



# migration 2010

european churches responding to migration 2010



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CCME Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe  
and Conference of European Churches  
Rue Joseph II 174  
B-1000 Brussels  
Tel: +32 (0)2 234.68.00, Fax: +32 (0)2 231.14.13, email: [info@ccme.be](mailto:info@ccme.be)

  
migration2010.eu  
european churches responding to migration 2010

## Why this calendar?

Migration is a reality in all European countries, the scope of migration, however varies: In some countries, societies experience immigration, in others more emigration, some countries more generously offer protection for refugees, others seek to avoid providing asylum. Churches in Europe have been responding to the several migration aspects in different ways. Some churches find themselves familiar, for example, with the protection of refugees, having a long experience of providing shelter and legal counselling, other churches might have been deeply involved in assisting victims of trafficking, while others might have worked for welcoming migrants in their congregations promoting initiatives such as “being church together – uniting in diversity”. In their different activities, all churches seek to respond to the message of the Bible which insists on the dignity of every human being as created in the image of God.

The Conference of European Churches and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe have dedicated 2010 to be the Year of European Churches Responding to Migration. During this year, programmes of churches in Europe with and for migrants, refugees and ethnic minority people shall be made visible, and churches shall be encouraged to share their work and experience with each other.

This calendar – taking note of relevant dates for the churches as well as of international days relating to migration issues – proposes for every month of 2010 a specific theme.

## How to read this calendar?

There are 10 different issues analysed, one for each month, while July and August are suggested as time for encounters and for organising summer camps and activities focusing on the migration issues. According to each theme, a biblical quotation has been reported, encouraging churches to respond to migration in the light of the biblical message.

Each theme is articulated in 4 sections.

“Do you know that..” describes the topic of the month by providing some information and figures.

“There is the need to..” highlights the most relevant concerns and commitments.

“What can you do?” is addressed to church members to witness the Christian message of loving and welcoming the neighbour.

“Participants' concerns at CEC Assembly 2009”, reports the concerns regarding the migration issues expressed by participants at the Assembly of the Conference of European Churches in 2009

## How to get more information?

At the end of the calendar there is a section indicating additional resources, documents and publications freely downloadable from the internet for every theme of the months in 2010. Throughout the year the website [www.migration2010.eu](http://www.migration2010.eu) will provide additional information.

## UNITING IN DIVERSITY

*"Rejoice during your festival, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, as well as the Levites, the strangers, the orphans, and the widows resident in your towns". (Dt. 16,14)*

January 2010

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**Take Action: Organize an ecumenical event, a worship service on Being Church Together – Uniting in Diversity with migrant and ethnic minority churches**

18-25 January 2010: World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

## Do you know that...

- ❖ The majority of migrants in Europe are Christians
- ❖ Many migrants belong to traditional Christian denominations
- ❖ Migrants organise in congregations everywhere in Europe, but they are often not officially recognised
- ❖ The active participation of migrants in churches facilitates the integration process with the European society
- ❖ Integration is a two-way process that bridges individuals and communities, it requires a reciprocal effort and a mutual (ex)change, it enriches everyone who takes part in it

## There is the need to...

- **Make your church a welcoming church**, welcome migrants and let them actively participate in local parishes and national structures
- **Share and collect best practices of Uniting in Diversity**
- **Respect every church and congregation**, irrespective of its origin and denomination
- **Work together with migrant-led churches and traditional churches**, improving the Ecumenical dialogue and the discourse on migration

## What you can do...

- ✚ Establish local, national, regional, formal and/or informal **networks for sharing experiences regarding being one church together** with migrants, black and ethnic minority churches
- ✚ Establish **contacts with churches in countries of origin of migrants** in order to facilitate membership and recognition of congregations. This could be assisted by ecumenical bodies at European and global level
- ✚ **Organise ecumenical events with congregations of different cultures and biblical studies with migrants of different congregations**
- ✚ **Promote in your church a strategy of openness responding to the biblical message of welcoming**: look into church structures and determine whether they promote active participation of everybody, provide open space, and permit sharing of responsibility
- ✚ **Train your members with intercultural and interreligious methods**
- ✚ Improve a theological reflection on integration and migration
- ✚ **Hold prayers for Christian Unity together with migrants, black and ethnic minority churches**

