



Diocese in Europe



**GOD'S KALEIDOSCOPE
THE INTERNATIONAL AND ECUMENICAL CALL TO RACIAL JUSTICE
NOVEMBER 8 to 11 2023
HOSTING CITY: FREIBURG IM BREISGAU, GERMANY
CONFERENCE VENUE: HUMBOLDT SAAL**



View of the Freiburg Münster from the Conference Centre

Dear Friends,

This comes to you all with warm greetings and please find attached the Conference Registration Form along with a Tentative Conference Agenda.

In our effort to make our church more welcoming and inclusive we have kept asking ourselves - are there specific areas that need to be addressed and where we need to strive for improvement.

Racial Justice is one such issue. That there is racial discrimination is no secret. It is a reality and some or many of us are confronted by it on a day-to-day basis. We as a community of faith are also called to address the reality of racial injustice- visible and invisible- that still prevails in the life of the church, faith communities and the society. We are called to formulate practical ways of overcoming racism and envisioning a roadmap for a community free of racial prejudices and *there remains far more to do to encourage minority ethnic ministry and representations*, as emphasized by the Rt Revd Dr Robert Innes the Bishop of our Diocese.

The Racial Justice Working Group¹ of the Diocese in Europe is therefore organising this International Conference to be held in Freiburg, Germany as part of our Continuing Movement and Campaign to Ensure Greater Belonging and Healing.

¹ The members of the Diocesan Working Group are: Ms Hureem Salas, Mr Ezekiel Victor, The Revd Canon Joanna Udal, The Revd Augustine Nwaekwe, The Venerable Dr Leslie Nathaniel (Chair of the Racial Working Group). The Racial Justice Working Group expresses its thanks to the Revd Kara Werner for designing our Conference Logo.

We have in the *Save the Date* letter dt 17.04.23 already sent to you provided some information concerning the aims and objectives and the outcomes expected and there is visible enthusiasm all over with several people already preparing to attend.

The registration form and the tentative agenda will provide further details currently needed. More information will follow at a later date. We would request all those interested to let us have the registration forms **as soon as possible**. There is an online registration possible as noted in the form (see PART E). We hope to be able to offer some financial support to those who cannot otherwise afford to come. It is our hope that where possible chaplaincies will be represented by two persons.

All our current Cooperating Partners and Churches² are being encouraged to send representatives. We are deeply grateful to all of them for their crucial support and cooperation. We are also hopeful that our application to the Racial Justice Unit of the Church of England for additional funding will be successful.

We are also grateful to our Chaplaincy in Freiburg and their Local Planning Committee for all the intense work put in to make this dream possible.

Here are some basic details that will be helpful as you reflect on the agenda. This International Conference on Racial Justice is one way of how horizons are expanded and how the potential in the other or the hidden blessing in the other, perhaps the stranger in our midst can be discovered. It is an invitation to *Belong*; it is an invitation to embrace the racially minoritized people in our midst and to experience this joy.

We will gather together practitioners in this area; we will have amongst us people sharing their life stories of experiences with Racism; we will be searching the Scriptures and naming the Sin of Racism, its manifold manifestations and we will be seeking remedies.

We will have experts in this field giving us a direction for the future; and significantly we will be encouraging young people interested in this area to dream together a just future.

We hope to leave the Conference affirming that a racially just tomorrow is possible; we hope to articulate and envision possible steps towards justice, reconciliation, and peace and thereby quicken transformation to being a just and inclusive community. Friends, in this journey we will not forget that we are called to be Peacemakers.

We look forward with hope and anticipation that this event would be a milestone and benchmark in the continued efforts to be with the people in their struggles. Racism is not an issue that someone else somewhere else faces, it is something that is truly there within our systems and that needs to be addressed as it is being done now, more visibly and more passionately.

On Behalf of the Racial Justice Working Group
The Ven Dr Leslie Nathaniel (Chair)

² *The World Council of Churches; USPG Partners in Global Mission; The Evangelische Landeskirche in Baden – Department of Ökumene und Kirche weltweit; The Evangelische Landeskirche in Württemberg; The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland; The Anglican Church Freiburg.*