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TEXT and PHOTOS culled from submitted reports of the Global Staff Team, as well as websites and social media pages of WSCF regional offices, SCMs and project partners

PHOTO BY OSAMA TOUBASI
Dear partners
Dear friends

It is with great joy and a renewed spirit of God’s love that we are sharing with you the WSCF annual report 2019 highlighting the work we achieved with your help and great support.

The modest achievements across the following pages are proof of God’s grace upon our ministry despite all the challenges, one being financial insecurity and other insecurities and their ramifications. In their small offices around the world, WSCF global staff working alongside national SCMs make daily sacrifices to transform life, bring hope, and preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. In the context where hatred and attacks on faith communities shake and choked the entire world (namely the Sri Lanka Church bombing happening on Easter Sunday, and the two consecutive mass shootings which occurred at mosques in a terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand during Friday prayer), WSCF boldly and modestly worked with other faith communions and ecumenical organisations to call for peace, to help others fulfil their life dreams. Dialogues, advocacies, and peace-building programs were organised; exchange programmes, youth protecting the earth encounters, and conferences with Muslims and Christians took place in many corners of the world where we are active.

We continue to thirst for more faith-driven actions through the work of the Holy Spirit operating within us which urges us to tackle more mission work while constantly refining and reviewing the way we work.

On behalf of the World Executive Committee, I would like to express my gratitude to all our donors, senior friends, partners, staff, SCMers.

Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-11**

With sincere thanks

Georgine Kengne Djeutane
Chairperson
MESSAGES

Introduction from the General Secretary

Dear WSCF friends and partners,

This Annual Report 2019 will be substantially different from our annual narrative reports in the past four years. In addition to our program accomplishments in 2019, we will share with you a summing-up of the conclusion of our 2016-2019 strategic plan approved in 2015 at the General Assembly in Bogotá. This also aims to provide recommendations to the upcoming 37th GA in June 2020 and a road map for the next quadrennium 2020 to 2024.

Five years ago, WSCF was at a crossroads. We started with a journey that was to bring immediate stability and strategic sustainability to this 135-year-old organization. There was a plan, called a Transition Plan, a short-term and a long-term plan approved by the General Assembly in Bogotá — the nine-month interim period from April to December 2015, and the transition period from 2016 to 2019. Have we implemented the plan? Oh yes, we did with so much colour and drama, in WSCF fashion.

We needed to put in motion what we have been attempting in the past decade, to work towards a global strategic plan in our programmatic approach.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS (2016-2019)?

In the past four years from 2016 to 2019, all the six regional bodies of the WSCF have worked together on these strategic themes creating synergy, stronger presence, impact, and tangible results with our constituency, the ecumenical youth movements. It has allowed us to achieve a common mission and vision with churches and the wider ecumenical movement.

Our advocacy work on Ecojustice has brought to the United Nations Conference of Parties’ (UN COP) global platform WSCF’s consistent leadership in highlighting the voices of young people from the Global South on the issues of climate justice. Key in navigating this space is networking with ecumenical partners and churches that support youth empowerment and participation. Our capacity-building program in Latin America has enabled our member movements to actively participate in community actions, awareness building, Climate Strikes, and conducted events to respond to the call to justice for the climate and the environment.

Our Identity, Diversity and Dialogue (IDD) work saw two major inter-regional programs held in India (2017) and Nairobi (2019), bringing together representatives from our various movements to deepen our biblical and theological understanding and analysis of contextual realities on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). Both programs recommended for us to continue with the dialogue and create more spaces at the regional and national levels in the Middle East and Africa. We hope these processes will bring us closer to our prayer that WSCF will one day become an inclusive and affirming Christian organization.

Our Peace-Building program has seen two inter-regional events (a conference and a capacity-building program organized in Egypt in 2017 and Lebanon in 2018, respectively) focusing on peace and overcoming violence in the Middle East and Palestine.

On both occasions, we drew a stronger focus on our advocacy and solidarity work for Palestine following the Palestine Policy Paper that was adopted in the 35th GA in 2015. We also developed a Peace-Building Curriculum for youth and young adults.

Our inter-religious and interfaith dialogue activities are organized yearly in Europe and the Middle East regions. These programs have engaged Christian young people with face-to-face dialogue with people other faiths, discussing their contextual realities and the
challenges they face such as anti-immigration, anti-multiculturalism, and right-wing propaganda. Combatting Hate Speech and other similar campaigns were launched to create grassroots awareness among the youth.

Working within one Global Strategic Plan framework from 2016 to 2019 proved to be a major achievement in these past four years. Our goals were modest at first; we simply wanted to work together towards common thematic goals, aware of our diversity, our strengths and limitations.

WHAT ARE WE BRINGING FORWARD TO THE GA AND THE NEXT STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2024?

In the upcoming 37th GA in June 2020, WSCF aims to bring to the plenary the results, achievements, and challenges of our work on these strategic themes. Foremost is our desire to continue working together within a framework of a global Strategic Plan. It will also bring forth emerging themes from our on-going work with our partners. These themes are Ecological Justice; Identity, Diversity and Dialogue; Peace-Building and Interfaith Dialogue; Poverty, Migration and Refugees, and Youth Unemployment; and Fundamentalism, Extremism and Right-Wing Populism.

There are of course some unfinished business in putting the organizational structure in sync with the global strategic plan, particularly its staff model structure. From 2016 to 2019, a transitional staff structure was put in place, whereby former Regional Secretaries were given substantial roles to direct strategic programs with the global scope. This experiment proved successful in shifting our mindset and bringing cohesion to regional and global programming into one common programmatic direction.

This, however, crystallized the age-old tension between regional and global functions in identifying priorities, allocating resources, and operational decision-making (e.g., who shall decide and what to prioritise). The appreciation from the regions varied. Some regions supported and fully embraced the plan, others ignored and took time to catch up, some incorporated the plan or simply changed the title of on-going regional programs to align with reporting requirements.

There were several attempts in this period to fine-tune the transitional staff model to make it sustainable and be a long-term alternative to the current model, but as it always goes in the Federation, systemic and structural changes take time.

SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS AND WORDS OF GRATITUDE

I end my term as WSCF General Secretary this year in June. I witnessed how a community coming from different generations, geographical and cultural backgrounds, and faith traditions transcend barriers and commit to staying together as faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ in today’s world. It was not through calm and peaceful waters that we travelled in this ecumenical ship. It was stormy, unknown, and filled with challenges and difficulties. But we were never alone in this journey. God showed us signs of hope, provided the compass to set us forth towards continuing our ecumenical journey.

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve the Federation at this time and in this capacity. I worked with extraordinary individuals forming teams, serving with passion, commitment, integrity, and love for the WSCF and what it stands for. I will not attempt to name them one by one in this message; suffice to say that I am eternally grateful to you all — for the many times you have shown support, understanding and patience, as well as for the advice and the constructive criticisms in the course of my life as the General Secretary. May our gracious and loving Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his favour.

In the service of God and People,

Necta Montes
Outgoing General Secretary
This program report highlights the outputs and impacts of global and regional activities and projects implemented in 2019 under the thematic programs of Ecological Justice; Identity, Diversity and Dialogue; Peace-Building and Dialogue; and Interfaith Dialogue. These initiatives were carried out to meet WSCF’s program objectives as laid down in its 2016-2019 Strategic Plan.

WSCF’s Ecojustice Program aims to promote climate justice through public advocacy processes directed at international governance bodies, working in partnership with ecumenical institutions, churches and various stakeholder networks upholding the youth and student voice on ecological issues.

Capacity-Building Program

Environmental Justice and the Reality of the Palestinian Christian Youth

JUNE 20-23, AMMAN, JORDAN

Twenty-seven participants attended the Palestine Ecumenical Youth Program on the theme, “Environmental Justice and the Reality of the Palestinian Christian Youth” held on June 20-23 in Amman, Jordan.

The Capacity-Building program aimed to raise awareness about climate and justice and their correlation. The program had Bible studies, lectures, and workshops on the topics of Ecumenism, Environment and the Bible, The Role of the Youth in the Environment, Social Justice and Ecological Justice, and a special presentation on the Kairos Palestine: “The Moment of Truth”. The program ended with participants joining in the Say No to Plastic campaign, “Change Your Bag”, which encourage people to use bags made out of recycled clothes.
The WSCF-LAC Regional Workshop on Climate Justice successfully concluded with the establishment of an action plan based on the shared agenda of faith-based organizations towards the next United Nations climate summit, the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change in Chile (COP25). The action plan will involve a work agenda on three thematic areas: Human Rights, Gender Justice and Indigenous Peoples; Territories and Resistances; Agribusiness, Extractivism and Forest Protection; and National and Global Climate Negotiations.

The workshop aimed to articulate an agenda and advocacy plan to advocate from churches and civil society for climate justice in Latin America. It also aimed to deepen the dialogue and coordination with multiple actors to influence the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and to strengthen its members in advocacy tools for action at the national level.

The framework of the Paris Agreement, the main climate agenda approved in 2015 by the COP21 climate summit which will enter into force next year, was worked under the narrative of that agreement and its implications for Latin America. The need to analyze the evidence of what science is saying about global warming and its implications for the near future, and the development of the necessary components for gender, generational and climate justice that promote the protection of those most affected by the climate impact, were key concerns during the workshop. Likewise, the mapping and participation in the assembly of the national mitigation and adaptation commitments of the countries of the region towards the next 10 years were observed as a point of national incidence.

Among the featured presenters at the event were Maria Eugenia di Paola, coordinator of environment and sustainable development of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Ambassador Raul Estrada Oyuela, ex-main negotiator of Argentina in Summits of Climate Change and father of the Protocol. Together with other young speakers, they articulated political advocacy, climate and atmospheric science, and gender justice.

Key to the workshop was the situation in the Amazon and the ecumenical efforts being made to promote awareness and act prophetically to defend forests and natural reservoirs. Extractivism, agribusiness and the relationship with human rights and the rights of Mother Earth were addressed by the participants, determining that Latin America is a sacrificial zone where corporations have historically depreciated common goods with the support of governments by relaxing and deregulating environmental legislation.

The active and balanced participation of youth and student activists from different faith-based organizations and countries provided the workshop with a special dynamic, being very active in the development of advocacy actions at the local and regional level. Among the results of the workshop was the promotion of the community practice of Climate Justice and Youth.

The workshop was attended by 22 delegates from seven countries in South America. It was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina with the support of ACT Alliance (ACT South Forums) and the Youth Protecting the Earth, a youth interfaith network at the Religions for Peace Assembly in Germany.
WSCF youth delegation at the ecumenical advocacy coalition at COP25

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 13, MADRID, SPAIN

At COP25 Chile in Madrid, it seems the only reminiscence of the Andean country are the names of the conference rooms or pavilions, which evoke the rivers, regions and cities of Chile.

The WSCF delegation arrived in Madrid already dismayed over what the change of location meant politically, for governments, for civil society and for social movements. Brazil was supposed to be the host of COP25. But the Bolsonaro steamroller, which not only tears down forests in the Amazon but also integration and international agreements, overcame any organizational effort, opening the way for Chile’s proposal to host the summit.

At the COP in Madrid, if Chilean President Piñera were to be believed, all seems to be going well in Chile—that it is in a process of decarbonization, that it is a modern country that adapts to climate change and respects human rights. It seems anything said in front of the microphone of the plenary is valid as long as it is eco-friendly and uses the appropriate terms. But in Chile, not only is there no real decarbonization process taking place, but the people continue to stand in the streets resisting the oppression of the armed forces and saying enough to 30 years of social inequities that have continued unabated. In Chile, the reports are chilling about the violations of human rights, tortures and killings.

In Madrid, world leaders discussed climate agreements for the third time in a row in Europe (the fourth will be next year in Glasgow, Scotland). While it recognizes the challenges for balanced global engagement, the WSCF delegation denounced the fact that Latin America is living in a context of deepening inequalities and poverty in which the vulnerability of the population to the effects of climate change grows. In Amazonia, deforestation has increased by 30% between August 2018 and July 2019, which also increases the violence against and criminalization of indigenous leaders, Quilombolas and other forest protectors. The lack of measures to protect the peoples of Amazonia is part of an announced policy of commercial exploitation of the largest tropical forest in the world. Mining, agribusiness and forest industries are advancing in this disputed territory.

In an act of solidarity with what is happening in Amazonia, the WSCF delegation participated in the civil society space—the Social Summit for Climate—which added dialogues beyond the formal spaces of the COP. On December 7, communities of faith in Madrid, including WSCF, held an inter-religious celebration for the Amazon to pray and demand justice for the peoples of the region.

The delegation affirmed WSCF’s commitment to work together with members of the ACT Alliance and different networks of faith-based organizations in Latin America on actions demanding the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement commitments—installation of real financing mechanisms to address losses and damages; territorial mitigation models; the promotion of nationally determined contributions with adaptation plans focused on social justice, human rights and gender, and incorporating traditional forms of knowledge of indigenous peoples.
WSCF’s Identity, Diversity and Dialogue (IDD) Program aims to initiate the process of dialogue, create spaces and develop theological understanding for the SCMs on human sexuality.

