

CCME AIMS AT PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE POLICY AT EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL LEVEL FOR MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

## Projects:

Recently, CCME implemented the following projects:

- **Safe Passage:** The “Safe passage” project is an initiative by churches across Europe, coordinated by CCME, which aims at making safe passage a reality for migrants and refugees trying to reach the EU through its Southern borders. In addition and in a longer term, the project aims at changing European asylum and migration policy so that refugee and migrants no longer have to resort to perilous journeys across the EU borders.
- **TRACKS:** CCME is part of a consortium which has been awarded a grant under the AMIF fund for a project on trafficked persons in the asylum procedure. It has a specific focus on the protection of trafficked persons through asylum. CCME is mainly responsible for advice to the project and dissemination of findings. CCME also compiles a tool for asylum practitioners how to address and assist trafficked persons in the asylum procedure.
- **Private sponsorship in refugee resettlement:** CCME is part of an ICMC-led project which explores the potential role of private sponsorship in refugee resettlement to the EU.
- **WACC Communication: Refugees and Communication Rights in Europe:** This is a project on the communication rights of refugees seeking safe passage proposed by the World Association of Christian Communication. It is carried out in partnership with CCME



## CCME

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ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

beyond borders

since 1964

## CCME's Mission is to

*serve the churches in their commitment to promote the vision of an inclusive community through advocating for an adequate policy for migrants, refugees and minority groups at European and national level. In the fulfilment of this mandate it is responding to the message of the Bible which insists on the dignity of every human being and to the understanding of unity as devoid of any distinction between strangers and natives.*

## CCME

- works on issues of migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination, undertakes research, initiates, develops and implements projects in these fields;
- represents the common voice of the churches in Europe on the above issues vis-à-vis the European institutions.

**«FOR I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME» (MT. 25:35)**

# Who we are

Founded in 1964, the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is an organisation of churches, ecumenical councils and church-related agencies from currently nineteen European countries. The Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) formally and closely cooperate with CCME.

CCME works on issues of migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism, xenophobia and discrimination, undertakes research, initiates, develops and implements projects in these fields. It represents the common voice of churches in Europe on the above issues vis-à-vis the European institutions and international organisations active in Europe.

CCME provides a space for churches and Christian agencies to share their experiences in the ministry among migrants, refugees, and ethnic minority persons. CCME is part of a wider ecumenical network of the World Council of Churches. CCME co-chairs the European Platform of NGOs on Asylum and Migration (EPAM) and participates in the European Council on Refugees and Exiles ECRE and the European Network Against Racism ENAR.

CCME maintains regular contacts with the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. CCME also holds official observer status with the Council of Europe (Strasbourg/France). This enables CCME to monitor European policy-making in the migration, integration and asylum spheres and to present the concerns of the churches to the relevant institutions.

CCME cooperates with the Middle East Council of Churches on migration and refugee resettlement in the Mediterranean region, and with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), particularly on removals of migrants as well as development and migration issues in the context of the Global Ecumenical Network on Migration of the World Council of Churches. CCME also enjoys close cooperation with the Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program USA.



## CCME Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is elected by the General Assembly to administer the Commission's affairs. The last assembly in Prague (Czech Republic), June 2017 elected:

### Moderator

Mr Lemma Desta Gonamo, Norway

### Vice-Moderators

Ms Efthalia Pappa, Greece

Ms Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy, Hungary

### Treasurer

Apostle Adejare Oyewole, United Kingdom

### Members

Mr David Bradwell, United Kingdom,

Revd. Sabine Dressler, Germany

Ms Dana Gavril, Romania

Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams (Representative of the World Council of Churches)

Mr Andreas Henriksen Aarflot (Representative of the Conference of European Churches)

### Substitute Members:

Ms Talvikki Ahonen, Finland

Fr Cristian Popescu, Czech Republic

## CCME Staff

Ms Doris Peschke  
Dr. Torsten Moritz  
Mr Emmanuel Kabalisa

General Secretary  
Executive Secretary  
Office Manager

## The Hope in Which We Stand

Work priorities adopted by the General Assembly, Prague, June 2017:

### • Safe Passage

*Monitoring of search and rescue as well as reception at Europe's external borders. Advocacy and networking efforts to enable safe and legal access to Europe for those in need of protection, but also for those migrating in search of labour.*

### • Europe and International Refugee Protection

*Uphold the right of persons in need of international protection to access a fair, speedy and high quality procedure with adequate reception conditions. Search for solidarity in responsibility sharing for refugee protection between different states.*

### • Europe & International Migration

*Advocate for a clear, transparent and accessible system of migration to Europe – based on fundamental rights of migrants and a special focus on family unity. Intervene in favour of migrants' rights, solidarity and social cohesion whenever possible.*

### • Upholding the Dignity of Persons, addressing discrimination.

*Address the protection of those groups discriminated against in the context of ethnic, social, racial religious and gender based exclusion. Continue its commitment against racism and xenophobia, particularly when related to migration.*

### • Uniting in Diversity

*Closer cooperation with migrant or minority ethnic churches. Intensify and enhance the ecumenical cooperation at national and European levels with migrant and minority ethnic churches.*