



A Transformative Spirituality for Peacebuilding

The ecumenical Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace World Council of Churches







You have been told,
O humankind,
what is good and
what God looks for in you.

Nothing other than to practise justice, to love kindness and to walk gently with your God

(Micah 6:8)



God of life, lead us to justice and peace

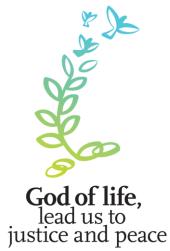
World Council of Churches 10th Assembly

30 October to 8 November 2013 Busan, Republic of Korea





→ From the Message of WCC X. Assembly, Busan 2013



World Council of Churches 10th Assembly 30 October to 8 November 2013 Busan, Republic of Korea

"... We intend to move together.

Challenged by our experiences in Busan, we challenge all people of good will to engage their God-given gifts in transforming actions.

This Assembly calls you to join us in pilgrimage.

May the churches be communities of healing and compassion, and may we seed the Good News so that **justice** will grow and God's deep **peace** rest on the world."

Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!

Psalm 106:3





- I. Steps leading to the Ecumenical Pilgrimage
 - building on the concept of 'Just Peace'
- **II.** Transformative Spirituality
 - the Trinitarian Foundation of 'Just Peace'





- I. Steps leading to the Ecumenical Pilgrimage
 - 1. Continuition of the Conciliar Process for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation

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WCC-VI. Assembly of the World Council of Churches Vancouver 1983





I. Steps leading to the Ecumenical Pilgrimage

2. Just Peace

- as the new Paradigm of Ecumenical Theology and Social Ethics



International Ecumenical Peace Convocation

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011







Definition of *Just Peace*

"... is a collective and dynamic yet grounded **process**of freeing human beings from fear and want,
of overcoming enmity, discrimination and oppression,
and of establishing conditions for **just relationships**that privilege the experience of the most vulnerable
and respect the **integrity of creation**."

An Ecumenical Call to just Peace, §11





Definition of *Just Peace*

"The Way of Just Peace is fundamentally different from the concept of "just war" and much more than criteria for protecting people from the unjust use of force;

in addition to silencing weapons it embraces social justice, the rule of law, respect for human rights and shared human security.



Dimensions of *Just Peace*

a. Peace in the Community – Justice within societies



Kingston | Jamaica | 2011





- **Peace in the Community** *Justice within societies* a.
- **Peace among Peoples** War and Peace, International Law b.



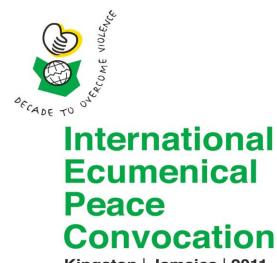




Dimensions of *Just Peace*

- a. Peace in the Community Justice within societies
- **b.** Peace among Peoples War and Peace, International Law
- c. Peace in the Marketplace Economic Justice





Dimensions of *Just Peace*

- a. Peace in the Community Justice within societies
- **b.** Peace among Peoples War and Peace, International Law
- c. Peace in the Marketplace Economic Justice
- **d.** Peace with the Earth Ecological Justice, Climate Justice





Dimensions of *Just Peace*

- **Peace in the Community** *Justice within societies* a.
- **Peace among Peoples** War and Peace, International Law b.
- **Peace in the Marketplace** *Economic Justice* C.
- d. **Peace with the Earth** – *Ecological Justice, Climate Justice*
- **Peace with oneself** how to do justice to oneself? e.





I. Steps leading to the Ecumenical Pilgrimage

- 1. Continuition of the Conciliar Process for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation
- 2. Just Peace
 - as the new Paradigm of Ecumenical Theology and Social Ethics

- 3. The pilgrimage-metaphor
 - against the reduction of 'Just Peace' to a socio-political aim





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 - against the reduction of 'Just Peace' to a socio-political aim
- 4. The Pilgrimage of Justice and of Peace
 - a Journey of the Churches



"Stations" of the Pilgrimage of the international Reference Group on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