Identity, Diversity and Dialogue

Ecumenical Leadership Training Programme
Shared future, shared responsibilities: Empowering a new generation of Europeans
MAY 14-19, KOBULETI, GEORGIA

The ecumenical leadership training was organised within the Lingua Franca Programme of the WSCF-Europe. The region was particularly proud and happy to host the programme in Georgia as it had already been several years since the last Lingua Franca Programme took place in Romania. The programme would not have been possible without the trust and support of the Otto per Mille fund of the Waldensian Church in Italy and the dedication and commitment of the national member movement in Georgia.

The training gathered the students and young people coming from the Student Christian Movements (SCMs) in Europe and the Middle East regions, and WSCF-Europe partner faith-based organisations such as the Protestant Youth Organisation in Berlin.

The purpose of the programme was to support young people developing their leadership skills and skills in critical thinking and informed conversations on the issues of cross-community dialogue. It helped the participants to explore the different perspectives by learning from the participants’ experiences and country-specific issues. Empowering youth activism and engagement was another highlight of the programme as the participants were trained to become the future leaders in their home countries and the SCMs.

The programme provided a safe space for young people to freely express themselves and critically reflect on topics they identify as challenges in their communities and societies. This exchange of challenging issues, as well as good practices from their home contexts also contributed to understanding different Christian denominations and traditions. Guided by the invited experts and the leadership team, the
participants developed responses and possible solutions to the identified common challenging issues. Those findings are included as the key recommendations in the Joint Appeal to the European Churches that the participants produced at the end of the training programme, with the hope of conveying the youth voices for diversity, inclusion and tolerance.

The four-day training programme involved diverse working methodologies, including Bible studies, contextual historical review, small group discussions, visiting local communities and churches, debates, and prayers. It was an intensive but a truly enriching week with the theoretical inputs and practical experiences shared and gained. It also offered a unique opportunity for the delegates to visit the minority religious communities in Georgia and learn about the issues and problems minority groups are facing in the country.

The programme encouraged the participants to get involved more actively in promoting diversity and inclusion and to continue building a stronger ecumenical movement in Europe.
Dear Sir or Madam,

We are young Christian activists from different churches around the world who are committed to the principles of tolerance, diversity, integration of minorities, human rights, and inclusion. Our main goal is to enhance youth involvement in the current discussions on painful and difficult topics for our societies which are faced worldwide.

We believe that tolerance is nurtured by mutual respect and acceptance. Because of this, it is important to pay serious attention to the voices of those involved in intolerant dynamics instead of assuming that one's background is enough to build a proper opinion on thorny issues.

We believe that social diversity is a richness for both the Church and our countries. Instead of trying to shape social uniformity, a much healthier attitude is to acknowledge our differences and to encourage people to express their opinions with respect and to not fear getting negative reactions from our dissenters. These social differences provide strength to a society which refuses to treat minorities as less-worthy and does not exclude them. To perform successful dialogues, much more attention should be paid to common values, hopes, fears and desires. It is extremely important to overcome a social state of negation regarding the existences of social, sexual, political, religious or national minorities in modern multicultural societies. In this sense, an approach that is based on human empathy and sincerity is a required tool for integrating minorities.

We believe that youth involvement regarding leadership is an important tool towards providing a youth-friendly and future-oriented vision to our communities.

We believe that it is our role as the youth to not remain silent as we are the future of our churches and are the guarantee of our ongoing faith and the glorification of the name of our Lord. Therefore, including youth representatives in church boards or councils will provide the possibility for young people to participate in decision-making processes which will promote a much more inter-generational leadership that will impact positively our societies in long term perspective.

We believe that nowadays the world needs the Church more than ever because it faces difficult and crucial challenges regarding freedom, immigration, social acceptance, wars, famines, hate speeches and crimes. The Church, as the harbinger of the kingdom of God, should take a leading role by giving a positive example on how to live in unity. Unfortunately, this will not happen without unity within and between churches; without solidarity and tolerance among different traditions, real integration and inclusion of the youth and minority groups on the decision-making level; and without dialogues, which are shaped by acceptance, honesty and equality.

Among all, we believe that diversity should not mean division; diversity is richness!
In our view, the Church plays an important role in modern society because for numerous people in different contexts, the Church may resemble a moral and spiritual authority, and its position is being held as important.

We must always remember that the Church is the light that guides to God, it fulfils the role of the moral compass of our societies and it gives whatever the society is lacking in the contemporary age at the time that cures the wounds the society is experiencing, for example through acts of hate, intolerance and discrimination.

Church division affects its very identity as the one body of our Lord Jesus Christ, as the representative of love and forgiveness, as the mother that bears her children in love regardless of their positions, race, gender or faith.

Therefore, we ask the Church leaders to take firm steps towards each other, to work on the ecumenical spirit and to break down the barriers that separate us. That separation doesn't just harm the internal perception of the Church, but also the outsider's, which might be a reason for decreasing membership and ebbing influence in secular matters.

During this training, we had long discussions and collected concrete suggestions for churches, national movements and international ecumenical organizations. We identified the main topics we should work on during the coming decades, for example, ecumenism, youth involvement, and minority integration, which can be achieved by applying the concept of safe spaces.

After our talks and discussions, we agreed that it is important to unite around common values and ideas. We think that diplomatic relations between churches are the basis for ecumenism and its main goal in modern times is to promote mutual respect, unity and acceptance.

We learned during the training what it means to create a safe space, a concept that can be helpful in any sensitive dialogue and a useful tool to integrate minorities. Through this concept, we affirm that it is important for everyone to speak openly about his/her needs, thoughts and feelings. Giving one example, we suggest that it is crucial to ask each participant at the very beginning of every meeting which pronoun(s) this person prefers. This helps people with a different gender identity to feel accepted and it avoids discrimination. It should also be a common understanding that everything that has been shared in the group should stay in the group and is not to be shared outside the safe space. During a meeting or an event, we speak a lot, that’s why a non-discriminating, gender-neutral language or including female examples is important.

Talking at the beginning of our meetings about sexual harassment should not be a taboo, but something to be discussed openly. Letting everyone agree to respect each others’ personal space can help avoid intercultural misunderstandings. It is also important to define hate language and to not keep silent when somebody uses it. For this, a group or person can explain why this is harmful and find a better way together to talk about a thematic.

As youth is the future of every nation or organization, it is important to involve them in our churches. The first way to do so is to create platforms for youth engagement (e.g., in events, conferences, youth organizations). Second, by giving them the possibility to take real decisions, they will feel they have a responsibility in the life of the church.

We are looking forward to receiving your answers and comments, do not hesitate to consult us with questions and concerns. We are looking forward to being involved with you!
The WSCF Inter-Regional Program on Identity, Diversity, and Dialogue (IDD) in partnership with the Council for World Mission (CWM) was held on July 10-16 in Nairobi, Kenya. The 30 participants came from diverse identities belonging to the Federation’s ecumenical family of SCMs and churches in 20 countries namely, Kenya, Zimbabwe, DR Congo, Malawi, Zambia, Madagascar, Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria, Canada, Brazil, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Australia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, United Kingdom, and Lebanon. Participants committed to carrying forward the process of constructive dialogue which has just started for the first time in Africa in the hope of building an inclusive community for justice and peace – where people of different sexual orientations and gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics are affirmed and celebrated.

For seven days, participants engaged in re-reading the Bible and developing a theological understanding of human sexuality; listened and reflected on
the context and realities within the global North and South; and analysed the intersections of poverty, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and citizenship from listening to the stories and experiences of discrimination from the LGBTIQ refugees, rescued children, and women living with HIV/AIDS. In the process of dialogue, the participants acknowledged diverse opinions on SOGIESC and interpretations of the Bible, particularly on homosexuality. Despite having diverse opinions, the group agreed to engage in dialogue on IDD.

Participants from both the second and the first Inter-Regional Programs on IDD acknowledged the diverse theologies and contextual understanding of member movements. However, common ecumenical identity and prophetic witness as WSCF compelled the group to continue journeying towards building affirming and inclusive communities. With this, the participants of the two programs recommended that the IDD program continue to engage the Federation in a process of dialogue through the mandate that will come from the 37th General Assembly in June 2020 in Berlin.
COMMUNIQUÉ

We, participants of the WSCF Inter-Regional Program on Identity, Diversity and Dialogue (IDD) held on July 10-16, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya in partnership with the Council for World Mission (CWM), coming from diverse identities but together belonging to the Federation’s ecumenical family of SCMs and churches in 20 countries namely, Kenya, Zimbabwe, DR Congo, Malawi, Zambia, Madagascar, Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria, Canada, Brazil, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Australia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, United Kingdom, and Lebanon, commit to carrying forward the process of constructive dialogue which has just started for the first time in Africa in the hope of building an inclusive community for justice and peace – where people of different sexual orientations and gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics are affirmed and celebrated. To this end, we express our shared understanding and prayers that this may serve to ground the framework of this continuing dialogue.

In the last seven days, we engaged in re-reading the Bible and developing our theological understanding of human sexuality; listened and reflected on the context and realities within the global North and South; and analysed the intersections of poverty, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and citizenship from listening to the stories and experiences of discrimination from the LGBTIQ refugees, rescued children, and women living with HIV/AIDS. In the process of dialogue, we acknowledged our diverse opinions on SOGIESC and interpretations of the Bible, particularly on homosexuality. Despite having diverse opinions, the group agreed to engage in dialogue on IDD.

LGBTIQ IN THE CONTEXT OF AFRICA

Africa is home to many LGBTIQ people suffering in silence as they cannot come in public because it is taboo by culture, a crime by law, and believed as a sin by the Church. They are rejected by their own families, the society and even by the church. Most African countries have laws that criminalize homosexuality. As a result, LGBTIQ people live in fear or hiding or have fled their countries to seek asylum in countries that are safer. Living as refugees, they also go through very traumatic experiences of harsh laws, public humiliation and attacks.

African culture and the Church condemn homosexuality as a sin against God’s design of the creation of humankind and does not welcome or embrace LGBTIQ people.

While a minority of religious leaders are inclusive of LGBTIQ people, the dominant understanding and culture within the Church deny LGBTIQ people their right to worship. In African culture, LGBTIQ people are often treated as outcasts and branded by the Church as demon possessing, requiring exorcism and deliverance.

1 A common abbreviation used to refer to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer

2 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expressions and Sex Characteristics

The combination of cultural beliefs, exclusion from the Church, and the anti-homosexuality laws in African countries silences dialogue and prevents safe spaces for expression. People who may want to include LGBTIQ people feel unsafe talking about homosexuality for fear of attacks and insults from their communities. This has led to many LGBTIQ people disengaging from their families and society to live in isolation. It is difficult to find political will in African countries to address LGBTIQ issues. Even in countries that have liberal constitutions, communities still have biased views towards same-sex relations and gender identity.

BIBLE AND THEOLOGY

Through a faith-seeking understanding of gender and sexuality, we affirm that God’s creation of humankind in God’s image mirrors human sexuality in diverse and multiple sexual orientations. However, we wrestled with many varied challenges pertaining to LGBTIQ issues and questions; whether “homosexuality is a sin” and “what does the Bible say”. While some unspoken homophobia persists in many hearts and minds, many have been seeking and open to the fact that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality and persons of multiple sexual orientations and gender identities (LGBTIQ). Though some of us quoted certain “clobber texts” (gay-bashing texts), e.g., Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-27, Genesis 19, etc. as “proof-texts”, the rich pool of input resources shared by all the resource persons drives home God’s beautiful creation of humankind in the divine image reflecting persons of multiple and diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. And God loves and affirms this creation of humankind. We reminded ourselves that Jesus’ new commandment of love for one another as he has loved us and of love for your neighbour as yourself must be our faith-hope imperatives in the process of struggling with the truth that all human persons of diverse sexual and gender identities come from God. As God is a God of justice, it is our imperative to journey with all marginalized peoples (Leviticus 19:15).
REJOICE IN HOPE

We are hopeful to create a violence-free society. There are countries within the African continent and other parts of the world providing safe spaces for LGBTIQ people. For example, Mozambique and Botswana have recently decriminalized same-sex sexual relations. Other countries that are protecting the rights of some or all LGBTIQ people include India, Philippines, Australia, Canada, Brazil, and Bangladesh (recognizing the trans people as the third gender).

Recently, Africans are talking openly about the rights of SOGIESC which may result in opening spaces for other African governments to:

a. Repeal the laws that criminalize LGBTIQ people
b. Start providing safe public spaces for expression and association

c. Training and providing basic knowledge in caring for LGBTIQ people who seek asylum

Within Africa and the world, there is a rising number of faith-based ministries and communities that are welcoming LGBTIQ people. The church continues to reflect on its past and current role in the treatment of LGBTIQ people and what it means to walk with the marginalized as Christ calls us to do. Gradually, churches are beginning to welcome LGBTIQ people with love as we have with others on the margins.

In some countries, civil society continues to provide safe spaces, raise public awareness, and apply pressure on the government to recognize the rights of LGBTIQ people.