### Participants' concerns at CEC Assembly 2009:

*"Integration still regarded as a one way process, it should be two ways, also in churches"*

*"(..) majority churches lack the structure to welcome ethnical congregations"*

*"Now is time to build the structures to avoid merging of many small independent churches"*

## RECOGNIZING MIGRANTS IN IRREGULAR SITUATIONS

*"When an alien lives with you in your land you shall not ill-treat him. The alien living with you must be treated as a native-born. Love him as yourself for you were aliens in the land of Egypt"  
(Leviticus 19, 33-34)*

**February 2010**

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### **Take Action: Highlight the issue of Irregular Migrants**

7 February 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Belgium, Luxemburg, the Netherlands

14 February 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Portugal, Spain, Italy, Malta

## Do you know that...

- ❖ Migrants in irregular situation have many different reasons: Some come and seek safety but have not been recognized as refugees, others were refused a visa, and others have found work but no work permit. Some have come legally, but their permit has expired or terminated by the authorities
- ❖ In 2008 there were reported **175.000 irregular board crossing**<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ A new and probably the most accurate data regarding irregular migrants in European countries are provided by the Clandestino project<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ **Irregular migrants are the most exploited in European countries**, they often live in conditions of slavery, are at a high risk of poverty, human trafficking
- ❖ Often migrants find themselves **temporarily in irregular situations** also due to the inefficiency of bureaucratic systems

## There is the need to...

- **Recognize** migrants in irregular situations
- **Decriminalise** irregular immigrants
- **Guarantee human rights** to migrants irrespective of their legal status
- **Guarantee access** to health and education
- **Find ways** for regularisation for migrants in irregular situation

<sup>1</sup> European Agency FRONTEX

<sup>2</sup> Austria est. 70000 ; Czech Republic est. 195000 (including EU nationals) ; France est. 200.000-400.000 ; Germany est. 1000000 ; Greece est. 200000 ; Hungary est. 30000-50000 ; Italy 349000 ; Netherlands 88116 ; Poland est. 50.000-300.000 ; Slovakia est. 15000-20000 ; Spain 353927 ; UK est. 240000

## What you can do...

- ✚ Provide them **legal counselling**
- ✚ **Advocate** for possibilities to apply for a regular status
- ✚ Provide **access to schools** for children in irregular situation
- ✚ Provide or advocate for **medical services** for migrants in irregular situation
- ✚ **Listen** to migrants in irregular situation

## Participants' concerns at CEC Assembly 2009:

*"Forced Repatriation, recognition of legal status of migrants"*

*"Stop restrictive immigration policies"*

## FIGHTING ALL FORMS OF RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

*"Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor" (Zech. 7:9-10)*

March 2010

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**Take Action around 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010: International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination**

5 March 2010 Women's World Day of Prayer

8 March 2010 International Women Day

21 March 2010 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Week of Solidarity

28 March 2010 Palm Sunday

## Do you know that..

- ❖ **16%** of EU citizens felt discriminated in the last year<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ **23%** of persons belonging to a minority group have been discriminated on the basis of ethnic origin
- ❖ **2%** of EU citizens have experienced religious discrimination in the last year
- ❖ **81%** of EU citizens feel comfortable in having a neighbor of another ethnic origin, but only **60%** feel comfortable in having a Roma neighbor
- ❖ **1 Roma out of 2** has been discriminated in the last 12 months<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ **1 Roma out of 5** was victim of a racial motivated personal crime in the last 12 months
- ❖ **Religious and nationality discrimination** are still not sufficiently covered by national legislation in all fields of daily life<sup>5</sup>

## There is the need to...

- Realize a **greater justice, solidarity and equality**
- **Address** racist attitudes and behaviors
- **Fight** against racism and a culture of exclusiveness, promote dialogue, social inclusion and respect
- Renew the churches' **commitment** to work **against racism**

<sup>3</sup> Eurobarometer 296

<sup>4</sup> EU-MIDIS report (2009)

<sup>5</sup> Migrant Integration Policy Index (2007)

