

INVITATION

Conference of European Churches

7TH Summer School on Human Rights

“Challenges for Human Rights in the time of Covid-19”

7-10 July 2020

W E B I N A R

For freedom, Christ set us free. Galatians 5.1

Esteemed Church leaders, dear friends of CEC, Brothers and Sisters,
We are very pleased to announce, under the title:

“CHALLENGES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19”

the 7th CEC Summer School on Human Rights.

This year’s Summer School is organised with the
Protestant Church in Germany (EKD).

With a view on the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisers – Conference of European Churches and EKD – made the decision that this event will take place in the form of webinars, and not at the Protestant Academy at Schwanenwerder in Berlin as had been originally announced. Due to the current situation, the organisers, in conjunction with the Thematic Group on Human Rights, adapted the program to the present human rights questions.

Why Human Rights matter in the time of COVID-19

We warmly invite participants coming from CEC Member Churches and from other religious communities, lay and ordained, theologians, scholars, church practitioners, with a special invitation extended to young people and students.

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The objectives of the program are:

- To **raise the awareness** of participants concerning the fundamental right to Freedom of Religion or Belief during time of COVID and to look into the issues of individual countries.
- To **enhance personal and professional skills** and expertise when reporting hate crime within the OSCE mechanism.

In fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, almost all European countries, and many other states, have applied different legal measures, thereby also limiting fundamental rights and freedoms. The first part of the Summer School will therefore discuss the question of how human rights, democracy and rule of law are affected during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what the situation of various churches in Europe is. New to this Summer School is a stronger cooperation with OSCE, which will offer a special human rights training course in the second part of the event.

Objectives and Content

The **overall goal** of the programme is to:

- Exchange reflections on the limitations of fundamental human rights and freedoms, their justifications and limits,
- Exchange learnings on such limitations and legal questions, especially concerning Freedom of Religion or Belief,
- Strengthen interreligious and ecumenical cooperation.

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Learning material can be found on the CEC website and the Nordic Learning Platform.

Methodology and Conditions

The Summer School is free for all participants.

We look forward to exchanging with you online,



Dr Elizabeta Kitanovic
CEC Executive Secretary for
Human Rights



OKR Rev Sabine Dreßler
EKD Human Rights
Department



Revd. Dr Patrick Roger
Schnabel
EKBO Human Rights Officer