ACTION

Participants from both the second and the first Inter-Regional Programs on IDD acknowledged the diverse theologies and contextual understanding of member movements. However, our common ecumenical identity and prophetic witness as WSCF compels us to continue journeying towards building affirming and inclusive communities. Therefore, the participants of the two programs recommend that the IDD program continue to engage the Federation in a process of dialogue through the mandate that will come from the 37th General Assembly in June 2020 in Berlin.

DELEGATES OF THE IDD INTER-REGIONAL PROGRAM
July 10-16, 2019, Desmond Tutu Conference Centre
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Nairobi, Kenya
The Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS) 2019 Liturgy Guide focused on the theme, “Young people building peace and overcoming violence”. The theme was chosen as part of WSCF’s four-year global strategic theme on Peace-Building and Overcoming Violence, strengthening our commitment and resolve to work for a lasting peace based on justice, specifically in countries in the Middle East and in Colombia.

The Bible reflection used in the Liturgical Guide was based on the Book of Isaiah 52:7 – “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”

Movements around the world commemorated Student Sunday on February 8 using the UDPS Liturgical Guide.

The 6th Syria Youth Capacity-Building Program was held in Damascus, Syria from August 1-5 on the theme, “Growth and the Reality of Syrian Christian Youth”. The program was attended by 23 women and men from different Syrian governorates and Christian families.

The program included Bible studies, lectures on Ecumenism, a panel discussion on the role of the youth and social growth, on dialogue, on citizenship and democracy, and visits to the city of Damascus.
A small delegation of WSCF members participated in the Kairos Palestine 10th Anniversary held in Bethlehem last November 29 with the theme, “They shall run and not be weary” (Isaiah 40:31), and the Global Kairos Network meetings that followed. WSCF is a member of the newly formed global network. The Kairos Palestine anniversary event was participated in by 350 people from all over the world, representing churches, ecumenical organisations, advocacy groups and like-minded individuals active in supporting the Palestinian Christian churches’ call for hope, justice and peace.

The event commemorated the publishing of the Kairos Document entitled, “A moment of truth, a word of faith, hope and love from the heart of the Palestinian suffering”, a powerful call for Christian solidarity from around the world to end the occupation and the suffering of the Palestinian people. The event highlighted the impact of the document in propelling a global solidarity movement for Palestine, the overwhelming response and support of the churches in North America and Europe, and the ecumenical movement on the Palestinian cause.

It also presented the geopolitical challenges brought about by a shift in the US foreign policy towards Israel and Palestine.

The Kairos Palestine event was led by the young people, with the notable leadership of the Palestinian Ecumenical Youth Movement (PYEM), a member movement of WSCF. WSCF’s delegation was composed of Alex Kanyigi Chege, a student leader from SCM Kenya; Christine de la Cruz, a young woman student from SCM Philippines; Dakerlin from SCM India; Yasmine Rishmawi, chairperson of PYEM and WSCF Executive Committee member; and Necta Montes, WSCF General Secretary. WSCF Senior Friends from various countries were also present in both events.
Ecojustice and Peace-Building Program Evaluation

Critical Thinking and Strategic Planning Workshops on Ecojustice and Peace

NOVEMBER 23-25, COLOMBIA

An evaluation of WSCF’s Ecojustice and Peace-Building programs was conducted during the Critical Thinking and Strategic Planning Workshops on Ecojustice and Peace held in Colombia on November 23-25. The following is the text of the program evaluation report produced as a result of the workshop.

Peace can be built and built upon. Peace is like the infrastructure that is the basis for many cities and villages. On the one hand, there is no peace without justice, no peace without freedom, no peace without development. On the other, there is no stability without peace, no progress without growth. Peace gives and peace is given, if we can look at it as being the product of interactive exchange between people.

Based on these notions, the World Student Christian Federation held its 32nd Ayia Napa conference in Cairo, Egypt, from July 30 until August 4, 2017, under the title, “Peace-Building and Overcoming Violence”, and a follow-up conference which is Ayia Napa 33 in Lebanon from October 8-14, 2018 in Broumana.

Together we set an action plan consisting of joining in one debate the needs and demands of our countries. We related the conclusions to a series of workshops and local action that could help open people’s minds.

To conclude, we can say that the Youth Conference Program for the Middle East on Peace-Building and Overcoming Violence led us to reaffirm the absolute necessity of a regional, national and international mobilization within an intercultural action plan starting from now on. Let’s unite and fight for peace in the Middle East!

We believe that the Federation exists precisely to allow students and youth from around the world to learn from one another and together engage the most pressing issues and challenges of the times.

Today, WSCF with the students and youth play a role in communicating, interpreting, and providing leadership for the rapidly-unfolding developments in the Middle East.

WSCF succeeded to support our Christian students and youth in the region and to play a role in the future of Christianity – a future of ecumenism and understanding of peace for all in the Middle East.

The linking of the SCM and regional work with the larger WSCF community in creating explicit global platforms specifically for Middle East issues was an important strategic contribution in the renewal of the Ecumenical movement and in reshaping the WSCF in its engagement with the students and youth in the Middle East regions, by the grace of our Lord.

The Peace-Building and Overcoming Violence project allowed members of the WSCF to share their experience and knowledge of the youth in peace-building, providing valuable grassroots
voices from the ground to a worldwide audience. In two years, 100 SCM members compared the reporting in national and international media with their own experiences and research. In the final stages of the project, the members have become trainers on peace-building issues in their churches and communities. A draft curriculum of Peace-Building was established.

The project has been very successful in its operation by way of building reconciliation between young people from different contexts and countries. As a result of a diverse number of activities, they engaged in positive social changes, possessed improved capacity in leadership, and allowed young people to be socially recognized to a greater extent than they previously had been.

Young students from the WSCF in the Middle East and all over the world developed a position on how peace-building and violence prevention in the region, and especially in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, can be successful and committed to its implementation.

As recorded in a joint action plan/paper, 50 percent of WSCF-affiliated SCMs in the Middle East and over the entire world engage in events on dialogue processes, peace-building, and prevention of religiously-motivated violence.
WSCF’s Interfaith Dialogue Program aims to engage the Federation in creating and providing an interfaith platform for youth and students to dialogue and work with young people from other faiths on environmental, migration and refugee issues.

On the shores of Lake Constance in Lindau, Germany, the 10th World Assembly of Religions for Peace (RfP) was held from August 19-23 in Germany. Bringing together a thousand religious leaders from more than 120 countries, with media and government observers, the participants worked under the main theme, “Caring for our common future: Advancing in shared welfare”.

The theme was discussed in different working committees under the slogans: advancing in shared well-being through the promotion of positive peace; promoting fair and harmonious societies; the promotion and prevention of violent conflicts, the promotion of the search for an egalitarian and sustainable future; and the promotion of the care and protection of the land – turning the results for programmatic planning into the final five years of the Religions for Peace.

The youth pre-assembly was held on August 19 with the participation of more than 120 young people with a wide geographic and religious representation. The WSCF-LAC Regional Secretary and outgoing member of the International Youth Committee of Religions for Peace was charged with formally welcoming the assembly on behalf of the WSCF and the outgoing international Youth Committee. WSCF was in charge of moderating the election session and closing the pre-assembly, thus welcoming the new generation of members of the RfP international youth committee.

WSCF’s participation was active and broad throughout the assembly, which was officially held on August 20. The Federation developed different facilitations during the assembly, such as the moderation of the youth pre-assembly and elections of the youth committee, participation in the search committee of the new world committee on Religions for Peace, and the facilitation of the work sessions in the land protection commission. Representing WSCF in the World Assembly were Natia Tsindatle, regional secretary for Europe; Marcelo Leites, regional secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean and outgoing member of the International Youth Committee; Dianet Martinez, member of ExCo; Ilari Rankari, member of the WSCF Centennial Fund; and several Senior Friends, including Flavio Conrado from Brazil.

From 2013 to August 2019, WSCF-LAC, through its regional secretary, has been a member of the Religions for Peace International Youth Committee and moderator of the Latin American and Caribbean Interreligious Youth Network.

After several days of celebration, presentation of resistance cases, dialogues and examples of peace-building, analysis of contexts, keynote addresses and work sessions, the new World Committee of Religions for Peace was elected, as well as the new Secretary-General of the organization, Dr Azza Karam.
The Capacity-Building training with the title, “Challenge It! Exploring Approaches and Innovations for Combating Youth Extremism” took place in Utrecht, the Netherlands, November 1-7. The programme was implemented within the WSCF-Europe annual Work Plan, “Face it. Challenge it. Change it. Faith-based approach to prevent and counter youth extremism leading to violence in Europe” and hosted by the S.S.R.-N.U., WSCF-Europe member movement in the Netherlands.

The programme covered various aspects of how youth work can contribute in countering extremism leading to violence, and examine how youth work, especially faith-based approach in youth work, can increase the resilience of marginalised, vulnerable peer groups and communities in general.

The training gathered 20 participants coming from 13 different countries and involved the young people from the WSCF-Europe member movements and our partner organisation, Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO).

The programme of the training was built on non-formal education, making the learning process creative and diversified with the use of different methodologies such as plenary sessions, small group work, silent discussion, living library, echoing (Bible study), case studies, thematic workshops, and many more. The sessions were led by invited experts, WSCF-Europe Committee and staff members, resource persons from our network, and the participants themselves. The delegates were inspired to share the stories of their communities and their individual experiences, to take part in workshops and build a community of change-makers. Indeed, the programme achieved to create a strong network of active young leaders who received knowledge, competences and support to counteract extremism leading to violence in their countries and local contexts.

The training offered the participants concrete opportunities to raise awareness on human rights, advocacy and campaigning, community building, fundraising and partnership development. The week-long experience in Utrecht had a strong impact on their personal development, and on their sending SCMs and local communities. For better results and continuity of the programme, the participants were supported to create the follow-up activities in their local SCMs and communities. Very interesting projects were designed and the participants continued to inspire and encourage each other by keeping the contacts and communications through the social media platforms. Excited by this successful experience, WSCF-Europe committed to creating a platform...
with a high quantity of diverse and informative materials, campaigns, implemented projects, news, local actions and testimonials (the platform will be available in spring 2020).

The participants created a Joint Manifesto to call for justice and peace for all:

“As Christians, people of faith and men and women of goodwill, we cannot turn a blind eye to the problems of our age and we believe that keeping silence in this difficult hour would be a grave moral failing from our part. We seek to give voice to the voiceless and be a prophetic presence shining in an often dark world. It is for this reason that we ask you to take our proposals to heart and take our letter as a serious call to action from the concerned young people of Europe…”

“These reflections were developed in the context of religious and cultural sharing activities, and the program was enriched by contributions from various participants in specific parts of the training in which we shared our experiences and discussed what would be the best practices that lead to cooperation, intercultural exchange and interfaith dialogue. As a new generation, we aim to put them into action because we know that all of us will help to create a more open, diverse, interactive and critical young Europe.”

This programme was made possible by funding received from the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and the Otto Per Mille fund of the Waldensian Church in Italy.
National Scoping Study

Recognising the current reality where more and more young people carry rightwing extremist views about marginalised groups such as immigrants, refugees, religious and ethnic minorities, and LGBTQ+ communities; where widespread hate rhetoric and hate crimes have forced some marginalised groups to isolation and exclusion from mainstream society, leading to extremism in other forms and levels, WSCF-Europe decided to dedicate 2019 in identifying, preventing and combating extremism among young people utilizing a faith-based approach.

With this aim, the region conducted the National Scoping Study (NSS) on extremism leading to violence among young people and focused on responding to the question: What are we dealing with when it comes to radicalisation and extremism, including violent extremism in our societies?

The project aimed to identify and understand the factors contributing to extremism leading to violence among young people and explore how faith-based youth work, as one possible approach, can be used to prevent and tackle it.

Three specific objectives were identified:
- To provide a review of current situations in member countries as young people see and face reality;
- To identify areas where faith-based youth work can contribute to the root factors contributing to youth extremism leading to violence at local/national levels;
- To identify and showcase faith-based good practices which can inspire youth-led solutions at local, regional and national levels.

The project leadership team worked with young leaders from WSCF-Europe member movements to explore how young people make sense of and experience their locality and society more broadly when it comes to exclusion, radicalisation and extremism. Indeed, the scoping study helped us to identify:
- the factors contributing to extremism leading to violence;
- the role of religion;
- how faith-based youth work can contribute to prevent and tackle it.

The study covers the reality as perceived by young people in relation to extremism leading to violence in 16 different countries (Germany, UK, Ukraine, France, Kosovo, Belarus, France, Italy, Austria, Ireland, Finland, Greece, Georgia, the Netherlands, Hungary, and Spain). The findings were analysed by the leadership team and included in the final report. The study gives an additional contribution to the existing resources on the topic and help shape better mechanisms of combating youth extremism leading to violence in Europe.

ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE AT SCM ARGENTINA AND MY WORK ON FUNDAMENTALISMS

Hello everyone!

My name is Ailin Monti. I am 25 years old and I belong to a Protestant Evangelical Church in Argentina (Iglesia Evangélica del Rio de la Plata). Two years ago, I had the opportunity to meet WSCF, through its regional secretary, in a huge meeting that we held with the youth of my church. In that meeting, some of my colleagues and I learned about WSCF’s work and its identities, as well as the possibility of collaborating in the reactivation of the SCM in Argentina. Since then, I actively joined the work table and we started a campaign to reactivate the group, which was of great interest to me. We have been doing some meetings with the aim of continuing to add people to the work table, but above all, with the great need to come together and rethink ourselves as young Christians in a complex global and regional context.