## What you can do...

- ✚ **Highlight existing efforts!** What has your church or congregation done against discrimination and racism?
- ✚ **Religious freedom and discrimination:** cooperate with migrants and migrants-led and ethnic minority churches, and other religions in your area
- ✚ **Roma situation:** Find out about the history of Roma in your region. Establish contacts with Roma organisations in your region
- ✚ Work with youth, **encourage encounters** between descendants of migrants and natives by organizing social events in your parish
- ✚ Get in contact with organizations helping ethnic minorities and migrants and **offer pastoral care**
- ✚ Show **solidarity** with **victims of racist crime** and offer assistance
- ✚ **Support** initiatives against discrimination and for inclusion

## Participants' concerns at CEC Assembly 2009:

*"Xenophobia in political discourse and propaganda, rising racism"*

*"Discrimination against migrants, the impact of populist politicians intensifying negative attitudes towards migrants and migration"*

*"Need to overcome violence and inequity, to not fear migration but to build bridges"*

# BEING A CITIZEN OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

*"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Eph.2.19)*

April 2010

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**Take Action : Celebrate Easter together with nationals and non nationals, all are citizens of the household of God!**

- 2 April 2010 Good Friday
- 4 April 2010 Easter Sunday
- 5 April 2010 Easter Monday
- 7 April 2010 World Health Day
- 8 April 2010 International Day of Roma

## Do you know that...

- ❖ In the European Union, out of more than **30 million third-country nationals**, **11 million acquired European citizenship**<sup>6</sup>, but **national policies regarding the access to nationality are still in most countries unfavourable**, obstaculating immigrants and European-born children to become citizens<sup>7</sup>
- ❖ The laws determining the acquisition of citizenship differ in each country and there are no comprehensive data regarding the acquisition of citizenship of people born abroad<sup>8</sup>
- ❖ **The legal concept of citizenship of the European Union was formally introduced into the EC Treaty in 1993** by the Treaty of Maastricht<sup>9</sup>
- ❖ The legal status of EU citizenship is derived from Member State citizenship: **only the nationals of the Member States are EU citizens**
- ❖ **Many EU citizenship rights are focused on mobile EU citizens**, who have exercised rights of free movement and reside in a Member State other than the one of which they are nationals, e.g. as workers, students or retired persons<sup>10</sup>

## There is the need to...

- Highlight the **positive features of migration**, promote more **inclusive policies** and build more **inclusive communities** and societies
- **Facilitate the acquisition of citizenship** and allow children born in a EU country to become citizens
- Guarantee the right of having a double nationality
- Grant the right of legal residing immigrants to **participate at local elections**

## What you can do...

- ✚ Analyze whether your work is **promoting inclusiveness**. How many different **nationalities** are there in your church?
- ✚ Work with **cultural mediators** on a permanent basis in your church, parish and church offices!
- ✚ Train your church members and employers with **intercultural mediation methods!**
- ✚ **Get in contact** with immigrants' association, establish an intercultural and interreligious dialogue with them and **offer pastoral care!**
- ✚ Offer language courses and help immigrants to qualify for a better job!
- ✚ **Train migrants:** organize some practical courses for house-keeping, cooking, social care, teach the culture of legality!
- ✚ Advocate for the right of voting and standing in local elections

## Participants' concerns at CEC Assembly 2009:

*"Labour migration",*

*"Need for integration",*

*"Les migrantes ne sont pas de vaches à lait, ni une main d'oeuvre à exploiter. Nous devons les aider à s'intégrer dans notre beau pays",*

*"Dismantle inequity"*

*"Lack of equal treatment of the emigrants"*

<sup>6</sup> Eurostat 2008

<sup>7</sup> Migrant Integration Policy Index Report, 2007

<sup>8</sup> European Union Democracy Observatory on Citizenship <http://eudo-citizenship.eu/>

<sup>9</sup> European Union Democracy Observatory on Citizenship <http://eudo-citizenship.eu/>

<sup>10</sup> European Union Democracy Observatory on Citizenship <http://eudo-citizenship.eu/>

## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

*"Wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God" (Ruth 1. 16)*

May 2010

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### Take Action on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010: World Day for Cultural Diversity, for Dialogue and Development

9 May 2010 Europe Day

12-16 May 2010 Ecumenical Kirchentag (Munich)

