



Brussels, 22 April 2014

Esteemed Church Leaders,
Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Dear Friends,

Christ is risen!

We would like to cordially invite you to participate in our project:

SUMMER SCHOOL ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Theology and Human Rights

Freedom of Religion or Belief for All

15 - 18 September 2014

Serbian Academy of Science, Novi Sad, Serbia

"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God." 1 Peter 2:16

The first "Summer School on Human Rights – Theology and Human Rights" focusing on Freedom of Religion or Belief will take place from 15-18 September 2014 in the premises of the Serbian Academy of Science in Novi Sad, hosted by the Diocese of Backa of the Serbian Orthodox Church. The summer school offers churches and church-related organisations the opportunity to train their members who are working on human rights issues and namely on freedom of religion or belief. The school will focus on the legal, political, societal and institutional dimensions of freedom of religion or belief, the protection of which is often taken as a *litmus test* of the democratic societies.

The Summer School on Human Rights is organised on the initiative of the Diocese of Backa of the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Church and Society Commission of CEC, with scientific support of the KU Leuven.

The training will provide an opportunity for people working within the CEC Member churches to meet and exchange on the state of human rights and freedom of religion or belief in the present context. The participants will also benefit from interaction with prominent experts from the academia as well as from international institutions.

The main themes of the course are:

- Human rights and Freedom of Religion or Belief
- Politicisation and instrumentalisation of Freedom of Religion or Belief
- Social hostility against religion or belief

Church & Society Commission of CEC • CSC/CEC

Ecumenical Centre • Rue Joseph II 174 • BE-1000 Brussels • Belgium
tel +32 2 230 17 32 • fax +32 2 231 14 13 • e-mail csc@cec-kek.be • website <http://csc.ceceurope.org>

- Domestic and international protection of Freedom of Religion or Belief through institutions like United Nations, Council of Europe, OSCE and European Union.

The programme will include lectures on the legal, political and social dimensions of freedom of religion or belief (theoretical part), discussions on theology and human rights amongst other.

You will find the draft programme and the registration form in attachment.

The participation fee amounts to 250 euros including board and lodging.

Subsidies

For churches and church organisations wishing to be represented at the meeting but not able to meet the costs, there is a possibility to apply for a subsidy for travel costs and/or for board and lodging. The subsidy fund is quite limited, however, and participants applying for subsidies are required to pay at least a minimal contribution. If participants apply for financial support, they should do so as early as possible and contact the secretariat (kst@cec-kek.be) before booking their travel tickets. Please be aware that CSC will not be able to bear any costs caused by late cancellation of the registration.

Practical information:

- The Summer School starts on Monday, 15 September at 08:30 a.m. in the Serbian Academy of Science, Matica Srpska 1, 21 000 Novi Sad, Serbia, and will end on Thursday, 18 September with dinner.
- You will find relevant documents under the following link:
<http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/summer-school-on-human-rights/>
- On 16 September we will have an evening with a national programme. We kindly ask you to bring e.g. music, food or something else which is typical of your country to share with the others.

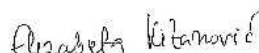
To confirm your participation, please complete the attached form and e-mail it to kst@cec-kek.be at your earliest convenience, but no later than 1 June 2014.

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions that may arise.

Looking forward to meet you,



+ Irenej
Bishop of Bačka



Mag. Elizabeta Kitanovic
Executive Secretary for Human
Rights and Communications
Church & Society Commission of
CEC



Prof. Dr. Marco Ventura
Faculty of Canon Law, KU Leuven
&
Faculty of Law, University of Siena

Pre-assignment and project work

You are advised to familiarise yourself with the main international bodies and organisations working with the topics of the course. See in particular:

International organisations

UN - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

60th Anniversary of UDHR:

Know Your Rights 2008 <http://www.knowyourrights2008.org>

Human rights treaty bodies

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies>

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org>

Council of Europe / Human Rights

<http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human%5Frights>

OSCE / Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

<http://www.osce.org/odihr>

EU / Fundamental Rights Agency

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/home/home_en.htm

Churches and human rights

World Council of Churches

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/public-witness-addressing-power-affirming-peace/human-rights.html>

Conference of European Churches

<http://www.cec-kek.org>

Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe:

<http://www.ccme.be>

The Middle East Council of churches

<http://www.mec-churches.org/>

All Africa Conference of Churches

<http://www.aacc-ceta.org/>

Human rights education

CSC Human Rights Training Manual for European Churches

<http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/human-rights/csc-human-rights-training-manual/>

UN

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/index.htm>

Council of Europe / Compass

<http://www.eycb.coe.int/compass>

Human Rights Training Material of the International Organizations

<http://csc.ceceurope.org/issues/human-rights/human-rights-training/>