The first year we held some meetings with the idea of introducing ourselves to everyone and presenting WSCF, while the second year we dedicated ourselves fully to think from a youth, Christian and Latin American perspective about fundamentalisms that are strongly prevailing and generating violence in the region.

In the meeting that we held in the first semester of 2019, we were able to work on fundamentalisms in a general sense with the help of theologians and communication specialists. After that, we dedicated ourselves to think strongly based on the study of the Bible about religious fundamentalisms, which are expanding very rapidly in the Argentinean society, setting agendas and mobilizing masses.

Personally, being part not only of the meeting itself but of the process of coordinating these meetings was very enriching. In the process, I was able to provide tools from what I theoretically learn in my professional training — as a popular educator — to the organization of the meetings and reciprocally learn from my colleagues.

I feel on a personal level that this space that finds us (the SCM), which is youthful and that has an ecumenical Christian perspective, not only provides us with tools to continue to rethink ourselves as young Christians today but also has a potential to influence in the public space that seems to me of fundamental need in a context where the majority Christian voices in the public space are voices that violate rights and shape behaviours from a moralization of behaviours.

For us, Jesus invites us to love and save each other, if there is someone who is left out, no one is saved.

I embrace you in Jesus Christ!

My name is Ailin Monti, I am 25 years old and I belong to a Protestant Evangelical Church in Argentina (Iglesia Evangélica del Rio de la Plata). Two years ago, I had the opportunity to meet WSCF, through its regional secretary, in a huge meeting that we held with the youth of my church. In that meeting, some of my colleagues and I learned about WSCF’s work and its identities, as well as the possibility of collaborating in the reactivation of the SCM in Argentina. Since then, I actively joined the work table and we started a campaign to reactivate the group, which was of great interest to me. We have been doing some meetings with the aim of continuing to add people to the work table, but above all, with the great need to come together and rethink ourselves as young Christians in a complex global and regional context.

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I embrace you in Jesus Christ!
The concluding project of the Annual Work Plan last year was the National Youth Initiatives on a variety of issues of local and national importance that contributed to tackling youth radicalisation and extremism leading to violence in Europe. Through this project, WSCF-Europe offered its member movements in the region to work on the ground and address the issues they identify as root causes of youth radicalisation and violent extremism. The youth-led initiatives were implemented in 4 countries (Ukraine, Germany, Belarus, and North Macedonia) and facilitated by the Campaigns Coordinator of the WSCF-Europe and by members of the SCMs, also in partnership with other faith-based youth organisations.

The results achieved with these youth-led initiatives show that a big number of young people were reached and engaged at local and national levels. The project was able to raise awareness among young people, stakeholders, and the wider public on youth radicalisation and violent extremism and their root causes. It also helped to support and provide opportunities to young people especially in the Eastern European countries to challenge and change youth extremism and the broader issues that lead to it.

All implemented activities proved that active Christian young people stand together to promote and celebrate diversity, equality and inclusion of marginalised groups, especially young people, as means of preventing extremism, discrimination and violence.

Together Towards Inclusion and Unity
NOVEMBER 17, STRUMICA, NORTH MACEDONIA

The first workshop was organised in Strumica, North Macedonia on November 17 and was focused on the topic of radicalisation, isolation and extremism and what young people do to address these issues in their communities. The topic was explored from a religious perspective and was particularly relevant for the participants as all of them came from different religious traditions and backgrounds. These young people live in a reality where major political, economic and social challenges and religious-based discrimination and exclusion the country is facing during the last years became even more vivid, often fueled by political motives.

The facilitators of the meeting encouraged young people to discuss their life experiences and at the same time to think positively. The meeting aimed at allowing the group to develop strategies and ideas of what they want to achieve together in order to focus on the things that unite them as religious young people. This allowed them to reflect and understand their role as Christian youth in their society. The participants came out with this message in a joint statement: “We want to eliminate and fight against extremism and all kinds of violence and radicalisation towards the minority groups and disadvantaged people.”
All pieces fit
NOVEMBER 23, BERLIN, GERMANY

The second workshop, “All pieces fit”, took place on November 23 in Berlin, Germany in cooperation with the European Christian LGBTQI+ Forum. The participants of the workshop were young people from the LGBTQI+ community and the young leaders who work with this group in their countries. Most of them came from Eastern European countries where isolation, exclusion, discrimination and violent extremism towards the minority groups are an everyday reality. The meeting was facilitated by the Campaign Coordinator of the WSCF-Europe and involved young people coming from Ukraine, Russia, Germany, Poland, Denmark, and England. During the workshop, participants reflected on what extremism is and the differences between extremism leading to violence, and on how can we explain the influencing factors of the process of radicalisation. The participants identified and worked on three different factors: individual relational factors, community/institutional factors, and ideological/religious factors.

The most important part of the discussion was the sharing of personal stories and experiences from the participants’ local communities. It was highlighted that even if realities vary in different European countries, the issues people face have the same or very similar contributing factors. This brought the group to the conclusion that more platforms should be created where young people can learn from each others’ experiences in dealing with youth radicalisation and extremism.

Anatomy of Extremism
NOVEMBER 30, KIEV, UKRAINE

Another youth-led initiative was organised in Kiev, Ukraine with the title, “Anatomy of Extremism”. The training aimed at exploring the difference between notions – extremism, extremism leading to violence, radicalism, and populism – and to understand their meaning in the Ukrainian context. The meeting gathered 15 young people and was guided by the guest speaker who is an expert in human rights education. The participants watched a few episodes of national news where each of them mentioned the word “extremism” in different situations. The cases involved right-wing radicalism towards different political parties, aggression towards feminism, and discrimination and violence against different religious groups. All those cases showed a wide range of emotions and different levels of violent actions – from moral pressing, hate speech, and insults, to the destruction of buildings and murders.

At the end of the training, all the participants had a task to create communication strategies on how to inform young people and the older generation (different social groups) about extremism leading to violence and how to prevent it.

Religion and Violence
DECEMBER 21-23, MINSK, BELARUS

The WSCF-Europe Student Christian Movement in Belarus hosted a seminar and engaged young people in critical reflection on the topics of violence and fundamentalism as part of their theological discourse and how fundamentalism and extremism, especially among young people, lead to violence. The participants also reflected on what the negative role of religion and the church is, and what can be their positive role.

The topics discussed during the seminar were important and relevant for the young theologians and members of the ecumenical movement in the country. It is not a popular topic of theological and political reflection in Belarus to see the church itself with its doctrines (including different interpretations), practices and structures as a part of the problem. This may lead to the situation of hate-speech in the name of Love of God, situations of oppression in the church itself, or when in public debates and important cases of violence in Belarus, major churches take the side of oppressors, perpetrators, and government, and not the democratic activists. Major concerns presented also included how the Church is silent or not outspoken on the issue of the death penalty or repressions against minorities. The participants also discussed the role of the Church in gender equality and against domestic violence. “It is time to question ourselves, our communities and our leaders, and that is the task of young people as Christians to provide a critical reflection, as well as to detect the main problem areas in the context of Belarusian society,” said the facilitator of the seminar.

As a result of the seminar, the group created a list of problems and cases that are important for Belarusian society and what young people can do in certain cases as NGOs and churches. Another interesting output of the seminar was a visual project on the issues of religion, extremism, fundamentalism and violence. These illustrations were included in the WSCF-Europe ecumenical journal Mozaik, which last year was dedicated to the topics of the Work Plan.
In 2019, WSCF formed a Bible and Theology Commission (BTC) with the aim of building strong theological expertise among member movements and deepen their understanding of biblical work within the Federation. Specifically, the commission will ensure that Bible and theology activities will run through the General Assembly (GA) where Bible studies and worship life of the GA are integrated. It also aims to build the capacity of SCM leaders in leading Bible studies; develop Bible study themes and guide the development of tools and mechanisms that will bring back to the mainstream of WSCF the expertise in Bible and theology for members; and develop partnerships for Bible study and theology with theological institutions.

The commission held its first three-day consultation meeting on June 8-15 at Hotel Rantapuisto in Helsinki, Finland to help prepare for the WSCF General Assembly which was scheduled to take place in Berlin, Germany on June 4-11, 2020. The participants to this meeting were drawn from across the globe based on their long experience in WSCF and SCMs and expertise in Bible and theology.

At the meeting, the commission unanimously elected Rev Dr Kangwa Mubuluki from Zambia as its first moderator. Rev Mabukuli is the general secretary of All Africa Theological Education by Extension Association (AATEEA) and former WSCF co-secretary general and WSCF Africa regional secretary.
During the three-day meeting, the members explored the various issues and perspectives surrounding the Bible and theology within WSCF and the SCMs. The meeting had 11 sessions for discussions, presentations, story-sharing, Bible studies and worship with each session addressing a specific agenda and several other topics. Each session had a resource person identified to lead the reflection of the topic with the General Assembly theme, “Rejoice in Hope”, dwelling on the experience, lessons and testimonials from other people in their respective regions.

The commission proposed that the spiritual life of the Assembly be integrated into the business and work of the GA. It begins with a worship service acknowledging one baptism in Christ symbolized by water, and concludes with a thanksgiving celebration and worship symbolized by bread and wine. Daily worships and Bible studies will focus on themes on climate and ecological justice, social justice, peace-building and reconciliation and secularization, with images and symbols to bring the community together. The highlight of the day will be stories of hope from the margins narrated by young people on the daily theme from various parts of the world, and Taize prayers at the end of each day.

The commission members who attended the consultation meeting were Bishop Geevarghese Coorilos from India, Peter Ciaccio from Italy, Rev Kangwa Mubuluki from Zambia, Fr Nehme Saliba from Lebanon, Sheryl Johnson from Canada, Dianet Martinez Valdés from Cuba, Necta Montes (WSCF general secretary), Christopher Chimangeni (global director for Bible and Theology Program), Salters Sterling (chairperson, Centennial Fund), Irali Rantakari (host and member of Centennial Fund), and Bruce Rigdon (core team member) who attended through Skype from the USA. WSCF is scheduled to hold its 37th General Assembly on June 4-11, 2020 in Berlin, Germany. The GA is the most representative and highest-policy making body of the Federation and it convenes once every four years. The forthcoming GA will review and assess the situation of the member movements, regions, the work of the Executive Committee and the worldwide Federation. It shall consider the ideas, problems and aspirations of the member movements and regions, and determine objectives and priorities of the Federation’s programme and policy in the ensuing period, with full recognition both of the diversity of the Movements composing the Federation and of the changing situation in the world.

WSCF has actively been participating as a member Reference Group (RG) for the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (PJP), a commission that was the result of the World Council of Churches Assembly in Busan (2013). Since 2016, the RG has met yearly, rotating through regions – Palestine in 2016, Nigeria in 2017, Colombia in 2018, Thailand in 2019, and Fiji in 2020. In 2021, the last meeting before the WCC Assembly in Germany, the PJP will be meeting in Winnipeg, Canada.

Along the journey, four core themes have been examined: land and displacement, truth and trauma, racial justice, and gender justice. The core purpose is that of solidarity, to learn how to walk with those in need of justice and peace. As we journey, it is the priority of the RG to meet with those who live on the edges of the world, the displaced, the impacted, the forgotten. Along the way, we have been sure to visit member churches, NGOs, and indigenous communities. We ensure the inclusion of women, children, and other vulnerable voices.

As a young member of the PJP, I have been able to advocate for the team visits to include interactions with children and youth, engage SCMs and WSCF senior friends along the way, as well as highlight and recommend needed areas for further exploration. For example, this year in Suva, Fiji, I brought to the floor the recommendation that the areas of eco-grief and youth (mental health impacts of climate change), and the rising need to examine the connection of reproductive rights and climate change both be included in the 2021 programming in Canada.

On a personal level, my interactions with the PJP RG have changed how I view the world. I have studied impacts of stateless and forced migration as a result of pilgrim visits to refugee camps, developed my language and capacity in humanitarian diplomacy, and have rooted my compassion to active and intersectional. Further, I have been deeply embraced by an ecumenical family that has been woven into my faith. This will walk with me for the rest of my life, and I am grateful.
WSCF Africa region had its first Africa Regional Committee (ARC) meeting after six years. The ARC is the region’s highest decision-making body and it is held every two years or within four years. The ARC is also mandated to explore and discuss various political and social issues in the region. It is at the ARC meeting that new executives are elected for the Africa Region. It is also during this meeting that reports from various National Movements are presented and analysed, including recommending the affiliation or association of other movements that wish to do so. The meeting was held at the Divine Love Retreat and Conference Centre (DRACC), Sabo-Iugbe, Abuja FCT, Nigeria from December 2-6. The theme of the ARC was “Rejoice in Hope” (Romans 12:12): Young People, Journeying Together Towards Justice and Peace, which is also the theme for the 37th WSCF General Assembly to take place from June 4-11, 2020 in Zwinglikerk, Berlin, Germany.