2015 Geneva (Europe) – Climate Justice

2016 Israel/Palestine – Peacebuilding in Contexts of Violence

2017 Nigeria — Peacebuilding in Contexts of Interreligious Conflict

2018 Colombia – Diakonia and Sustainable Development

2019 Myanmar/Bangladesh – Racism







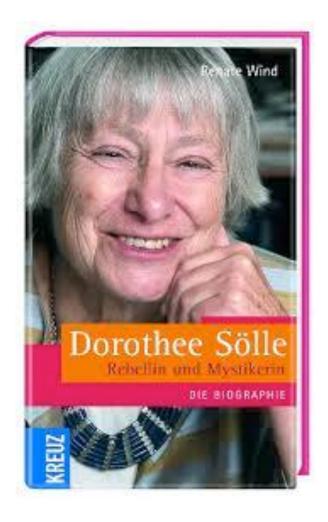


- the Trinitarian Foundation of 'Just Peace'





- a. Via positiva
- b. Via nagativa
- c. Via transformativa







- a. Via positiva Celebrating the Gifts of Creation
- b. Via nagativa Visiting the Wounds of Violence
- c. Via transformativa Transforming the Injustices





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- c. Via transformativa Transforming the Injustices
 - → and the trinitarian foundation of Just Peace

Statement on the Way of Just Peace (2013)

Together we believe in God, the Creator of all life.

Therefore we acknowledge that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God...

In wondrously creating a world with more than enough natural riches to support countless generations of human beings and other living things,

God makes manifest a vision for all people to live in the fullness of life and with dignity, regardless of class, gender, religion, race or ethnicity.



An Invitation to the Pilgimage of Justice and Peace (WCC 2014)

Celebrating the Gifts - via positiva

We do not journey with empty hands, nor do we walk alone.

The "original blessing" of being created in the image of God and together – as a fellowship – we are a unique part of the wider web of life, which amazes us.

Together we celebrate God's great gift of life, the beauty of creation and the unity of a reconciled diversity.



We feel empowered by this grace to participate **God's movement** of love, justice and peace.





Focus 2018: Colombia

Statement on the Way of Just Peace (2013)

Together we believe in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Therefore we acknowledge that humankind is reconciled with God, by grace, and we strive to live reconciled with one another.

The life and teachings, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, point toward the peaceable kingdom of God. Despite persecution and suffering, Jesus remains steadfast in his way of humility and active non-violence, even unto death. His life of commitment to justice leads to the cross, an instrument of torture and execution.

With the resurrection of Jesus, God confirms that such steadfast love, such obedience, such trust, leads to life.

By God's grace we too are enabled to take the way of the cross, be disciples and bear the costs.



An Invitation to the Pilgimage of Justice and Peace (WCC 2014)

Visiting the Wounds – *via negativa*

This pilgrimage will lead us to the locations of ugly violence and injustices.

We intend to look for God's incarnated presence in the midst of suffering, exclusion, and discrimination.

The true encounter with real, contextual experiences of a broken creation and sinful behavior against each other might inform us anew about the essence of life itself.

It might lead us to repentance and

in a movement of purification –
 liberate us from obsession with power, possessions, ego, and violence,
 so that we become ever more Christ-like.







Focus 2018: Colombia



Statement on the Way of Just Peace (2013)

Together we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Giver and Sustainer of all life.

Therefore we acknowledge the sanctifying presence of God in all of life, strive to protect life and to heal broken lives...

The Holy Spirit assures us that the Triune God will perfect and consummate all of creation at the end of time.

In this we recognize justice and peace as both promise and present – hope for the future and a gift here and now.



An Invitation to the Pilgimage of Justice and Peace (WCC 2014)

Transforming the Injustices – *via transformativa*

Being transformed ourselves,

the pilgrimage may lead us to concrete actions of transformation.

We may grow in our courage to live in true **compassion** with one another and with nature.

This will include the strength to resist evil – injustice and violence..

Economic and ecological justice as well as

the healing of the wounded and

the striving for peaceful reconciliation is our call

in each and every context.



The credibility of our actions might grow from the quality of the fellowship we share

a fellowship of justice and peace.











Defending human rights is a way of life;

it is a collective project that one must take hold of with body and soul in order to bring about change.

Once you start
there is no going back
because once you take that
first step
you are no longer responsible
just for yourself,
but rather
for the entire community.

Pastor Salvador Alcántara, El Garzal



'Place works on the pilgrim... that's what pilgrimage is for.'

Rowan Williams







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