



World Council of Churches

Greetings

Church Action Day Against Nuclear Weapons on June 6, 2020 in Büchel

Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, WCC Deputy General Secretary

Dear friends, sisters and brothers in Christ,
united in the witness for life in its fullness, for justice and peace,

The World Council of Churches (WCC) calls for a “nuclear free world”! The WCC Central Committee emphasized in 2014 that nuclear weapons are incompatible with true peace and the WCC Executive Committee declared 2017: “Nuclear weapons must never be used again, under any circumstances.” (Statement on Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and on 2017 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, November 2017, Amman, Jordan). Together with the people of Oceania and our member churches in the region, which is the priority region of the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace this year, we call for justice for the victims of nuclear testing for the nuclear arms of the USA, France, and the United Kingdom.

There is no justification for the development of nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear deterrence. Already the first WCC assembly in 1948 declared nuclear war to be a sin against God and a degradation of human beings. The declaration of the WCC Central Committee 1982 in Geneva continues to be valid:

"The concept of deterrence, the credibility of which depends on the possible use of nuclear weapons, is to be rejected as morally unacceptable and as incapable of safeguarding peace and security in the long-term;

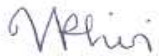
The production and deployment of nuclear weapons as well as their use constitute a crime against humanity, and therefore there should be a complete halt in the production of nuclear weapons and in weapon research and development in all nations, to be expeditiously enforced through a treaty". The Sixth Plenary Assembly in Vancouver in 1983 called for the creation of an international legal instrument with which both the possession and the use of nuclear weapons could be outlawed as crimes against humanity. And the 2013 General Assembly in Busan urged the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

With great joy and interest, the WCC is aware of the efforts of many Christians in the world to follow this path. One of these ways is the "Church Action Day against Nuclear Weapons in Büchel in the Eifel", to which Christians from several Protestant churches belonging to the Evangelical Church in Germany as well as the Catholic peace movement *pax christi* have been inviting ecumenically together since 2018.

The Büchel nuclear weapons site is one of the wounds to be visited on the pilgrimage of justice and peace. The General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan 2013 called Christians and all people of goodwill all over the world to join in a pilgrimage of justice and peace and to engage in transformative action. I see the church action day in Büchel as important part of this movement. You confront directly the presence of nuclear arms on European soil that are stored here and can be used at any moment.

At this church action day in Büchel, Christians bear witness together by standing up for justice, peace and the care for creation, by gathering together ecumenically and expressing a shared spirituality of peace in praying together. All this explains why the World Council of Churches feels closely connected to the participants in the Church Action Day in Büchel on June 6, 2020 and encourages all of you to continue witnessing for peace and justice.

Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Phiri'.

Deputy General Secretary
World Council of Churches