

Press Release



United Evangelical Mission
Communion of Churches
in three Continents

"But who are you to judge your neighbour?"

Opening of the UEM Human Rights Campaign against Racism and Discrimination

(Wuppertal, December 3, 2020). On December 10, 2020, the International Human Rights Day, the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) will launch its new human rights campaign, which will run under the biblical motto from James 4:12 "Who are you to judge your neighbour? The campaign will be simultaneously presented at 11 a.m. (CET) in a digital event on the [YouTube channel of the UEM](#) in Africa, Asia and Germany.

"Discrimination and exclusion determine the life of many people in all parts of the world. The murder of George Floyd in May 2020 in the United States has given the discussion about racism a new dynamic not only here in Germany but also in Papua/Indonesia, for example." With this campaign, the UEM supports various actions of young people in Africa, Asia and Germany against racism and persecution of children and women on cultural, political and religious grounds. "As a church community, we want to set an example of inclusive community in church and society", says Dr. Jochen Motte, member of the member of the UEM Board. In Germany as part of the campaign young people in Westphalia e.g. have started a program to combat racism in German society.

Dr. Kambale Kahongya, who is responsible for human rights work in the UEM African Region empathizes how important the UEM Human Rights Campaign is right now in a context "where people in many African countries are criminalized due to their political opinions they have expressed". Another burning issue where Kahongya sees a strong need for church action is the widespread discrimination of women in societies, but even in churches. He therefore welcomes the initiatives of the Churches in Rwanda to advocate against the discrimination of young women who got pregnant and who often then are prohibited to attend schools.

Irma Simanjuntak, responsible for human rights work of UEM in the Asia Region advocates against discrimination in cooperation with churches in Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. "Although human rights are universal we as church people together with others have to work extremely hard so that human rights can also be enjoyed by all people." Simanjuntak is looking forward especially to actions of young people in church against discrimination as for example the initiative of young students at the Silliman University in the Philippines who developed programs to build awareness against political, cultural and social discrimination.

Vereinte Evangelische Mission

Dr. Martina Pauly · Pressesprecherin
Rudolfstr. 137 · D-42285 Wuppertal
Fon +49 (0)202 89004-135 · Fax +49 (0)202 89004-179
Pauly-m@vemission.org · www.vemission.org

Further information are available on www.vemission.org/humanrights2021.