

## Human Rights under Pressure – Promoting Human Rights through Cultural Traditions?

Congress of the German Commission of Justice and Peace  
December 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

At the Katholische Akademie Berlin, Hannoversche Str. 5, 10115 Berlin

*Human rights always exist in certain cultural and traditional settings. The idea of equal liberty of all human beings may therefore get in tensions with some of the traits of certain cultures. Conflicts and disruptions then occur. At the same time, traditions and culture can also be a source of commitment, solidarity and active ownership of human rights. To learn more about and better understand the productivity of such an ambiguity in attitudes towards the implementation of human rights is the purpose of the congress. We will outline these tensions in two examples from the recent political agenda to reach deeper insights on how such tensions could be taken into account when it comes to Human Rights implementation.*

*In the debate on migration Christian faith is invoked in two forms: On the one hand 'Christianity' is territorialized in terms of a "Christian occident" and turned into an argument to create or strengthen particular boundaries. . On the other hand Christian faith can motivate people in Europe to act in solidarity with migrants, refugees and people in need – wherever they come from and from whichever cultural and religious background they stem. In the concurrence of the very different stances towards migrants and migration – both referring to Christianity – old and new lines of disruptions in our societies have become visible.*

*The realization of the "Human Right to the highest Attainable Standard of Health" is the other example, where the ambiguity of tradition, including religious convictions, becomes visible. The Catholic Church is strongly involved in many countries with the Right to Health. Many of their members go to the "margins of societies" to help people in need, regardless of legal status or economic potentials. But the right to health also holds provocative potential for the self-understanding of the Church, which is particular obvious in in the context of gender issues and reproductive health issues.*

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Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2016

## Erosion of solidarity? New tendencies in Europe

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[10:00]	Commitment for Human Rights – A Challenge to Christian Identity Introduction <i>Bishop Dr Stephan Ackermann</i> , President of the German Commission of Justice and Peace, Bishop of Trier
[10:50]	Coffee break
[11:00]	What keeps our societies together? New and Old Challenges by Populistic Movements European Perspectives <i>Aux. Bishop Krzysztof Zadarko</i> , President of the Commission on Migration at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Poland, Diocese Koszalin-Kołobrzeg (Poland) <i>Archbishop Jean-Claude Hollerich SJ</i> , Archbishop of Luxemburg, President of the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions (Luxembourg) <i>Rebecca Harms</i> , President of The Greens–European Free Alliance group in the European Parliament, Brussels Chair: <i>Prof Dr. Andreas Lob-Hüdepohl</i> , Institute for Christian Ethics and Politics, Berlin
[12:30]	Lunch

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## Human Rights Defenders: How to cope with the invocation of "Culture"

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[14:00]	Honouring <i>P. Jacques Mourad</i> , Association Mar Musa, Syria P. Mourad is a syrian-catholic priest of the Association Mar Musa in Syria, who is involved in intensive Christian-Islamic dialogues. He stands up for Christian-Islamic reconciliation in the Middle East. Because of this Pater Jacques was abducted in Syria in May 2015 by the IS. He was released in October 2015. At present he is living in the monastery of Pater Jens Petzold in Suleymannia.
[14:30]	Interviews  <i>P Rigobert Minani-Bihuzo SJ</i> , Jesuit African Social Centers Network JASCNET, Director, Nairobi, Kenya Nairobi <i>Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw</i> , Archbishop of Lahore, Pakistan  Chair: <i>Dr Daniel Legutke</i> , German Commission of Justice and Peace, Bonn <i>Johannes Seibel</i> , missio – International Catholic Mission Society, Aachen

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## The Human Right to Health – Capitalizing on Tradition for a Non-Discriminatory Implementation

