



Press Release

24 October 2005

CHURCHES DEBATE GLOBAL MIGRATION

The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), a leading migrant rights and anti-discrimination organization, will hold this week its three-yearly General Assembly in London. The assembly begins with a one-day public conference on global migration to be held at the City Hall on Friday 28 October.

The four-day assembly, organized by CCME in partnership with the UK-based Churches' Commission for Racial Justice (CCRJ), a commission of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), brings together delegates from churches across Europe. They will discuss the key issues and challenges facing an expanded European Union.

Media and public are invited to the one day conference:

Title: "Global Governance of Migration - a Response to Global Migration"

When: 9.30am to 4.30pm Friday, 28 October 2005

Where: City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1

Travel: nearest tube station is London Bridge

Speakers will include:

Ms Jean Lambert MEP The Green Party; Baroness Sarah Ludford, MEP, Liberal Democrats; Mr Claude Moraes, MEP, Socialist; Mr Lee Jasper, Representative of the London Mayor; church leaders, including Bishop Angaelos, of the Coptic Orthodox Church UK and Bishop Joe Aldred, Secretary for Minority Ethnic Christian Affairs for Churches Together in England.

Rev. Arlington Trotman, Commission Secretary of CCRJ, said: "It is timely that CCME should be welcomed to a capital city in which churches are seeking remedies to increasingly restrictive and discriminatory immigration policies at all levels." The assembly is being held in London while the UK Government holds the presidency of the EU and Chair of the G8.

Ahead of the assembly, Ms Doris Peschke, General Secretary of CCME said: “Reports show that we more than ever need good governance of international migration. So far policies focus on restriction and short-sighted migration control. We as churches are committed to developing an international migration framework, which can make migration beneficial to migrants, their countries of origin and host societies alike.”

To book a conference place phone Margaret Pattinson +44 20 7654 7241 or see www.ctbi.org.uk

For further information:

CCME +32 2 234 68 00

CCRJ +44 20 7654 7240

Anne van Staveren Communications Officer, CTBI +44 20 7654 7220 or 07939 139 881

The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. Members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and Councils of Churches as well as church-related agencies in presently 16 European countries. CCME cooperates with the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the World Council of Churches.