Meeting with the United Church of Canada (UCC)

The WSCF Africa regional staff had a meeting with Rev. Japhet Ndhlouv, the UCC contact person in the Southern part of Africa. It was agreed at the meeting, which mainly dealt with administrative matters, that the partnership between UCC and WSCF Africa went on well enough for it to move on. The region’s programme was also discussed, which the UCC agreed to continue to support. Rev. Ndhlouv said WSCF Africa region’s contact person from UCC is Wendy Gichuru with her assistant Josie Forcadilla.
Administration

COMMUNICATION

- Maintained the SCM leaders’ Whatsapp group by updating and engaging them on pertinent issues around their movements and the region
- More frequent updating in social media, especially our Facebook page
- Issued statements on diverse issues based on the requirements of the situation and SCM members
- Updated the mailing list to guide new leaders

OUTPUT AND OUTCOMES

- Made efforts to have new and old partners for continued partnership and kept them informed of the current situation with meetings to reconnect and request for support
- Coordinated and developed communications and social media postings
- Updated SCMs regarding activities of WSCF-AF Region
- Actively sought additional sources of funding for training and the Federation

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Financial challenges hampered the running of the regional office as expected and visit movements as planned
- Some SCMs have experienced leadership crisis while some were not active, making the number of active SCMs go down
- Some SCMs have new leaders who assumed positions without proper handover, hence the need for regional or sub-regional leadership training
PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

With an increasing number of GBV reported cases, SCM of Namibia marched calling for peace and unity amongst others. A peaceful demonstration was held to sympathize with the community after citizens were killed during a brutal shooting by the Namibian Defence Force.

The SCM of Namibia has vowed not to watch from a distance while its community suffer and experience immoral treatment, especially the vulnerable and marginalised women and children. SCM shall stand, walk, run the talk, and be the voice of the voiceless. With the society that has become so evil, we SCM shall strive for the betterment of our people and embark on the journey of bringing people close to God the Creator. SCM Namibia is committed to making Jesus King.

During the annual conference held on October 4-6, the group marched to the streets of Outapi Town to advocate for peace for all and create awareness on Gender-Based Violence. The convoy was led by the Namibian Police Force.

THE EASTERN REGION EDUCATIONAL TOUR

SCM of Namibia continues to strive towards making Jesus King. Focusing on the theme of “Peace-Building”, learners and students were encouraged to partake into discussions and knowledge testing and promote creativity through song composition. Branches were involved in educational tours all over the country visiting areas with mining, marine, industrial sectors and nature conservancies. The two branches namely, Andimba Toivo yaToivo SS and Rev Juuso Shikongo SS SCM, held an educational tour to the coast (Swakopmund and Walvis Bay) on November 25 to December 1. The tour had 65 learners and three branch presidents and they were accommodated at the Owato Lutheran Parish in Swakopmund.
In commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism last year that took place from the 25th of November to the 16th of December, 2019, we conducted an interactive panel discussion with students and youths from local schools and tertiary institutions who echoed their views and understanding on issues regarding violence against women. In the discussion, they expressed deep concern about gender issues they come across in their institutions. Hence they took the opportunity to call for the elimination of any form of violence against women in solidarity with the rest of the world. The program was streamed live, therefore, had other participants join and participate online on the SCM Zimbabwe Facebook page. After the session, there was a screening of the movie called Lobola that spoke to the circumstances African women go through in our society.

Students were excited with the engagement and interaction about such issues they experience. The participants gained a broader understanding of the essence of the commemoration of the day. They also gained knowledge sharing experiences from vast backgrounds on the abuses women in our communities face. Students got well informed on human rights and are now more conscious of how they should treat girls and women in society and their homes. In a recommendation to raise more awareness, participants were given the platform to talk to others, e.g., SCMZ facilitating more frequent discussions, dialogues and campaigns on such topics including other topical issues/SDGs. The deliberations brought about some ideas and recommendations to curb such problems in tertiary institutions.

Social issues, such as gender, equality, and equity affect students and young people in general. As a result, it is important to start looking at measures and ways to assist students. This will create conducive environments for them in their academic space. Students will, in turn, be able to exist among each other without social issues that increase disparities, negligence, intolerance and hate. It is of utmost importance that institutions alongside the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education and civil society organisations set aside funds that will be of use to come up with concrete initiatives to bridge these gaps.

SCM Zimbabwe planning meeting for the 16 Days of Activism

REPORT ON THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
(25 NOVEMBER - 16 DECEMBER 2019)

SCM Zimbabwe's vision envisions “a just, peaceful and transparent society in which young people enjoy equitable resource allocation and equal opportunities in education, career guidance and employment.” Under the same vision, 2019 was a year in which we engaged young people within various tertiary institutions to curb the wave of gender-based violence. This is to promote the inclusion of women in the education sector as well as promote gender equality and equity in tertiary institutions. The main goal for such an agenda is to decolonise the minds of young people who believe in the patriarchy where women should be submissive to men in all aspects of their lives.

The meetings were also attended by various religious and traditional leaders. The leaders who were present avowed to give the young people all the necessary support they would need in this endeavour.
REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Europe

WSCF-Europe believes that faith helps young people to become the best they can be. This ultimately means to promote, protect and serve just, peaceful and inclusive societies through empathy, respect and love for each other. As a Christian youth movement, WSCF-Europe is committed to supporting young people across the continent, not only to practice their religions freely but also in respect to the rights of others in a diverse and inclusive society.

WSCF-Europe does this with and through its network of Student Christian Movements across Europe and partner organisations from other faith-based and secular organisations. It looks to work with young people who wouldn’t otherwise have access to the kind of opportunities it offers.

Specific Regional Priorities:
Human Rights Education and Advocacy

RIP Multi-religious and Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Peace and Development
Many young people across Europe are denied their basic human rights, including the right to freedom of religion and education. Promoting human rights education among disadvantaged youth remains one of WSCF’s strategic priorities in Europe which ties closely with all our global priorities. WSCF-Europe continues to progress on this agenda through direct delivery of human rights education trainings as well as high-level advocacy work in promoting access to these opportunities for disadvantaged youth.

Natia Tsintsadze, WSCF regional executive in Europe and programme director for Interfaith Dialogue, represented the Federation at meetings and working groups dedicated to advancing human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination. WSCF-Europe built even closer collaboration with the Conference of European Churches in the area of human rights by contributing to the Summer School on Human Rights (June 17-21 in Lisbon, Portugal) and the Conference on Human Rights (October 17-19 in Malaga, Spain). It strengthened the role and engagement of the Christian youth in the Religions for Peace (RfP) global network as being part of the RfP Global Assembly (August 19-23 in Lindau, Germany), contributed to the Multi-religious and Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Peace and Development meeting (December 11-13 in New York, USA), and became a member of the Religions for Peace Europe Steering Committee (October 23-23 in Rome, Italy). WSCF-Europe encouraged faith-based youth organisations to take an active role with it in building more inclusive and liberal societies with a shared commitment to human dignity. This commitment brought WSCF-Europe to lead the renewal of the Interfaith Youth Network in Europe (since August 2019) and to meaningful collaboration with the Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisation (November in Utrecht, Netherlands).
WSCF European Regional Committee meeting
APRIL 25–28
MALENTE, GERMANY

WSCF-Europe started the year with a meeting of the European Regional Committee and staff, which took place between April 25–28, in Malente, Germany. The meeting aimed to discuss issues facing the region and to plan activities for the rest of the year. The team also discussed ways of strengthening the relationship of WSCF-Europe with its affiliated and associated Student Christian Movements (SCMs), and in improving its fundraising and communications.
Between October 3-8, delegates of Student Christian Movements (SCMs) from across Europe, WSCF-Europe committee and staff members, and WSCF-Europe partners and Senior Friends, gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the 2019 European Regional Assembly.

The Assembly discussed and voted on the future of the Federation, including voting on amendments to the WSCF-Europe By-Laws, voting the new European Regional Committee (ERC) that will lead the activity of the organisation for the next two years, and discussing topics and activities that WSCF-Europe could explore over the next two years. The Assembly was happy to elect a new ERC composed of both old and new WSCF-Europe members.

Apart from performing the main functions of the Assembly, attendees have also participated in a series of sessions focused on improving the dialogue and connections between WSCF-Europe and different affiliated and associated SCMs, and also between SCMs themselves.

The delegates discussed how to improve communication between WSCF-Europe and SCMs, how to work closely to organise events and run campaigns, and what kind of support they would like WSCF-Europe to offer to the movements. They also joined workshops on topics such as climate change, social action, theology, and interfaith dialogue.

The host movement, YMCA Denmark, also invited the delegates to a local event, a discussion on “Christianity in Denmark”. The panel of the discussion was formed by former WSCF Europe chair Zuzana Babicova, Rasmus Jensen from the Grundtvigsk Forum, and Mikkel Gabriel Christoffersen from the Danmarks Kristelige Gymnasiastbevægelse.

Additionally, the delegates heard from representatives of WSCF partner organisations, including Torsten Morten from the Churches’ Commission for Migrants in Europe, Joy Eva Bohol from the World Council of Churches, and Angelita Tomaselli from the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe. They discussed the activity of the organisations they were representing over the next year, opportunities for young people to get involved, and opportunities for partnerships.

Overall, the Assembly was successful in setting the ground for WSCF-Europe’s activity in the next few years. Organising the event was made possible by funding from donors and the European Commission.
The FGEI-Youth Protestant Federation in Italy has started a reflection about bodies and gender-related topics since the General Assembly that took place in April 2016. We organized a study session on “Corporeity” in 2017, with a particular focus on the following aspects: emotional sensitivity, sexuality and affectivity. We also developed a reflection on excluded bodies from a biblical perspective, paying attention to the fact that every individual in their own body is a unique and beautiful creature to the eyes of God. We are convinced it is essential to continue questioning gender identity and sexual orientation issues, mainly dealing with the dimension of corporeality, reflecting on how it affects and influences interpersonal relationships within our Federation, Church and society. We analyzed furthermore the subject from three different perspectives: political, theological and cultural.

During our last General Assembly, which took place in December 2018, we decided to continue on this path given the importance of the call addressed to Christians to take sides with the least among us on Earth and considered as extremely worrying the atmosphere of systematic violence perpetrated at all levels, starting from the institutional one, towards people belonging to the LGBTQI+ community.

We are aware of the cultural context that reproduces situations of gender violence and homotransphobia, and the Federation strongly rejects the culture of silence, which only increases discrimination. The General Assembly has recalled the urgency of a word and an action that are prophetic in building a life, which can be free from violence, perceiving the even more current danger caused by praising a heteronormative family and a relational system, which increase public hatred and indifference.

That such violence occurs on subjects that too often do not find support and listening in their context reiterates the importance that the spaces we create and promote in being together are therapeutic and healing in the line of the Gospel, restoring dignity and rights to all people.

We are aware that this system is implicitly part of our way of thinking, and that only from the relationship and the dialogue with other human beings can arise a real transforming process. To stimulate members of the Federation, groups or youth centres to reflect on the dynamics of the interactions and relationships, we have established a small task force. This team is charged to collect, produce and spread content and initiatives regarding LGBTQI+ issues. The hard work of this group has resulted in the undertaking called “Giovedì Queer” (Queer Thursday): every third Thursday you can find on our website and social media a new article or new suggestions to continue the reflection on this topic. Everyone can send his/her contribution and we hope that can be a way to keep reflecting and proceed with the commitment for the construction of safe spaces, the building of an environment made of listening and inclusion, where everyone can find support and mutual respect.

Hello everyone, I am Sarah, a 22-year-old student from Paderborn, Germany. As I’m studying philosophy and theology at my home university, I got in contact with SCM Germany. At their yearly assembly in 2018, I got elected to take part in the WSCF-Europe events and to be a voting member at the European Regional Assembly (ERA) in October 2019 in Copenhagen. This assembly was my first link with the organization.

Even though many formal decisions and events had to happen at the ERA, it was an exciting, interesting and inviting time too. I’ve met new people from different denominations and cultural backgrounds and experienced a time full of ecumenical and spiritual impact. That is why I eventually decided to become more involved with this organization by doing an internship in February and March 2020 in Trento, Italy, the location of the European office.

By supporting the European Regional Committee (ERC) and Natia Tsintsadze, the regional secretary of WSCF-Europe, I hope to help realize some of the upcoming projects at the Study Session in Budapest in May 2020 or the General Assembly in June 2020. There are some personal tasks and projects too which I’m aiming to realize during my stay. From my internship, I expect to gain a better insight into the structure and work of a Christian NGO, gaining new experience in international and interfaith work and also hope to improve my language skills.
The regional priorities during 2019 were framed in the intersectional work of three programs: Ecojustice, Peace and Interreligious Cooperation (this from the programmatic point of view), and also in the configuration of new emerging contextual themes such as the situation with the status of democracy, human rights, and the role of fundamentalism in the whole region. For the Federation in Latin America, it is difficult to separate or delimit the themes into different programs, since intersectionality is key to understanding the complexities of
REGIONAL PROGRAMS
Latin America and the Caribbean

everything that is going on in the region. On the other hand, although issues related to ecological and economic justice and peace-building have been a very important focus, inter-religious cooperation for the region is one of the approaches that allow WSCF-LAC to disseminate and deepen the topic from other traditions and mobilize resources and youth awareness.