13 May 2010 Ascension Day

15 May 2010 International Day of Family

21 May 2010 World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

23/24 May 2010 Pentecost

### Do you know that...

- ❖ In the European Union there are 497.645.455 diversities
- ❖ In the European Union there are 497.645.455 richness
- ❖ In the European Union there are 497.645.455 values
- ❖ In the European Union there are 497.645.455 challenges
- ❖ In the European Union there are 497.645.455 citizens

### There is the need to...

- Share diversities, **dialogue** upon diversities, **celebrate** diversities
- Understand the **challenges** posed by diversities
- Deal with the **conflicts** that may emerge from diversities
- Understand and highlight the **added value and richness of being different in the same faith**
- Exchange and share ideas about different possibilities of structuring church life

### What you can do...

- ✚ **Discover what “diversities” means in your context:** What are the diversities in your church?
- ✚ Share and celebrate diversities in your **activities and worship services**
- ✚ Encourage encounters with congregations of different cultures
- ✚ Highlight the **richness** that we gain from our diversities, train your members and employers with **intercultural methods**
- ✚ **Learn from other cultures, traditions and languages:** learn new worship hymns, prayers, songs and organize worship services and let members of other churches participate

- ✚ **Involve Christian migrants as teachers in Sunday school and catechism**
- ✚ **Conflicts** can become a common learning and exchange experience. Learn how to resolve everyday conflicts in your church and institutions
- ✚ Address the conflicts! Are there conflicts based on cultural attitudes? On religious beliefs? On ethnic grounds?
- ✚ Undertake **theological reflections** on diversity, on being a parish comprising different cultures and traditions

### Participants' concerns at CEC Assembly 2009:

*“Need of promoting a reciprocal understanding, of reducing fear of migrants”*

*“Improve the language skills in the integration process”*

*“Consider the value of diversity in monocultural societies”*

# PROTECTING REFUGEES

*"..I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.." (Mt. 25:31-46)*

June 2010

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**Take Action on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010 , World RefugeeDay and commemorate persons dying while crossing European borders**

2-6 June 2010 World Mission Conference (Edinburgh)

11-30 June 2010 World Football Cup (South Africa)

20 June 2010 World Refugee Day

## Do you know that...

- ❖ **Developing countries are host to four fifths of the world's refugees.** Based on the data available for 8.8 million refugees, UNHCR estimates that half of the world's refugees reside in urban areas and one third in camps. However, 7 out of 10 refugees in sub-Saharan Africa reside in camps. Refugees remain in their region of origin and flee to neighbouring countries. UNHCR estimates that 1.7 million refugee (16% out of the total of 10.5 million) live outside their region of origin
- ❖ **There were some 42 million forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2008.** This includes 15.2 million refugees, 827,000 asylum-seekers (pending cases) and 26 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). **One out of four refugees in the world is from Afghanistan (2.8 million)** and Afghans are located in 69 different asylum countries. Iraqis are the second largest refugee group, with 1.9 million having sought refuge mainly in neighbouring countries
- ❖ **Women and girls constitute 47% of refugees and asylum-seekers,** and half of all IDPs and returnees (refugees). **44%** of refugees and asylum-seekers are children below 18 years of age
- ❖ **In Europe there are 1.621.700 refugees,** however, in the first half of 2008, traditional refugee-receiving countries in Western Europe recorded the lowest number of asylum applications in many years. With one quarter of applications globally, **South Africa is the largest recipient of individual applications in the world**
- ❖ Since 1993 **13.250 people died while trying to cross the European borders**<sup>11</sup>, but there is **no official data of irregular migrants in Europe**

## There is the need to...

- **Guarantee** the conditions for applying for asylum in the country of arrival and enhance asylum policies based on the Geneva Refugee Convention and **human rights**

- **Share the responsibility for the protection of refugees more responsibly:** countries with higher refugee numbers need to be supported by others, in the EU and globally
- **Improve reception conditions for asylum seekers**
- **Resettle more refugees from other countries of first asylum to Europe**

