPIC, Lusitanian Catholic Apostolic Evangelical Church
- g) Bulgaria – Superintendent Rev. Dr Daniel Topalski, United Methodist Church in Bulgaria

Webinar 3

Wednesday, 14:00-15:30

**Challenges for the CEC churches in the time of COVID-19 in the area of Freedom of Religion or Belief
and other fundamental rights – case studies**
(Session II)

Country report on the consequences of limitation of freedom of religion or belief (7 min)

Moderator: Ass. Prof. Dr Vassiliki Stathokosta and Dr Göran Gunner, Church of Sweden and Uniting Church in Sweden

- a) Hungary – Rev. Odor Balazs, Reformed Church in Hungary
- b) Spain – Rev. Alfredo Abad - President of the Spanish Evangelical Church
- c) Greece – Assoc. Professor, Yannis Ktistakis, Democritus University of Thrace, Komotini Greece
- h) Croatia – H. E. Metropolitan Porfirije of Zagreb and Ljubljana, Diocese of Zagreb and Ljubljana
- i) Sweden – Rev. Dr Goran Gunner, Church of Sweden and Uniting Church in Sweden

Webinar 4

Wednesday, 17:00-18:30

**Challenges for CEC churches in the time of COVID-19 in the area of Freedom of Religion or Belief and
other fundamental rights – case studies**
(Session III)

Country report on the consequences of limitation of freedom of religion or belief (7 min)

Moderator: Dr Göran Gunner, Church of Sweden and Uniting Church in Sweden & The Very Reverend Archimandrite Father Aimilianos Bogiannou, The Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union

- a) Belgium – Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium, Exarch of Benelux, Ecumenical Patriarchate
- b) Austria – Dr Peter Krömer, President of the Evangelische Kirche A.B. in Österreich
- c) Montenegro – Fr Velibor Dzomic Orthodox Metropolitanate of Montenegro and the Littoral, Coordinator of Legal Council
- d) Armenia – H. G Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Primate of the Diocese of Great Britain, Armenian Apostolic Church
- e) United Kingdom – Rev. Tony Peck, European Baptist Federation

DAY THREE – Voices of Institutions
Thursday, 9 July 2020

Webinar 5/GTM

Thursday, 9.55 - 11:30

Prayer
(Protestant Tradition)

Training on reporting Hate Crime using OSCE mechanisms

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has developed a training on the reporting of hate crime via OSCE mechanisms. Tatjana Peric, the OSCE/ODHIR Adviser on Combating Racism and Xenophobia (including intolerance against Christians and other religions), will train SSHR 2020 participants on reporting hate crime towards Christians and other religions.

For more information on the topic, please see: <https://www.osce.org/odihr/389468>.

Ms Tatjana Peric OSCE/ODHIR Adviser on Combating Racism and Xenophobia (including intolerance against Christians and other religions)

Đermana Šeta, Adviser on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, OSCE/ODHIR

Vanja Kovač, Gender Adviser, OSCE/ODHIR

Webinar 6

Thursday, 12:00 -13:30

OHCHR-The #Faith4Rights toolkit

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in collaboration with UN treaty body experts and special rapporteurs, formulated a new tool for the promotion and protection of human rights by faith actors. This peer-to-peer learning methodology is interactive, adaptable, and constantly enriched by emerging promising practices by faith actors. The #Faith4Rights toolkit contains 18 modules and numerous cases for debate and audio-visual material to stimulate creative approaches. This webinar will start with an overview of the whole toolkit before focusing on its COVID-19 related exercises in modules 5, 6 and 16.

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/faith4rights-toolkit.pdf>.

Moderators: Dr Ibrahim Salama, Chief of Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR & Dr Michael Wiener, Human Rights Officer OHCHR

Webinar 7

Thursday, 15:00-16:30

Monitoring the rule of law in times of Covid-19 – The enhanced rule of law mechanism as a more promising approach to a value-based Europe?

The gradual erosion of the rule of law has been promoted by the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. In her agenda for Europe Commission President Ursula von der Leyen underlined that „there can be no compromise when it comes to defending our core values. “She announced to support an additional comprehensive European Rule of Law Mechanism, with an EU-wide scope. Hence, the European Commission has declared to enhance its monitoring of the rule of law in EU member States through a rule of law review cycle. The cornerstone of the initiative is an objective annual report assessing the rule of law situation in all EU member States in order to reflect the idea of a real community of values. The report is to be issued by the European Commission for the first time in September 2020 building on a proposal first advanced by the German and Belgian foreign ministers in 2019. Promoting the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights is an aim which is among the key priorities of the German Council Presidency starting on July 1. What are the expectations with regard to this new rule of law initiative? What could be keys to turn it into a success? Which roles can churches play in this regard?

Moderator: Senior Church Counsel Katrin Hatzinger, Head of the EKD Office Brussels, Brussels

Welcome: Prelate Dr. Martin Dutzmann, Plenipotentiary of the Council of EKD, Berlin

Video Message: Member of the German Bundestag, Bärbel Kofler, The Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance

Panel: Beate Rudolf, Director of the German Institute for Human Rights, Berlin

Mr. Joachim Herrmann, Member of Cabinet of EU Commissioner Didier Reynders

Intervention from Dr. Elizabeta Kitanovic, Executive Secretary for Human Rights, CEC

DAY FOUR – Voices of Partners
Friday, 10 July 2020

Webinar 8

Friday, 9:55 - 11:30

Prayer

Rights of Minorities during COVID 19

In our humanity, we are all implicated in the pandemic crisis. The virus does not have a gender, a religion or belief, an ethnicity, colour or nationality. It does not have a passport and is free travel anywhere and attack every one of us. How has the current COVID–19 pandemic affected other religious groups like Jews and Muslims and their places of worship? How has COVID affected minorities, migrant refugees and Roma people?

Moderator: Dr Elizabeta Kitanovic, CEC & Rev. Dr Patrick Roger Schnabel, EKD

- a) Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, Ecumenical Patriarchate
- b) Imam Sayed Razawi, Director-General and Chief Imam of the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society
- c) Dr Leon Saltiel, World Jewish Congress
- d) Dr Ganoune Diop, International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA)
- e) Dr Torsten Moritz, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME)
- f) Dr Jose-Luis Bazan, Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE)
- g) Ms Mila Stojanovic, EU of Jewish students
- h) Ms Jelena Jovanovic, EP Anti-Racism & Diversity Intra Group
- i) Ms Merete Bilde, European External Action Service

Webinar 9

Friday, 14:00-15:30

Rising hate in time of COVID-19
The experience of young people

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the rights of young people have been negatively affected. How have fundamental rights of young people from various faiths been altered? How have restrictive measures affected the access of education to Europe's youth and children?

Moderator: Ms Kiernyn Wurts, European Baptist Federation (EBF) & Lea Schlenker, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)

- a) Angelita Tomaselli, Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe
- b) Ms Hajar Al-Kaddo, Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (2015-2019)
- c) Ms Julia Mozer, A Jewish Contribution to an inclusive Europe
- d) Ms Mila Stojanovic, EU of Jewish students
- e) Ms Spyridoula Fotinis, Orthodox Archdiocese of America
- f) Ms Natia Tsintsadze, World Students Christian Federation
- g) Ms Jelena Nestorovic, Diocese of Zagreb and Ljubljana, Croatia

Conclusions

Dr Elizabeta Kitanovic
Rev. OKR'in Sabine Dressler
Rev. Dr Patrick Roger Schnabel