

Conversion in the asylum procedure – new developments and old challenges

Online event 18-20 January 2022

A CCME event in cooperation with CEC , COMECE and EEA

DRAFT AGENDA AS OF 12th January 2022

Registration by simple email to info@ccme.be (prolonged deadline: 16th January 2022)

Tuesday 18th January 2022

10.00 Welcome by organisers and opening prayer (Dr.Torsten Moritz CCME GS and.....)

- Opening keynote: conversion in the asylum procedure - an area of conflict between church and state – theological – missiological reflections Prof. D Nagy PThU
- Discussion

12.00 Break

15.00 Conversion in the asylum procedure: what is it all about ?

- Understanding conversion from different perspectives and scientific disciplines, Prof.Dr. Henning Theißen Leuphana University Lüneburg
- Testimonies
- Discussion

(both sessions on 18th January 2022 chaired by Dr Torsten Moritz)

17.00 End

Wednesday 19th January 2022

10.00 Developments in asylum authorities and judiciary

- Improving asylum decision on complex cases – Mr Gesine Marder European Asylum Support Office
- Credibility assessment from a judges' perspective – Prof Harald Döring Vice Chair International Association of Refugee Law Judges Europe chapter
- Credibility assessment in a ECJ perspective Peter George Xuereb Judge at Court of Justice of the European Union . formerly Judge in the General Court
- Reaction from Ruth Nordström and Rebecca Ahlstrand, Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers

(session chaired by Mr Jose Luis Bazan, COMECE)

12.30 Break

15.00 Best practice of churches - a panel

- Political discussion and practical training Pastor Dietlind Jochims , Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Germany/ecumenical “asyl in der Kirche” association
- Providing guidance for churches on baptism for asylum seekers – Mr Ben Ryan Church of England
- Engaging with constitutional court - NN Church of Norway

- Better interpretation - Dr Ulla Siirto Lutheran Church Finland and Father Teemu Toivonen, Orthodox Church Finland
- Preparing converts and parishes for court cases - NN GAVE Foundation Netherland

(session chaired by Mr. Arie de Pater, EEA)

17.00 End

Thursday 20th January 2022

10.00 The role of foreign/"native" language parishes and churches in conversion

Reports from parishes/churches catering for example to Iranians or Afghans - both in Europe and country of origin

- Pastor Christian Mölk, Sweden
- Pastor Peter Vimalasekaran, Germany

(session chaired by Mr. Arie de Pater, EEA)

12.00 Break

15.00 CHURCHES INTERNAL: how to manage expectations and address setbacks among converts and churches ?

- what can we promise as a church, what for the world outside the church ?

- how do we keep up motivation and engagement for converts despite setbacks

- the tension between personal commitment and professional distance

- Rev.Timo Keskitalo Finland
- Rev.Niels Nymann Eriksen, Denmark
- Rev. Judith van den Berg-Meelis, Netherlands

Closing remarks and prayer

(session chaired by Mr Karel Jungheim, Protestant Church Netherlands, planning group member)

17.00 End

The language of the meeting is English.

With the support of EKIR , and OPM Valdese/metodiste