## What you can do...

- ✚ Find out what your church is doing to assist **refugees and asylum seekers**. Offer **psychological support** to refugees and asylum seekers present in your parish. **Help refugees and asylum seekers to find and qualify for better jobs**
- ✚ **Collect and tell refugees' stories** to foster the understanding for the difficult situations refugees have gone through. **Let refugees speak for themselves in your parish**
- ✚ **Meet refugees and let them participate in activities of the parish.**
- ✚ Promote **refugee resettlement** in your country, welcome resettled refugees in your municipality
- ✚ Organise a **commemoration day** in your local community or parish for the men, women and children who died on their way to Europe

Participants' concerns at CEC Assembly 2009:

*"Inclusive policies for refugees",*

*"Municipalities reluctant to receive refugees demanding an increase in financial compensation by state"*

<sup>11</sup> According to the reports collected by United for Intercultural Action

**Encounter and sharing experiences,  
summer camps, festivities, summer activities**

*"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven" (Eccl. 3,1)*

**July 2010**

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**1-11 July 2010** World Football Cup (South Africa)

**11 July 2010** World Population Day

**20-27 July 2010** LWF Assembly (Stuttgart)

## August 2010

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**9 August 2010** International Day of the World's Indigenous People

**12 August 2010** International Youth Day

**23 August 2010** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

## ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL DISPLACEMENT

*"Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land". (Genesis 12: 10)*

September 2010

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### Take Action: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 , Ecumenical Creation Day

1 September 2010 Creation Day declared by Ecumenical Patriarchate and recommended by Charta Oecumenica

5 September 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: - Balkan States

12 September 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: - Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary

19 September 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

26 September 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

26 September 2010 European Day of Languages

## Do you know that...

- ❖ **Climate change and environmental factors are increasingly one of the causes of forced migrations.** Sea level rise, expanding deserts and catastrophic weather-induced flooding have already contributed to large permanent migrations and **in the next 50 years 250 million people might be forced to move due to climate change.**<sup>12</sup> There is also the issue of **people forced to move involuntarily** by projects such as building dams and other economic development processes. The World Bank estimates that in the 1990s some 100 million people were displaced by such projects
- ❖ The effects of climate change are likely to **affect the health status** of millions of people, particularly those with low adaptive capacity
- ❖ **Sana'a**, Yemen's capital, has doubled its population on average every six years since 1972 and now stands at 900,000. The aquifer on which the city depends is falling by 6 meters a year, and may be exhausted by 2010<sup>13</sup>
- ❖ In China, the **Gobi desert** expands more than 10,000 square kilometers per year, threatening many villages. Morocco, Tunisia and Libya each lose over 1,000 square kilometers of productive land a year to desertification. In Egypt, half of irrigated croplands suffer from salinization while in Turkey 160,000 square kilometers of farmlands is affected by soil erosion<sup>14</sup>
- ❖ The U.S. **Louisiana** now loses to the sea roughly 65 square kilometers per year while in Alaska 213 communities are threatened by tides that creep roughly 3 meters further inland each year<sup>15</sup>
- ❖ The low-lying Pacific island state of **Tuvalu** has struck an agreement with New Zealand to accept its 11,600 citizens in the event rising sea levels swamp the country. By one rough estimate, as many as 100

million people worldwide live in areas below sea level and / or are subject to storm surge<sup>16</sup>

## There is the need to...

- **Guarantee the same form of protection** to persons fleeing environmental degradation as to those fleeing generalized violence
- Guarantee protection to citizens of submerged island states that may find themselves stateless
- **Not transfer migrants to States subjected to environmental disasters and degradation**
- Put in place adaptation policies for **reducing climate change** and mitigating conflicts due to access to scarce resources

## What you can do...

- ✚ Start a Bible study group on Ecology and the Bible. Include the care for God's creation in the Sunday prayers of your church
- ✚ Invite a member of an environmental organization to speak to the youth group or to the congregation on concrete environmental protection
- ✚ Be environmental-friendly! Increase recycling of materials, reduce energy and water consumption, and talk about it so that others may be encouraged to do the same
- ✚ Think about the waste of energy in the church premises – why keep lamps burning during daytime when it is not needed? How much air-conditioning is needed? Use less cars and more communal transport
- ✚ Address the crucial issue of water, locally and globally
- ✚ Support environmental projects in developing countries