It is also true that in addition to program priorities, there are WSCF institutional or internal priorities as well as contextual priorities of the external environment. An example of this has to do with how the context affects the lives of people, youth, women, and the most vulnerable. Changes in geopolitics and the advance of fundamentalist religion, politics, and economics in the region since the end of 2014 have created new ways and narratives that are imposed on the vast majority and attempt against the human, social, political, economic and environmental rights agenda.

The internal environment has been key too. WSCF has been working for years in the construction of its identity and the sense of belonging; in this way, WSCF-LAC understood that the development of greater youth commitment and greater identity construction will enable spaces for active participation for the members of the region.

The context has set priorities at different levels, the external context, the internal context, and the programs developed have been in constant dialogue.

It is important to mention that the idea of WSCF as a space that mobilizes international solidarity and critically reflects on its context has been key in the development and underpinning of new leaders. These leaders will be part of the transition in the governance of the Federation assuming new regional and global leadership roles with a clear perspective of what is WSCF, its history and its commitments for a fairer world for all.

EXPECTED RESULTS OF 2019

- **Institutionality strengthened:** The institutionality and capacities of the Federation were strengthened through multiple governance meetings that included the national, regional, and global levels. In this way, WSCF enters 2020 prepared for the transition and the new strategic plan for the Assemblies.

- **Leadership renewed and committed to change:** The dynamics of WSCF youth leaderships were strengthened and the work of the SCMs and the Region was made visible through a work aimed at identity, the sense of belonging in order to consolidate youth teams that assume the transition of government in 2020.

- **Consolidated alliances:** New strategic alliances created that made WSCF visible in the ecumenical and interreligious arenas at the regional and global levels.

CONTEXTS AND NEW PROPOSALS TO TAKE IN THE NEXT DECADE

Inputs and consultations were created to better understand the context in which the region lives, politically, socially and economically, and ways to follow were established to influence the Human Rights agenda against fundamentalisms, an area that will be developed from 2020 on a regional and global level.

MILESTONES OF THE REGION IN THE ANNUAL PROGRAMS

- Creating identity spaces in WSCF-LAC and senses of belonging
- Formation of a regional ecojustice team, which can also be established as a community of practice
- The organization, coordination, and programming of the capacity development workshop on climate incidence organized together with ACT Alliance
- WSCF-LAC as articulator/moderator of the regional Ecumenical Articulation in climate negotiations
- Articulation of the delegation of SCMers at COP25, first in Chile and then in Madrid
- Construction of new regional networks and strengthening of global cooperation and coordination networks
- Greater positioning and visibility among the regional and global ecumenical community through jointly managed events and facilitation of regional events such as the global consultation on Latin America, where WSCF played the role of facilitator of the Regional Roadmap
- Management of new emerging contextual issues: Fundamentalisms, Human Rights and Democracy – which have begun to work with students as well as with other organizations
- Further strengthening of regional governance towards the transition of the new leadership and in the positioning of the Federation's global agendas: General Assembly, New Staff Model and Roadmap of the 2020-2024 strategic plan through virtual and face-to-face meetings in the three regional levels (SCMs, ExCo members and the Board of Directors)
- SCMs reactivated in previous years, more consolidated and self-managed

**PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

**Related to office capacities and institutional development to bring and fundraise bigger funding, from different and diverse funders:**
Corrective actions were related to new partnerships aiming financial support for office capacities and program development.

**Lack of resources to visit the SCMs:**
Many SCMs have not been visited and accompanied in the way WSCF-LAC would have wanted. To correct that, one solution is more funding capacity. As a corrective action, WSCF
has developed a webinar system to have bi-monthly meetings with WSCF-LAC SCM coordinators to accompany them, exchange ideas, and plan actions together.

**Loss of money and partial cancellation of one of the programs:** Since the unexpected cancellation of the COP25 in Chile and the change of venue, WSCF-LAC prepared, coordinated and organized a group of student members of the Ecojustice Team in LAC to be in Santiago, organizing parallel activities with the youth at the COP25 and being part of the advocacy capacitation and training. The government of Chile unilaterally cancelled all international meetings due to the uprising movement against neoliberal policies. After the change of venue from Santiago de Chile to Madrid, Spain, WSCF-LAC got new resources and managed to bring to the COP a smaller delegation. However, around 1,980 USD has been lost in cases where some international, national and regional organizations already had planned bookings and flights to Santiago, even when WSCF expedited and negotiated accommodation expenditures to avoid payment. This situation was an international situation far beyond WSCF-LAC’s control. The partners who supported also understood and cooperated for the new process with the delegation in Madrid.

Fundamentalism Workshop, Buenos Aires, Argentina
In the complex situation and context of the Middle East region, working with youth from different church denominations and countries is the mission undertaken by WSCF-ME. Such task aims at building a Church committed to justice and peace and for change and transformation for a better world.

It is in areas of on-going conflicts that Christian young men and women need to come together to learn, share and exchange experiences so that they may become conscious and capable leaders who can, through their active involvement in Church and community, build hope and pave the way to change and transformation in their own lives and the life of their churches, communities and the society at large, thus contributing to the development of the Universal Church.

WSCF in the Middle East region brings light and hope to Arab Christian communities living in the Arab world, a light that can spread further and beyond to reach the Arab society at large.

Activities implemented under program priorities are specific and relevant to the Middle East region and are centred on the different needs of the youth within the region, such as:

- Women Program Conference
- Ecumenical Institute for the Middle East
- Muslim-Christian Dialogue Conference
- Leadership Training Programs
- Peace Building Conference – Ayia Napa
- Capacity Building Training for the Youths in Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Sudan
REGIONAL PROGRAMS
Middle East

Prayer Week for the Unity of the Church: “Justice and only Justice you shall pursue”, February 15, Cairo, Egypt

Easter Celebration: “Let us Rejoice Together in Resurrection”, May 4, Mekalles, Lebanon
WSCF-ME programs and activities come to question, respond and address the many issues of concern to young people, men and women alike in the region, so that they may explore the possibilities for a better future in which they have their share and role to play. WSCF-ME programs are the sole youth ecumenical platform that empowers youth.

The most important milestone for 2019 is the growing number of participants as well as the higher level of discussions and commitment. Also, it shall be noted that the impact of those programs transcend participants to reach their peers and other church members, making WSCF-ME work notable and more appealing. WSCF-ME is being a great witness of the Christ and ecumenism in the region especially in these times of despair, financial problems and security issues. Its programs were continued with much more dedication and participation, enabling and empowering the youth in the region to become Christ’s witnesses in this land: as He said in Matthew 2:2, “We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

THE PALESTINE EXPERIENCE

As a student of International Relations and Diplomacy with a keen interest in world geopolitics, I must admit that this article has been a challenge for me to put down. I struggle with words to use, trying to restrict myself from using strong words as well as very strong emotions from what I experienced recently in Palestine. Through the World Student Christian Federation, I got a chance to visit Palestine for the Waisers Palestine 10th anniversary international conference as an SCM'er. This trip would have me visit Bethlehem and the larger part of the West Bank. I have been following and reading on the occupation for close to a year now and the opportunity to visit and experience the situation firsthand was big for me since I come from a region where most ecumenical movements have no idea or have little information as to what is happening, with most churches Zionists in nature.

However, what I saw is truly heartbreakingly inhuman, far from what I have read, to the say the least. It took me a while to try and come up with this write-up without being emotional.

My entry into Israel was a real hustle having waited for close to six hours to get clearance at the border control despite having a visa. Initially, I thought these were just security measures and clearances but when it took two hours without a word or any information from the agents, I got concerned. I asked around only to find out that getting into the West Bank had brought me all this trouble. At some point in my six-hour wait, I even contemplated booking my ticket back home but the group with me gave me hope to wait it out. I finally got called into the office and was questioned thoroughly. They eventually gave me a one-week permit despite having a three-month visa. I recall saying to myself: good riddance, if this gets me out of this place, I’ll take it. My experience at the airport was terrible, having landed at 8:15 PM and getting cleared at 1:45 AM, and this for me was the beginning of the red flag. All the same, I was glad it was over.

My airport transfer had left at this point and I had to wait for them to come to pick me up again. On my trip to Bethlehem, I had conversations with the taxi driver and his friend and told them of the terrible experience I had had at the airport. I remember telling them that I would not be coming back to Israel ever again, and though they had no hand in it, one of them empathized and apologized in a truly heartwarming way, even promising to be the one to come pick me up at the airport on my next trip. At this point, I was surprised by the kindness of these gentlemen who were Palestinian. These are people oppressed but here they are comforting me; at some point, I even felt guilty. In our conversations with the driver, I learnt that there are designated lanes for Palestinians and Israelis on the highway that must be strictly adhered to and failure to do so gets them into trouble with the authorities. They even have cameras monitoring the traffic flow.

Listening to the challenges and frustrations of the Palestinian people was very difficult, emotive and causing me to feel anger. What I had been reading before this trip was nothing compared to the actual atrocities committed on the people that I saw. It was nothing compared to what I saw and heard in my stay in the West Bank, from the mistreatment of the people and massive abuse of human rights to the degradation of human dignity.

The situation in Hebron was particularly disturbing and heartbreakingly. While driving into the town, we came across signs erected by the roadside saying that it is illegal for Jewish people to go beyond that zone under Israeli law, yet somehow we found Jewish people not only moving around but also living in the settlements with the protection of the Israeli army. How is it that they blatantly managed to break their own rule and the zones agreement by moving in and establishing settlements? Where are Palestinians supposed to go when their homes are grabbed and stolen from them, with Jewish families moving into them under military protection? Children and old people are being kicked out of their homes through military force, natural resources such as water are controlled and rationed to them three times a week, even though the Jewish settlements have water running all through.

At the separation wall, we saw rubber bullets littered on the streets. I have never seen rubber bullets this big before and I could only imagine the impact they have on the protestors hurt by them. Moving around the market in Hebron we noticed erected shields above the shops to protect the Palestinian traders from objects thrown at them from the occupied settlements. Unfortunately, the shields cannot protect them from liquid substances thrown at them while the military watches from their towers and do nothing about it. How a people once humiliated and mistreated before then come and commit such heinous acts on others is appalling.

At the numerous checkpoints we crossed, the hatred and detest for the Palestinians by the Israelis was evident in the aggressive and inhuman manner they handled them. More shocking was the fact that some Palestinians had to go through checkpoints just to get to their homes that are theirs by right, yet somehow that right is restricted and controlled for them. It is heartbreaking that still at this time, such hatred and apartheid is going on while the world watches. Even worse, some groups such as the Zionists back home are validating the occupation and other atrocities. The Palestinians are treated so badly and in bad taste as if intent to dehumanize them so that they finally give up and leave. But they live on in hope and faith. Where would they live? This has been their land, born and raised in it. At what point does denying basic human rights such as access to water, lanes separating roads for specific users, denial of freedom of movement, and illegal control and seize of natural resources belonging to a people become normalized? All these questions lingered in my head as I listened and watched the devastating situations in the West Bank.

Despite all these atrocities of going through hatred, denial and abuse of their human rights, being stateless among others, the many Palestinians I met and engaged with were very warm at heart and hospitable. They have no hatred for their oppressors and only ask and hope that someday they will be treated as human beings and will be accorded their rights and have their land back. To the many friends I have made and to the Palestinian people, my hope remains that things will change for you at the end of it all. It is our imperative as human beings to spread love and be compassionate to one another and treat all with dignity and respect irrespective of our race, religion, nationality or identity, for it does not cost anything to be kind to others. As the scripture teaches us, let us always do unto others what we would have them do unto us.
With the support from the US Trustees, the WSCF Staff and Officers Meeting was held in Berlin, Germany from February 28 to March 6.

The meeting was attended by two WSCF global officers, honorary treasurer Bronwyn Claire and co-vice chairperson Immanuel Kitnan; Necta Montes, general secretary; Jean Luc de la Soujeoule, finance officer; Sunita Suna, AP executive and IDD program director; Marcelo Leites, LAC executive and Ecojustice Program director; Natia Tsintsadze, Europe executive and Interfaith Dialogue program director; Christopher Chimangeni, Africa executive and Bible and Theology program director; Mira Niaemeh, in-coming ME executive and Peace-Building program director; and Anette Klinke, ESG staff. Apologies were sent by Georgine Kengne Djeutane, chairperson and Salma Charaf, co-vice chairperson due to health reasons and prior engagement.
OBJECTIVES

1. Provide space for WSCF leadership to identify and assess major historical, structural (governance and operational) and organization system issues affecting the life and work of WSCF today.

2. Develop a common understanding and analysis of these issues and identify common priorities until the next General Assembly and beyond.

3. Evaluate and assess the three-year transition period (2016-2018); identify weaknesses and strengths; envision new, effective and relevant structure and systems for WSCF for the GA’s consideration.

4. Develop the framework for the new WSCF Strategic Plan 2020-2024 for the General Assembly’s approval.

5. Finalize WSCF global consolidated Annual Plan and Budget for 2019 and preliminary program plans for 2020.

6. Finalize WSCF 2020 General Assembly content, methodology and operational plan and structure.
Preparations for the WSCF 37th Assembly was in full swing in 2019. The Assembly Planning Committee (APC) formed by the Executive Committee in July 2018 met regularly online to discuss the details of the preparations for the GA. Parallel to this, the GA Local Host Committee composed of Eva Simonetti-Wanke, students pastor in Erlangen; Annette Klinke, ESG international exchange coordinator; Christiane Gebauer, theology student/ WSCF programme coordinator; Necta Montes, WSCF general secretary; Natia Tsintsadze, WSCF-E regional secretary; Heike Steller-Gül, ESG Berlin; and Kyra Waldhoefer, WSCF GA support staff at ESG.

The GA Local Host met twice in 2019 to plan the details of hosting the Assembly in Berlin. The first meeting was held on July 5-7 at the Sophienhof YWCA in Berlin with the following agenda: orientation about the WSCF General Assembly, theme and objectives, GA program content and timetable, and WSCF Senior Friend Event at the GA. The group discussed the role and function of the GA Local Host Committee, what needs to be prepared, and appointed Anette Klinke as the coordinator of the GA Local Host Committee. The group also visited the Oestkruez Youth Hostel, the accommodation of the GA and Zwinglikirche, the venue of the GA. A meeting with the German Foreign Ministry office was also arranged to discuss the visa and other formalities of hosting the GA.

On November 15-18, the Local Host Committee had its second meeting in Berlin. The group discussed updates from the WSCF Assembly Planning Committee on the GA program, timetable and delegates, the finalization of the GA budget, fundraising, planning for the Stewards Program, the 125th Year Celebration at Sophienhof, the Exposure Day with SCM Berlin, the Worship Team Meeting, logistics support for the Senior Friends Gathering, the decision for Translation Support Work, and the Schengen Visa process and procedure. The group planned to have its final meeting in March 2020.
### Global Leadership and Staff

#### Officers

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chairperson</strong></td>
<td>Georgine Kengne Djeutane</td>
<td>(Cameroon), Evangelical Reformed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vice-Chairpersons</strong></td>
<td>Immanuel Gopala Kitnan</td>
<td>(Sri Lanka), Anglican</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vice-Chairpersons</strong></td>
<td>Salma Charaf</td>
<td>(France), Orthodox</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Honorary Treasurer</strong></td>
<td>Bronwyn Claire</td>
<td>(Australia), Anglican</td>
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#### Executive Committee

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<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
<td>Lydia Nabunya</td>
<td>(Uganda), Anglican [RESIGNED]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
<td>Isatu Ville Cheeks</td>
<td>(Liberia), Episcopal [PROXY]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
<td>Paul Martin Nguimgo</td>
<td>(Cameroon), Evangelical Reformed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Asia-Pacific</strong></td>
<td>Hui Fan Lam Chung</td>
<td>(Hong Kong)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Asia-Pacific</strong></td>
<td>John Graveston</td>
<td>(New Zealand/Aotearoa)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Europe</strong></td>
<td>Annika Foltin</td>
<td>(Germany)</td>
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<td><strong>Inter-Regional Staff</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Secretary</strong></td>
<td>Necta Montes</td>
<td>(Philippines), United Church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Finance Officer</strong></td>
<td>Jean-Luc De La Soujeole</td>
<td>(France), Catholic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regional Executives &amp; Program Directors</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Higher Education</strong></td>
<td>Christopher Chimangeni</td>
<td>(Malawi), Catholic</td>
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<td><strong>Asia-Pacific</strong></td>
<td>Sunita Sumati Suna</td>
<td>(India), Lutheran</td>
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<td><strong>Europe</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Interfaith Dialogue</strong></td>
<td>Natia Tsintzandze</td>
<td>(Italy), Orthodox</td>
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<td><strong>Latin America and the Caribbean</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ecological Justice</strong></td>
<td>Marcelo Leites</td>
<td>(Uruguay), Independent</td>
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<td><strong>Peace-building &amp; Dialogue</strong></td>
<td>Elsy Wakil</td>
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<td><strong>Advocacy &amp; Solidarity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Partner Representative</strong></td>
<td>Salters Sterling</td>
<td>WSCF Centennial Fund</td>
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**WSCF Staff at the Berlin Wall**
Angola  »  World Council of Churches of Angola (CICA)
Argentina  »  Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano en Argentina (MEC)
Armenia  »  Youth Union of Jerzvey, Armenian Youth Union
Australia  »  Australian Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Austria  »  Evangelische Hochschulgemeinde in Österreich (EHG)
Bangladesh  »  Bangladesh Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Belarus  »  Centre Ecuemna (2015 GA)
Benin  »  Jeunesse Chrétienne Universitaire et Scolaire du Bénin (JCUSB)
Bolivia  »  Bolivia Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Brazil  »  Movimento Ecueménico de Estudantes de Teologia (MEET)
Bulgaria  »  Christian Youth Council in Bulgaria (CYC)
Burundi  »  Département des Jeunes, Eglise Episcopale du Burundi
Cambodia  »  Cambodian Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Cameroon  »  Mouvement des Etudiants Protestants du Cameroun (MEPC)
Canada  »  Canada Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Chile  »  Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano de Chile (MEC)
Colombia  »  Association Chrétienne des Élèves et Etudiants Protestants de Côte d’Ivoire (ACEPCI)
Croatia  »  Studentski Evangénski Pokret (STEP)
Cuba  »  Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano de Cuba (MEC)
Czech Republic  »  Díkumen – Akadémická YMCA
Democratic Republic of Congo  »  Association des Jeunes et des Etudiants chrétiens (AJEC)
Denmark  »  Fédération Nationale des Jeunes Protestants (FNJP)
Ecuador  »  YMCA and WYCA Denmark (Online GA 2017)
Egypt  »  Coptic Catholic Youth Egypt
Ethiopia  »  Haïmonte Abew Ethiopian Students’ Association (HAEWA)
Finland  »  Suomen Kristillinen Ylioppilasliitto (SKYL)
France  »  Association des Etudiants Protestants de Paris – Fédération Française des Associations Chrétiennes d’Étudiants (FFACE)
Gabon  »  L’Action Chrétienne des Etudiants Russes – Mouvement de Jeunesse Orthodoxe (ACER-MJO)
Gambia  »  Gambia Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Georgia  »  Georgia Student Christian Movement (SCM) (2015 GA)
Germany  »  Young Christians for Peace and Democracy (YCPD)
Ghana  »  Ghana Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Haiti  »  Mouvement Estudiantil Cristiano ACEH Haiti – MEC
Hong Kong  »  Hong Kong Student Christian Movement (SCM)
India  »  India Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Indonesia  »  Gerakan Mahasiswa Kristen Indonesia (GMKI)
Iraq  »  Iraqi Christian Youth Committee (ICYC)
Ireland  »  Ireland Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Italy  »  Federazione Giovanile Evangelica Italiana (FGEI)
Japan  »  Japan Student YMCAs
Jordan  »  Orthodox Youth Fellowship of Jordan
Kenya  »  Kenya Student Christian Movement (SCM)
Korea  »  Korean Student Christian Federation
Latvia  »  SCM KRISTA
Lebanon  »  Apostolic Youth Federation
  »  Armenian Evangelical Youth Association
  »  Armenian Church University Student Association
  »  Jeunesse Etudiante Chrétienne
  »  Marian Apostolic Movement
  »  Orthodox Youth Movement in Lebanon
  »  Youth Diocese Church from Lebanon (2015 GA)
Lesotho  »  SCM Lesotho
Liberia  »  National Student Christian Council – SCM Liberia
Lithuania  »  Vilnius Evangelical Lutheran Academic Youth Fellowship
Madagascar  »  Mbanipatra Kristiana Malgasi
Malawi  »  Christian Youth Association of Malawi (2015 GA)
Malaysia  »  SCM Malaysia
Mexico  »  SCM por la Equidad
  »  SCM México
Mozambique  »  SCM Mozambique
Myanmar  »  SCM Myanmar
Namibia  »  SCM Namibia
Nepal  »  SCM Nepal
Netherlands  »  Landelijk Steunpunt Studentenpastorenen
New Zealand  »  SCM Aoteaoro
Niger  »  SCM Nigeria
Nigeria  »  Norges Kristelige Studentforbund
Pakistan  »  SCM Pakistan
Palestine  »  Palestine Youth Ecumenical Movement, PYEM (2015 GA)
Papua New Guinea  »  SCM Papua New Guinea
Peru  »  SCM Peru
Philippines  »  SCM Philippines
Poland  »  Fellowship of Orthodox Youth in Poland (2015 GA)
Romania  »  Asociația Studenților Crestini – Ortodocsi Romani
Rwanda  »  Rassemblement de la Jeunesse Etudiante à l’Action
  »  Mouvement des Etudiants au Service Social au Rwanda
Senegal  »  Mouvement des Jeunes de l’Eglise Protestante du Sénégal
Sierra Leone  »  SCM Sierra Leone
Singapore  »  SCM Singapore
Slovakia  »  EKUNET Slovák
South Africa  »  Federation of South African Christian Students
Sri Lanka  »  SCM Sri Lanka
Sudan  »  Khartoum University Caucuses
South Sudan  »  Sudanese Students Christian Mission
Sweden  »  Kristna Studentrörelsen i Sverige
Syria  »  Orthodox Youth Movement in Syria
Taiwan  »  SCM Taiwan
Tanzania  »  Tanzania Student Christian Fellowship
Thailand  »  SCM Thailand
Timor Leste  »  Movimento Estudante Cristao Timor Leste
Togo  »  Association Chrétienne d’Elèves et Etudiants du Togo
Uganda  »  Uganda SCM
Ukraine  »  CONTACT PERSON
United Kingdom  »  SCM UK
  »  SCM USA (2015 GA)
  »  Lutheran Student Movement
  »  United Methodist Student Movement
Uruguay  »  Espacio Estudiantil Cristiano – MEC Uruguay
Venezuela  »  MEC Venezuela
Zambia  »  SCM Zambia
Zimbabwe  »  SCM Zimbabwe

* UPDATED AFTER GA 2015, ONLINE GA 2017
THE WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION (WSCF) is a non-profit organisation. The WSCF raises funding from partners and accepts donations from well-wishers. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

The Trustees of the World Student Christian Federation, USA, Inc. is a not-for-profit charitable organisation incorporated in the State of New York. This 2018 financial summary combines information from the Geneva-based Inter-Regional Office (IRO) and six (6) regional offices in Beirut, Trento, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, Nairobi and New York, which covers the world.

Consolidated 2019 Financial Summary

The Federation closed 2019 with a positive result of $16,383, which is a noticeable improvement compared to the previous year. This is in line with the financial targets set up at the start of the year. This has been achieved thanks to tight control of expenses at $814,613, whilst income at $830,996 stayed at the previous year’s level, reflecting an unfailing support from WSCF’s major partners.

A major focus in 2019 has been the financial preparation for the WSCF quadrennial General Assembly planned for 2020 in Berlin. Solid financial plans were put in place with WSCF’s long-standing stakeholders to secure the financing of this event. As already noted in the previous years, limited cash available put a strain on operations, forcing staff to manage very closely the Federation’s cash flow.
2019 has been a successful and exciting year for the WSCF Centennial Fund. Successful because we have seen the Fund’s investments in both Europe and the United States of America increase in capital value. Those in Europe grew by 32% and those in the United States by 18%. At the same time, we have been able to extend our support for the work of the Federation beyond the amount of our normal annual support. In recent years this annual support has amounted to US$40,000.00. In 2019 in addition to that amount we were able to allocate US$10,000.00 to the Africa Region to help with the travel costs of delegates to the Africa Regional Meeting held in Nigeria in December. This is the first Africa Region Meeting since 2013 and the Centennial Fund contribution only covered the travel costs of some 50% of those entitled to attend. I make this point to highlight the costs involved in facilitating the in-person contact which is at the heart of the fellowship experience in the Federation.

2019 also saw the implementation of the earlier decision to begin to use some of the income of the named funds in the Centennial Fund portfolio. Specifically, the Trustees had agreed to allocate US$72,000.00 from the Suzanne de Dietrich Fund to support Bible Study and Theological Reflection in the programmes of the Federation. This grant is spread over two years, 2018/19 and 2019/20, and it has enabled an international and interdenominational group of Biblical Scholars and Theologians to meet and design the Bible Study in the framework of worship around the theme of ‘Rejoice in Hope’ which will be a crucial component in the General Assembly programme in Berlin in June 2020. This grant also contributes 50% of the Africa Region executive who has programme responsibility for Bible Study and Theological Reflection in the life of the Federation and acts as a convener of the Bible Study and Theology Commission.

Members of the Bible Study and Theology Commission met in Helsinki in June 2019 on dates which overlapped with the Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of the WSCF Centennial Fund. Both meetings were hosted by Ilari Rantakari in a most excellent fashion that included useful round table conversations with Senior Friends, Federation funders and officers of the SCM in Finland. These conversations were undoubtedly helpful in securing the funding required to add a day to the General Assembly to permit greater time for the consideration of the important matters delegates must decide on about the future operational and organisational shape of the Federation. In all these aspects the 2019 AGM of the Trustees of the Centennial Fund was an inspirational occasion.