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[15:30]	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The Human Right to Health – Sketches for a Better Understanding of an Underestimated Human Right?</p> <p>Input: <i>Prof Dr Stephan Rixen</i>, Chair of Public Law, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth</p>
[16:00]	<p>Coffee break</p>
[16:15-17:45]	<p>Parallel Workshops</p> <p>A) Religious Motivations and Potentials of Interreligious Cooperation for the Human Right to Health</p> <p><i>Dr Azza Karam</i>, UNDP Interagency Task Force Religion and Development, New York, USA <i>Dr Alissa Wahid</i>, General Secretary of Nahdlatul Ulama's Family Welfare Agency, Yogyakarta, Indonesia <i>Dr Marlies Reulecke</i>, Medical Mission Institute, Würzburg</p> <p>Chair: <i>Prof Dr Stephan Rixen</i>, Bayreuth</p> <p><i>The access to services of reproductive health is one of those topics that are bitterly contested between UN institutions and the faith based organizations. The right of access to safe abortion is focused regularly. But the field of reproductive health is much wider, including e.g. the pre- and postnatal care. It is a field where faith based organizations are strongly involved. Without ignoring the differences regarding the stance towards abortion, this Workshop wants to look at potentials of cooperation between religious and international organizations. The whole range of reproductive health is taken into account.</i></p> <p>B) Brain Drain and Care Drain: Responsibility of the North?</p> <p><i>Prof Dr Eva Senghaas-Knobloch</i>, Sustainability Research Center (artec), University of Bremen, Bremen <i>Dr Maria Kipele</i>, Medical Mission Institute, Würzburg / Mwanze (Tanzania) <i>Archbishop Jude Thadaeus Ruwa'ichi OFM Cap</i>, Chairman of the Department of Pastoral Health Care of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, Archbishop of Mwanza, (Tanzania)</p> <p>Chair: <i>Dr Hildegard Hagemann</i>, German Commission of Justice and Peace, Bonn</p> <p><i>A big part of qualified employees in the countries of the South is leaving their home town after a successful apprenticeship, because there seems to be no adequate professional perspective; e.g. more than 50% of the doctors in Ghana leave their country after finishing their education. Although there is much criticism of recruitment of specialists by wealthier countries, the question rises, whether there are appropriate political reactions on the migrations that in cases where are no adequate professional perspectives.</i></p>

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C) „Traditional Medicine“–Indigenous Practices for Human Rights from 'Bottom Up'?

*PD Dr Walter Bruchhausen*, University Aachen,  
*Prof Anand Grover*, Lawyers Collective, form. UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, New Delhi, India

Chair: *Dr. Daniel Legutke*, German Commission of Justice and Peace, Bonn

*The workshop deals with the question how indigenous perspectives on health - that maybe are focussing on spiritual dimensions - can be taken into consideration in developing opportunities for healthcare especially in remote areas.*

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[18:15] Presentation of the main findings of the Workshops in plenary

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[19:00] Dinner and Reception  
Music by Jürgen Hahn Trio

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Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

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[07:30] Holy Mass  
Bishop Dr. Stephan Ackermann

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## Potentials and Problems: The Right to Health and Religions

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[09:00] Between Crisis Management and the Strengthening of Health Structures – The Role of Religious and Cultural Sensitization?

*Archbishop Jude Thadaeus Ruwa'ichi OFM Cap*, Chairman of the Department of Pastoral Health Care of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, Archbishop of Mwanza, Tanzania

*Dr Azza Karam*, UNDP Interagency Task Force Religion and Development, New York, USA

*Mareike Haase*, Consultant for Health - Bread for the World, Berlin

Chair: *Dr Marlies Reulecke*, Medical Mission Institute, Würzburg

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[10:30] Right to Health and Cultural Traditions: Typological analysis of emerging fault lines

*Prof Anand Grover*, Lawyers Collective, form. UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, New Delhi, India

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[11:30] Coffee break

## **Closing Panel**

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[11:40] Human Rights and Cultural Traditions: The Potentials of Faith Based Organizations

*Prof Dr Dr h.c. Heiner Bielefeldt*, Erlangen

*Dr Bernhard Felmberg*, Director, Directorate Civil Society in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Berlin

*Dr Alissa Wahid*, General Secretary of Nahdlatul Ulama's Family Welfare Agency, Yogyakarta (Indonesia)

*Prelate Pirmin Spiegel*, Director General Misereor, Aachen

Chair: *Karin Kortmann*, Vice-President of the Central Committee of German Catholics, Berlin

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[13:00] Lunch and Departure