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c10a.html>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/index.php/article:130?menu=44>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/index.php/article:130?menu=44>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/index.php/article:130?menu=44>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/index.php/article:130?menu=44>

## COUNTERING CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY, IN PARTICULAR TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

*"if one part of the body suffers, all the other parts of the body suffer with it, all of you are then Christ's body and each one is a part of it. (1.Cor. 12, 26-27)*

October 2010

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### Take Action: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010 European Anti-Trafficking Day

- 3 October 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Central Asia
- 8 October 2010 International Day for natural disaster reduction
- 10 October 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal
- 16 October 2010 World Food Day, European Day against Poverty
- 17 October 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- 18 October 2010 EU Anti-Trafficking Day
- 24 October 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Indian Ocean Island
- 31 October 2010 Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Burundi, Congo, Rwanda
- 31 October 2010 Reformation Day

## Do you know that...

- ❖ **“Trafficking in human beings means** the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments of benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the **exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removals of organs**”<sup>17</sup>
- ❖ While many trafficked persons are never identified properly, official statistics document that several tens of thousands persons have become victims of trafficking over the last decades
- ❖ *“Exploited people are not less worthy of protection or have fewer human rights just because they have a history of exploitation and abuse or do not possess our passports”*<sup>18</sup>
- ❖ Victims of human trafficking can be found in many areas, some are forced into prostitution, others into begging in the streets, or into working in the fields, or on building sites

## There is the need to...

- **Prevent** trafficking in human beings
- **Protect** the victims
- **Prosecute** criminals

## What you can do...

- ✚ **Advocate for legislation which better protects the rights of trafficked persons**, e.g. access to health care, a secure residence title, compensation. Advocacy is necessary at European as well as at national level
- ✚ **Get in contact** with associations helping victims, visit them and offer them spiritual assistance and pastoral care!
- ✚ **Establish safety networks, offer psychological support and shelters to victims of trafficking present in your parish**
- ✚ **Raise awareness** about the issue of trafficking as a violation of human dignity in your congregation
- ✚ **Organise information campaigns** especially targeting the youth in schools and churches, as they are more vulnerable and could potentially become victims of trafficking

### Participants' concerns at CEC Assembly 2009:

*“Report employers that are exploiting immigrants”,  
“Against trafficking in human rights for work and sexual purposes”,*

*“Respect of the rights of migrants working in foreign countries, labour security and career management for them”*

<sup>17</sup> UN convention against transnational organized crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)

<sup>18</sup> Quote from Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative on combating trafficking in human beings

## WELCOMING THE STRANGER, MIGRATION IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

*"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Rm. 15,7)*

**November 2010**

| Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

**1 November 2010** All Saints

**7 November 2010** Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tomé

**14 November 2010** Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Equatorial Guinea

**21 November 2010** Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

**28 November 2010** Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: – Liberia, Sierra Leone

## Do you know that..

- ❖ Out of a world's population of 6,7 billion, nearly 1 billion of people are on the move. It means that one out of 7 people is a migrant. There are 740 million internal migrants and about **200 million international migrants**, representing **3% of global population**
- ❖ **Only one third of international migrants moved from a developing country to a developed one.** The majority moves between developing countries or between developed countries. **Migration is present in all world regions**
- ❖ **Women account for 49,6%** of international migrants: many women today migrate independently, married or unmarried, as income-earners for their families
- ❖ **Remittances inflows in Europe were at 119,945,000 US \$** in 2007, almost one third of the globally registered amount of 370,765,000 US \$.<sup>19</sup> The majority flows into EU Member States: 96,811,000 US \$. Africa accounts for 36,350,000 US \$
- ❖ In some European countries remittances are an important financial contribution to the GDP, e.g. Moldova 36 %, Armenia 18 % and Albania 15 %.
- ❖ 58 US\$ is the amount of remittances received on average each year by every person in the world. In Europe every person receives 160 US\$, 114 US\$ in Latin America, 44 US\$ in Africa, 36 US\$ in Asia
- ❖ In the European Union **23% of migrants** have a tertiary education level and foreign-born workers in Western Europe represent 10% of the work forces