This will be my last Annual Report from the chair of the Centennial Fund. It has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as the President of the Fund and to have been part of the evolving life of the Federation including attendance at meetings of the Executive Committee both online and in-person. I thank most warmly all my colleague Trustees in order of service being Mathieu Durrelman, Jannes Hutagalung, Ilari Rantakari, Sheryl Johnston, Bruce Rigdon, Bronwyn...
**CENTENNIAL FUND**

**FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 (US$)</th>
<th>2018 (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends on shares</td>
<td>25,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>25,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRO Staff salaries</td>
<td>6,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and stationery</td>
<td>3,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>2,874</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal costs</td>
<td>1,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bible &amp; Theology Program</td>
<td>27,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to the WSCF-AFR RC Meeting</td>
<td>10,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ExCo, Staff &amp; Officers Meeting in Jakarta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other office costs</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>62,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grants and Other Operating Costs</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant to WSCF-IRO</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees Meeting</td>
<td>6,459</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve for 2018 BM &amp; ExCo Meeting</td>
<td>55,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Grants and Other Operating Costs</strong></td>
<td>81,459</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Extraordinary Income &amp; Expenditure on Investment Portfolio</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset appreciation / (depreciation)</td>
<td>358,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange gain / (loss)</td>
<td>-6,593</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHT</td>
<td>-23,346</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>-8,065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissions, taxes</td>
<td>-3,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Extraordinary Income &amp; Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>317,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>-173,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET PROFIT / (LOSS)</strong></td>
<td>198,322</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Claire, and Shali Kapepo. They have tolerated with great patience the eccentric chairing of an Irish person. I offer also a very special thanks to Necta Montes and Jean-Luc de La Soujeole for the gifts of administration and financial service respectively with which they support our endeavours. Great thanks are also due to Gunther Schwerdtel who with Mathieu and Jean-Luc maintains successfully a vigilant eye on our endowments. I wish the Federation the Blessing of God everywhere and always until He comes.

Salinters Sterling
Chairperson, WSCF Centennial Fund Trustees
## WSCF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 2019 Year in Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>COUNTRY / SCOPE</th>
<th>PROGRAMME</th>
<th>STRATEGY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 9-15</td>
<td>WCC Assembly Planning Committee (APC)</td>
<td>Greece / Global</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 18 &amp; FEB 15</td>
<td>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</td>
<td>Lebanon &amp; Egypt / ME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 22-24</td>
<td>Planning Meeting of the Executive Committee of SCM Cuba</td>
<td>Cuba / LAC</td>
<td>MOVEMENT BUILDING</td>
<td>BIBLE &amp; THEOLOGY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 18-28</td>
<td>WSCF Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS)</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>PEACE-BUILDING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 22</td>
<td>WSCF-LAC Program on Youth for Ecojustice and Peace: SCM Visit to Peasant Community</td>
<td>Colombia / LAC</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>ADVOCACY, CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 24-28</td>
<td>PCUSA Regional Consultation</td>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 25-28</td>
<td>Taiwan Ecumenical Forum (TEF) Steering Committee</td>
<td>Germany / AP / Global</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 28-MAR 6</td>
<td>WSCF Staff and Officers Meeting</td>
<td>Germany / Global</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 11-22</td>
<td>63 UN Commission on the Status of Women</td>
<td>USA / Global</td>
<td>IDD</td>
<td>ADVOCACY, PARTNERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 23</td>
<td>SCM Peace Bakery: Recipes for Memory</td>
<td>Colombia / LAC</td>
<td>PEACE-BUILDING</td>
<td>ADVOCACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 27-29</td>
<td>Global Consultation ACT Alliance on Human Rights, Fundamentalism and Democracy</td>
<td>Guatemala / LAC</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 2-3</td>
<td>ALC News Board Meeting</td>
<td>Argentina / LAC</td>
<td>NETWORKING</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 8-12</td>
<td>UN Council of NGO (CoNGO) Board Meeting</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 13</td>
<td>Workshop on Care of the Common House</td>
<td>Mexico / LAC</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 15</td>
<td>Movement Strengthening SCM Argentina</td>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>MOVEMENT BUILDING</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 20</td>
<td>Planning Meeting of SCM Bogota</td>
<td>Colombia / LAC</td>
<td>PEACE-BUILDING</td>
<td>MOVEMENT BUILDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 25-29</td>
<td>WSCF European Regional Committee</td>
<td>Germany / Europe</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 5-7</td>
<td>Iraqi Youth Consultation</td>
<td>Irbil / ME</td>
<td>INTERFAITH DIALOGUE</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 9-11</td>
<td>LGBT Coalition Meeting</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>IDD</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR-DEC</td>
<td>National Scoping Study Research</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 4 &amp; JUNE 20</td>
<td>WSCF-ME Easter Celebration</td>
<td>Lebanon &amp; Egypt / ME</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 9-15</td>
<td>WCRC Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Switzerland / Global</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 17</td>
<td>International Day Against Homophobia</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>IDD</td>
<td>ADVOCACY, PARTNERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 12-17</td>
<td>WCC-ETE Consultation on Eco Theology</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 22-26</td>
<td>Taize Ecumenical Youth Gathering</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 14-19</td>
<td>Ecumenical leadership training on interfaith and advocacy Lingua Franca</td>
<td>Georgia / Europe</td>
<td>INTERFAITH DIALOGUE</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 8-12</td>
<td>WSCF Centennial Fund Board Meeting</td>
<td>Finland / Global</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 12-15</td>
<td>WSCF Bible and Theology Commission Consultation</td>
<td>Finland / Global</td>
<td>GA THEME, ALL</td>
<td>BIBLE &amp; THEOLOGY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 24-28</td>
<td>WCC Climate Change Group Meeting</td>
<td>Taiwan / Global</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE 20-23</td>
<td>Palestinian Youth Program on Water</td>
<td>Jordan / ME</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 5-8</td>
<td>WSCF GA Local Host Meeting 1</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>GA, GOVERNANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY 5-7</td>
<td>WSCF-LAC host and moderator the Preparatory meeting of Latin America Interfaith Youth Network (Religion for Peace)</td>
<td>Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
<td>INTERFAITH COOPERATION</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 10-16</td>
<td>WSCF IDD Global Program</td>
<td>Kenya / Global</td>
<td>IDD</td>
<td>ADVOCACY, CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY 12-14</td>
<td>WSCF-LAC Executive Committee Meeting, Roundtable with partners in Argentina</td>
<td>Buenos Aires, Argentina / LAC</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSCF IDD Working Group Meeting</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya / Global</td>
<td>IDD</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 28-AUG 18</td>
<td>Agape International Camps</td>
<td>Italy / Global</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 12</td>
<td>UN International Youth Day</td>
<td>Geneva / Global</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 9-15</td>
<td>WCC ECHOS Meeting</td>
<td>Korea / Global</td>
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<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 19-30</td>
<td>WCC GEM School</td>
<td>Indonesia / Global</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>ACTIVITY</td>
<td>COUNTRY / SCOPE</td>
<td>PROGRAMME</td>
<td>STRATEGY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 19-24</td>
<td>Participation in the 10th World Assembly Religions for Peace (RfP): WSCF-coordinated the Youth Interfaith Network in the Assembly and facilitated the Commission V of the assembly “protecting the earth”</td>
<td>Lindau, Germany / Global</td>
<td>INTERFAITH COOPERATION, ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUG 1-5</td>
<td>Syrian Youth Program</td>
<td>Syria / ME</td>
<td>PEACE-BUILDING</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 22-26</td>
<td>Women’s Conference</td>
<td>Lebanon / ME</td>
<td>IDD</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEP 1-OCT 14</td>
<td>Season for Creation</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<td>SEP 10-20</td>
<td>Preparatory meeting with SCM and partners for the coordination of the Regional LAC consultation on Democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalism</td>
<td>Sao Paulo, Brazil</td>
<td>IDL, ECOJUSTICE, PEACE-BUILDING</td>
<td>MOVEMENT BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEP 9-12</td>
<td>Aiya Napa 33</td>
<td>Egypt / ME</td>
<td>PEACE-BUILDING</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
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<td>SEP 11-12</td>
<td>WSCF-ME Regional Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Egypt / ME</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEP 20-23</td>
<td>WSCF Europe Training Preparatory Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Utrecht, Netherlands / Europe</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 1-4</td>
<td>Regional capacity-building workshop on Climate Justice Advocacy with ACT</td>
<td>Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 3-8</td>
<td>WSCF Europe Regional Assembly</td>
<td>Denmark / Europe</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 5</td>
<td>Christianity in Denmark: National Conservatism vs Ecumenical Activism</td>
<td>Copenhagen / Denmark</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT</td>
<td>Muslim Christian Dialogue Conference</td>
<td>Lebanon / ME</td>
<td>INTERFAITH DIALOGUE</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV 1-7</td>
<td>International Youth Training: “Challenge It! Exploring Approaches and Innovation for Combating Youth Extremism”</td>
<td>Utrecht, Netherlands</td>
<td>INTERFAITH DIALOGUE, PEACE-BUILDING</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV</td>
<td>WCC Eco School</td>
<td>Thailand / Global</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV 17</td>
<td>Workshop: “Togethers Towards Inclusion and Unity”</td>
<td>North Macedonia</td>
<td>INTERFAITH DIALOGUE</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 15-16</td>
<td>SCM Cuba National Assembly on Fundamentalism and Gender</td>
<td>Cuba / LAC</td>
<td>IDD</td>
<td>MOVEMENT BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 15-18</td>
<td>WSCF GA Local Host Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Berlin / Global</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 20-23</td>
<td>WSCF-LAC Board Meeting</td>
<td>Colombia / LAC</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 23</td>
<td>Workshop: “All pieces fit”</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>INTERFAITH DIALOGUE, IDD</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 23-25</td>
<td>Strategic Planning Workshop on Ecojustice and Peace</td>
<td>Colombia / LAC</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE, PEACE-BUILDING</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 29-DEC 13</td>
<td>WSCF Youth delegation program at UN COP25</td>
<td>Madrid, Spain</td>
<td>ECOJUSTICE</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 25-DEC 10</td>
<td>16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>IDD</td>
<td>ADVOCACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 14-17</td>
<td>Churches Witnessing with Migrants 9th Consultation</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>MIGRATION</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV 29-DEC 5</td>
<td>Kairos Palestine International Conference and Anniversary</td>
<td>Bethlehem / Global</td>
<td>PEACE-BUILDING</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 30</td>
<td>Workshop: “Anatomy of Extremism”</td>
<td>Kiev, Ukraine</td>
<td>INTERFAITH DIALOGUE</td>
<td>CAPACITY-BUILDING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 2-6</td>
<td>Africa Regional Assembly</td>
<td>Nigeria, Africa</td>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 21-23</td>
<td>Seminar: “Religion and Violence”</td>
<td>Minsk, Belarus</td>
<td>INTERFAITH DIALOGUE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BLACK** — WSCF PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES  
**BLUE** — PARTNERS WITH WSCF PARTICIPATION
WSCF STRATEGIC PLAN
2016-2019

VISION
WSCF is called to be a prophetic witness in the Church and the transformation of the world where God’s love for creation, justice and peace is shared by all across boundaries of race, class, ethnicity, culture, gender and sexuality. This vision is nurtured by a radical hope of God’s reign in history and liberating faith in Jesus Christ.

MISSION
WSCF is a global fellowship of Student Christian Movements putting their faith into action to contribute to the renewal of the ecumenical movement and to promote justice and peace in the world.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE
Promote climate justice through public advocacy processes directed at international governance bodies, working in partnership with ecumenical institutions, churches and various stakeholder networks upholding the youth and student voice on ecological issues.

IDENTITY, DIVERSITY AND DIALOGUE
Initiate the process of dialogue, create spaces and develop theological understanding for the SCMs on human sexuality.

PEACE-BUILDING AND DIALOGUE
Mobilise the Federation on issues pertaining to overcoming violence and building peace with a focus on the situations in the Middle East and Colombia.

HIGHER EDUCATION
Work in solidarity with SCMs and student movements to advocate for the right to education for all.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE
Engage the Federation in creating and providing interfaith platforms for youth and students.

STRATEGIES

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
Stimulate the study of the Bible and promote theological thinking among Christian students to help them understand the call of God in their lives.

ADVOCACY AND SOLIDARITY
Enable the Federation to stand firmly in solidarity with students, movements and people around the world, especially in situations of oppression and exploitation, human rights violations, conflict, war and violence, and natural disasters, and advocate for systemic change in the world and in different contexts.

ECUMENICAL TRANSFORMATIVE DIAKONIA
Enhance the capacity of SCMs and the Federation to serve and respond to the needs of the community by developing a deeper understanding and practice of Ecumenical Transformative Diakonia at the local, regional and global levels.

MOVEMENT BUILDING
Build dynamic SCMs that will give rise to a new generation of young Christian leaders and prophetic witnesses that will act together to renew the ecumenical movement and transform the world.

CAPACITY BUILDING
Develop enabling structures and systems and nurture a competent team of staff and officers that will bring the Federation to a financially viable state and sustainable future.