

Racism, anti-semitism, islamophobia, sexism, discrimination against Roma and Sinti are forms of group-based enmity, which are unfortunately still being reproduced through praxis and doctrines of European (peace) churches and communities today.

We know by now that People of Colour (BIPoC) have historically suffered from racist violence in white dominated church spaces. This conference will address the effects this continues to have on peace communities and the Church today and will investigate ways to mitigate these patterns from being reproduced in the future.

As Christians, we believe in God who has created humans in his*her likeness – and thus equal. Our faith requires us to actively oppose systems, practices, doctrines and ideologies of inequality. Our faith calls us to embody justice, to live in harmony and to build peace.

We ask: What does this look like in practice? How do communities and churches, and especially those that want to live as peace churches, counter these harmful attitudes? What does an anti-racist spiritual practice of equality look like?

The perspectives of People of Colour will be given a central place in our conference. Our aim is to create safe learning and sharing spaces in which a critical examination of the past and present of peace communities and churches in Europe is possible.

With our speakers we will reflect on the theological and the practical work of churches in response to the call of the 2022 Assembly of the World Council of Churches to confront racism and xenophobia, overcome discrimination and ensure belonging.

Participants will share ideas and methods to empower the movement against inequality and racism, to be able to shoulder the pain of this discourse and, as a European network, strive to grow into a faith community depicting God's likeness of every human being.

Programme (as of 15 May)

Friday, 29 September 2023

- From
 15.00 Arrival and Registration
 16.00 Encounters, exchange & open space
 18.00 Dinner
 19.30 **Opening and contextualisation** of the theme in the Dutch context with ecumenical partners
 21.30 Evening prayer

Saturday, 30 September 2023

- 8.00 Breakfast
 9.00 Morning prayer
 9.15 **(Migrant) Churches in a racist context in Europe**, Adejare Oyewole, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), United Kingdom
 10.30 Break
 11.00 **How is the ecumenical movement responding to racism from an intersectional perspective?** Thandi Soko de Jong & Nicole Ashwood, World Council of Churches, Netherlands & Switzerland
 12.30 Lunch and break
 15.00 **Workshops**
 • **(Neo)colonialism from African perspective**, Yawo Kakpo, Togo
 • **Anti-Racist Peace Service in Neuwied and worldwide (EIRENE) – What it needs to change an organisation**, Anthea Bethge & Tshiamo Petersen, Germany
 • **Critical self-reflection of white and Christian spaces – Understanding the racism in us**, Isabelle & Bruno Eliat-Serck, Belgium
 • **Decolonizing Theology**, Andres Pacheco, Netherlands

• **Racism and Colonialism within Europe**, Manda & Ivan Prišing, Serbia

• **The Ecumenical movement responding to racism from an intersectional perspective**, Thandi Soko de Jong & Nicole Ashwood

• **'But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community.'** (M.L. King jr.), **Beloved Communities Commission** of the *German branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (tbc)*

16.30 Break

17.00 **Panel: Sharing insights – naming specific challenges**

18.30 Dinner

20.15 Fellowship evening

Sunday, 1 October 2023

8.30 Breakfast

10.00 **Final plenary: Observations & implications**

11.30 **Ecumenical Worship**
 Sermon: *Yawo Kakpo, Togo*

12.45 Lunch and Departure

BIPoC Safe Space

We offer a space to reflect and retreat for BIPoC (Black, Indigenous & People of Color), where they can share their experiences, strengthen each other and be empowered despite potentially disempowering interactions within the conference space. It allows BIPoC a pause for breath, recognition and a counterbalance to confrontational situations in order to continue participating in discussions and meetings in mixed circles.

Fees and Payment

Venue

Kasteel de Berckt
De Berckt 1
5991 PD Baarlo
The Netherlands

www.denieuweklasse.de/kasteel-de-berckt

Fees

(per person incl. accommodation, meals, conference costs)

Single room	295€/ £255
Double room	275€/ £240
Multiple bed room	245€/ £210
Day guest package (w/o accommodation & breakfast)	125€ / £110
Day guest package (w/o accommodation, breakfast & dinner)	110€ / £95

Concessions available for low income or un-waged participants. Please contact us!

Bank transfer to

in €: Church and Peace,

Bank fuer Kirche und Diakonie,
IBAN: DE33350601901014380015
BIC: GENODED1DKD

in £: Send Sterling cheque to the order of 'Church and Peace' to Gerald Drewett, 39 Postwood Green, Hertford Heath SG13 7QJ or alternatively make transfer by BACS to sort code 16 58 10, account 20745001 and send an email to gerald.drewett@ntlworld.com

Registration

Please **register by 18 August 2023** via our website:
www.church-and-peace.org

Church and Peace is...

the Europe-wide network of peace church communities, congregations, organisations, institutions and individual members from 14 countries and a broad range of Christian traditions.



church and peace

The common basis of Church and Peace is the call to nonviolence, at the heart of the Gospel, and a practical commitment to peace and reconciliation, our guidance and strength coming from the Bible.

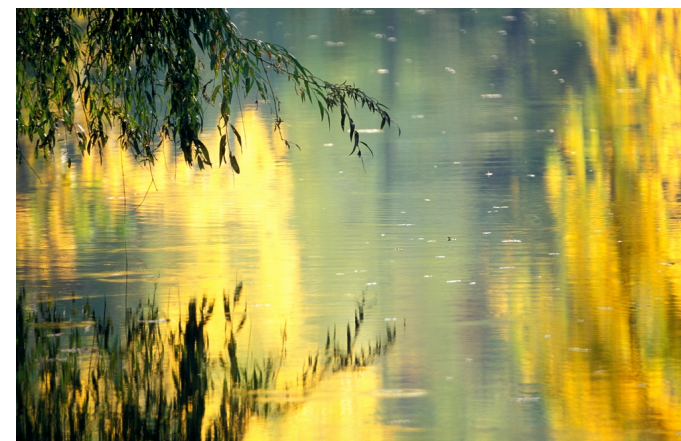
Members of Church and Peace support one another in developing a spiritual practice and lifestyle that serves peace and justice. Particularly in countries marked by conflict and war, we are united in a commitment to nonviolence and to linking peace theology and practice. Together we strive for reconciliation, engage in dialogue, peace education and conflict resolution. We work towards a just distribution of resources and advocate good stewardship of creation.

Contact

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*Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness'
(Genesis 1:26)*

Overcoming Racism in the Church



European Conference

29 September – 1 October 2023

Baarlo, Netherlands