## There is the need to...

- **Assure more legal ways to enter** in the European Union Member States

- Facilitate **circular migration**, access to visa needs to be improved. The reality of transnational family life needs support in order to avoid that children are left without care and families break up
- Promote coherent migration policies that **respect human and social rights**, while promoting an inclusive society with values of solidarity, responsibility, sharing and non-discrimination
- **Consider migration as an element in development policies**, e.g. the role of diaspora organisations in development
- Elaborate **ethical recruitment** standards to avoid brain-drain and emigration of qualified and needed personnel
- **Guarantee human, social and labour rights** which are the basis of integration, participation and social inclusion

## What you can do...

- Highlight the issue of migration and **welcoming migrants** in your context, **promote a culture of welcoming and mutual integration** in your church
- Involve **migrants from developing countries in development** and partnership activities of your church
- Plan an event where **migrants can share** about **their experience** and inform about their home country and how they maintain links

## Participants' concerns at CEC Assembly 2009:

*"Brain Drain from poor countries",*

*"Emigration of the young and active people",*

*"To save our world from violence, to dismantle inequity",*

*"The rights of migrants working in foreign countries, labour security and career management for them"*

<sup>19</sup> Human Development Report 2009, International financial flows: remittances, official development assistance and foreign direct investment, HDR Tables 2009

## RESPECTING MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

*"In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together". (Is. 19, 23)*

December 2010

| Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |

### Take Action on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2010: International Migrants Day

5,12,19 December 2010 Advent Sundays

6 December 2010 St. Nicolaus

10 December 2010 Human Rights Day

18 December 2010 International Migrants Day

25 December 2010 Christmas

## Do you know that...

- ❖ **The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families aims at protecting migrant workers, both documented and undocumented.** It serves as a moral standard, a guide and stimulus for the protection of migrants' rights<sup>20</sup>. Up to now, 42 States have ratified it and 30 have signed it. Only four European countries have either acceded or ratified the Convention, none of the EU Member States is among them
- ❖ Migrant workers are both documented and undocumented, even though regular migrants have more rights than irregular ones, human rights must be respected for every human being; irrespective of his/her legal situation
- ❖ International migrants are usually particularly **vulnerable to abuse and exploitation** because they are outside the legal protection of their countries of nationality
- ❖ Often families are separated as one or several members are seeking to work for an income abroad
- ❖ Migrants are too often **constrained to "3-D" works** (dirty, dangerous, degrading) where human rights are easily violated. **Women often face dual discrimination and vulnerability** as migrants and women
- ❖ **The protection of human and labour rights of all migrants facilitates the integration process** and has positive effects in terms of development and productivity

## There is the need to...

- Consider **mobility as a positive feature of human development**
- **Respect migrants' rights and respect the right to migrate lawfully:** to leave any State and to enter and remain in any other State
- **For Migration policies and practices to respect human rights** and international standards for the protection of migrant workers and their families and the preservation of States' interests<sup>21</sup>

- **Respect migrants' right to family life, facilitate family reunification and easier access and mobility for family members to visit**
- **Strengthen the right to a long-term residence status after five years of legal stay, irrespective of the grounds of stay**
- **Ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all migrant workers and the members of their families**

## What you can do...

- ✚ **Lobby for the ratification of the UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families**
- ✚ **Raise awareness about the issue of human rights and migrants:** what are the most common violations in your country? How do you promote the respect of human rights?
- ✚ Empower people to actively participate in the public, economic, social and political as well as church or religious spheres, irrespective of the nationality
- ✚ Advocate for family reunification and options for family visits
- ✚ **Promote** the issue of human rights and migrants' rights and **get in contact** with civil society organisations for the protection of migrants' rights
- ✚ **Dedicate a worship service/bible study** to the issue of migrants' rights

Participants' concerns at CEC assembly 2009:

*"Conditions in migrant centers, forced repatriation, legal status of migrants"*

*"Stopping forced returns"*

*"The rights of migrants working in foreign countries, labour security and career management for them"*

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.unesco.org/most/migration/convention/>

<sup>21</sup> Guide on ratification of the international Convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families, Geneva, 2009

You can get more information on the themes of this calendar at...

