



GLOBALT
FOKUS

Netværk for
RELIGION og
UDVIKLING

FAITH AND PEACEBUILDING – SDG 16 Seminar

The Nexus between Religion and Peacebuilding;
with principal perspectives and practical examples from Zimbabwe
November 23rd 2017, 09:00 am – 12:00 noon (+ sandwiches from 12.00 – 12.30)

The link between faith and peacebuilding (SDG 16) has a long and ambiguous history. Religious leaders and communities have both created conflict and propagated peace. What is the specific potential for peace that religious actors represent? What is needed for that potential to unfold? What are the gaps between potential and realisation? How can partners assist religious actors to play their unique role in peacebuilding to achieve the SDG 16 – of ‘peaceful and inclusive societies’?

The purpose of the seminar is within the wider framework of the 2030 Agenda:

- to discuss the links between faith and peacebuilding - to contribute to SDG 16
- to look at practical examples from Zimbabwe

The key-speaker Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata has both principal insight and practical experience (see presentation)

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (see below), has devoted much attention to these questions, not out of mere academic interest, but as they are crucial for the future of Zimbabwe – not least in the run up to the 2018 presidential elections. He has been involved in practical interventions, as well as in national research for the Aspire Institute on the questions listed above.

This SDG 16 seminar is one of a number of seminars with the purpose to build professional capacity and knowledge of NGO staff and other interested actors to analyse and navigate in different contexts where religion plays an important role in development work. Previous seminars include ‘Faith and Gender/SDG5’ Nov. 2016 and ‘Faith and Food/SDG2’ March 2017.

The seminars are organized by the Network for Religion and Development founded by ADRA Denmark, DanChurchAid, Caritas Denmark, Danish Muslim Aid, Danmission, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Centre for African Studies, Danish Mission Council and Danish Mission Council Development Department. The initiative is supported financially by Danida through Globalt Fokus/Global Focus.

TIME, PLACE & REGISTRATION: November 23rd, 2017, 09:00 am - 12:00 noon

Venue: Bjælkeloftet, Diakonissestiftelsen, Peter Bangs Vej 1, 2000 Frederiksberg, Copenhagen. To register for the seminar, please contact Vivi Larsen, intern in International Department: vlar@dca.dk – no later than November 17th, 2017

PROGRAMME

Welcome

By Filip Buff Pedersen, Network Coordinator for Network for Religion and Development

Opening of the seminar

By Jørgen Thomsen, Senior Advisor in DanChurchAid, International Ecumenical Cooperation and Religion & Development.

A principal perspective on Faith and Peacebuilding as related to Agenda 2030 and SDG 16

By Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches

Table talks and plenary discussion – with input from a ‘Listeners’ Panel’

Coffee break

Estimated around 10.30

Peacebuilding by Churches in Zimbabwe

By Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches

Table talks and plenary discussion – with input from a ‘Listeners’ Panel’

Evaluation and closure

By Jørgen Thomsen, DanChurchAid

Sandwiches

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information about the seminar, please contact DanChurchAid:

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Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe is General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches since 2016. Prior to that he served seven years as Dept. for Theology and Public Witness study secretary for Lutheran Theology and Practice in the Lutheran World Federation; Geneva. Mtata is widely published, especially from the two main Lutheran World Federation projects he has been leading: the Lutheran Hermeneutics project and the Religion and Development project. As Gen Secr of the ZCC one of his foci is on ‘the Covenanting Nation’, a process designed to increase social cohesion, just relations and solidarity economic processes. Mtata is also co-founder of the Zimbabwean based Aspire Institute.



The Zimbabwean example of the Ecumenical Church Leaders Forum work illustrates how church leaders can engage in peace building. The democratization of Zimbabwe was accompanied by severe, politically motivated violence, most notably before, during and after elections. Church leaders became convinced that “Development without peace is not sustainable, and peace without development is not durable” (UNDP motto). They decided to focus on strengthening the capacity of the church and community leadership in negotiation skills for conflict prevention, management, resolution and transformation (CPMRT) as well as in community dialogues; seeing restorative justice as a pre-requisite for sustainable peace. The group of concerned church leaders agreed to give priority to peace building as a critical project in nation building. Today, the Forum is active in all of the ten provinces of Zimbabwe, with churches and communities welcoming its long overdue message.