

## **Care for Justice, Peace and Creation**

### ***Four-year plan of Justice and Peace Europe 2018 - 2021***

*The General Assembly of the European Conference of Justice and Peace Commissions (Justice and Peace Europe) 2017 in Taizé made an important step towards the reorientation of its work at the European level. After a year of reflection and dialogue the delegates of the General Assembly on 1 October 2018 in Manresa a four-year-plan for their European activities. They agreed to pursue a balanced and integrated approach.*

- *A balanced approach combines prayer and reflection and allows all participants to nourish themselves intellectually and spiritually at all European meetings. Global, European and local perspectives need to be combined? Thus, the International Workshop - as the key event in the annual cycle of activities - shall also include an exposure moment to the work of the hosting JP commission or to the one of its partners in connection with the chosen topic".*
- *An integral approach in the joint activities of the network is pursued in line with the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*. When reading the signs of the times the concerns for peace, social justice, human rights and the care for creation are taken into account together.*

*Delegates further considered necessary to rejuvenate the network and to give a structural translation to its ecumenical spirit. For the implementation of these principles they opted for a period of four years to follow the orientations listed below. Thus, Justice and Peace Europe should become more reliable for national commissions and more interesting for sponsors and media alike.*

1. Starting with the General Assembly 2018 in Barcelona/Manresa and for the next four years Justice and Peace Europe will follow the integral approach of *Laudato Si'* and will define more and more a specific *Laudato Si'* method. It intends to become a recognised promoter of *Laudato Si'* at the European level. Rooted in the social teaching of the Church it cares for creation, human rights, justice and peace. It takes into account the fact that Europe as a whole as well as in its parts needs to deal with a complicated past in an appropriated manner in order to achieve lasting anamnestic justice, peace and reconciliation. Through its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development goals Justice and Peace Europe follows an international dimension in its work. In general, each topic chosen will be considered from four perspectives: the environment, social justice, the peace and the rights perspective. However, at different times of the year and occasions one perspective will be given priority. Although a certain flexibility remains necessary, our activities throughout the year therefore follow a regular structure:
  - a. During the season of creation in September the International Workshop/General Assembly, hosted by a member commission, would include an ecological topic and a symbolic action, which shall be prepared in cooperation with the Catholic Global Climate Movement.
  - b. Around Human Rights Day Justice and Peace Europe would prepare an initiative or a public statement.

- c. A “Prayer & Breakfast” event in January in Brussels would promote the Papal Message for the World Peace Day on 1 January.
  - d. The meetings of Secretary Generals, hosted by a member commission, normally on the weekend preceding Lenten would focus on a (international, social, anamnestic) justice issue.
  - e. The annual concerted action of the member commissions, launched every year at the beginning of Lenten would treat a topic, if possible from the four above mentioned perspectives in line with the integral approach of *Laudato Si’*?
  - f. An annual *Laudato Si’* Reflection Day is organised every year in June together with the Global Catholic Climate Movement, and - if possible - CCEE, COMECE and other Catholic and Christian organisations as for instance Caritas Europa, CIDSE or the European Forum of National Laity Committees. The chosen topic combines practical considerations for a more ecological and climate friendly life-style and an EU policy initiative in the field of the environment and climate protection.
2. Justice and Peace Europe will create a spiritually refreshing experience for each of its initiatives and meetings. It values the contribution of the Community of Taizé to the development of a genuine, multilingual and simple European spirituality. “Whilst media and social networks enable us to communicate and to share our knowledge and affections, they also shield us at times from direct contact with the pain, the fears and the joys of others. Therefore we should be concerned that a deep and melancholic dissatisfaction with interpersonal relations can also arise.” (*Laudato Si’* 47). Justice and Peace Europe values strong interpersonal relations that result from direct encounters
  3. In order to propose the experience of Justice and Peace Europe to younger Christians specific invitations will be extended to them on the occasion of the International Workshop and/or other activities.
  4. Over the next four years Justice and Peace Europe will maintain a close relationship with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.
  5. Justice and Peace Europe will cooperate closely with other Catholic organisations and movements at the European level, especially with the Commission of European bishops’ conferences in the European Union (COMECE).
  6. In line with n° 13 of its by-laws the ExCo of Justice and Peace Europe will invite a representative of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) on a permanent basis to its International Workshop/General Assembly and to the meeting of Secretaries General.

Manresa 1 October 2018, the General Assembly of Justice and Peace Europe