### January: Uniting in Diversity

<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/ccmeunitingdiversity.pdf>  
<http://www.ccme.be/archive/2005/ciampino%20report.pdf>  
<http://www.cec-kek.org/content/charta.shtml>  
<http://assembly.ceceurope.org/index.php?id=200#c447>  
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/justice-diakonia-and-responsibility-for-creation/migration-and-social-justice.html>  
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle.html>  
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/the-wcc-and-the-ecumenical-movement-in-the-21st-century/global-platform-for-theological-reflection-and-analysis/2007-reflection-on-migration.html>

### February: Recognising Irregular Migrants

<http://irregular-migration.hwwi.net/Home.6177.o.html>  
<http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/>  
<http://www.picum.org>  
[http://fortresseurope.blogspot.com/2006/02/immigrants-dead-at-frontiers-of-europe\\_16.html](http://fortresseurope.blogspot.com/2006/02/immigrants-dead-at-frontiers-of-europe_16.html)  
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle.html>

### March: Fighting Racism and Discrimination

[http://assembly.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/asse/Assembly/Documents/Official\\_documents/GEN\\_PUB\\_6\\_EN\\_SolidaritywithRomaminority.Final.pdf](http://assembly.ceceurope.org/fileadmin/filer/asse/Assembly/Documents/Official_documents/GEN_PUB_6_EN_SolidaritywithRomaminority.Final.pdf)  
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/unity-mission-evangelism-and-spirituality/just-and-inclusive-communities/racism.html>  
[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/eu-midis/index\\_en.htm](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/eu-midis/index_en.htm)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/fdad/cms/stopdiscrimination/?langid=en](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fdad/cms/stopdiscrimination/?langid=en)  
<http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/>  
[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_296\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_296_en.pdf)

### April: Being a Citizen of the Household of God

<http://eudo-citizenship.eu/>

<http://www.integrationindex.eu/>

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/unity-mission-evangelism-and-spirituality/spirituality-and-worship.html>

### May: Celebrating Diversity

[http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/cultural\\_diversity/index.html](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/cultural_diversity/index.html)

### June: Protecting Refugees

[http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/Christian\\_Group\\_-\\_Recomm\\_for\\_Stockholm\\_Program\\_final.pdf](http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/Christian_Group_-_Recomm_for_Stockholm_Program_final.pdf)  
<http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/2009-08-28-Debate%20article%20to%20European%20church%20media.pdf>  
<http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/090629%20RR%20CCME%20considerations%20and%20recommendations%20EU%20RR%20scheme%20FINAL.pdf>  
<http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/Mapping%20migration%20report%202008-05-28.pdf>

### September: Addressing Environmental Displacement

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/justice-diakonia-and-responsibility-for-creation/climate-change-and-water.html>  
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/justice-diakonia-and-responsibility-for-creation/climate-change-and-water/public-campaign-on-climate-change.html>  
<http://www.ecen.org/>  
<http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR31/contents.pdf>  
<http://www.forcedmigration.org/browse/thematic/climate-change/>  
<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e4a5096.html>  
<http://www.cec-kek.org/English/ChartafinE.htm>

## October: Countering Contemporary Forms of Slavery, in particular Trafficking in Human Beings

<http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/CCME-trafficking-positionFINALadopted.pdf>

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/fsj/crime/trafficking/fsj\\_crime\\_human\\_trafficking\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/crime/trafficking/fsj_crime_human_trafficking_en.htm)

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/default_en.asp)

<http://www.coatnet.org/>

<http://www.anti-trafficking.net/>

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html>

## November: Welcoming the Stranger – Migration in a Globalised World

<http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/GFMDChristian%2ostatement%20091030%2ofinal.pdf>

<http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/index.cfm>

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/>

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>

<http://www.gfmd2009.org>

<http://www.gfmd.org>

## December: Respecting Migrants' Rights

<http://www.december8.net>

<http://www.unesco.org/most/migration/convention/>

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/HandbookFINAL.PDF>

<http://www.migrantsrights.org/>

<http://www.un.org/en/rights/>

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>



## Aims of the Year of European Churches Responding to Migration 2010:

- ✚ Visibility of the *churches' commitment to strangers*, responding to the message of the Bible
- ✚ Promotion of an *inclusive policy* at European and national level for migrants, refugees and ethnic minority groups, through *work for and with migrants*, refugees and ethnic minority groups

Visit the website:

