



INVITATION
CEC PEACE CONFERENCE 2019
10-12 September, Paris, France

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us."

2 Corinthians 5:19

Esteemed Church Leaders,
Dear friends of CEC,
Brothers and Sisters,

We are very pleased to announce that the

CEC Peace Conference 2019

will take place on
10-12 September 2019

At the Institut Protestant de Théologie
83, Boulevard d'Arago
Paris, France

Speakers include

H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, Ecumenical Patriarchate
Professor Jan Oberg, PhD, Lund
OKR'in i. R. Antje Heider-Rottwilm, Church and Peace
Rev. Dr Björn Cedersjö, Christian Council of Sweden

In the context of its 60th anniversary, the Conference of European Churches is pleased to introduce the 2019 Peace Conference. The gathering will explore the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 in its centenary year, identify its legacies and the hard lessons from our European and global past, and search for new and creative ways of peace building in the 21st Century.

CEC Peace Conference 2019 Objectives

No one should ignore the past, and all are responsible for how we remember it. It is therefore imperative that we study the past, are alerted to how our memories have a profound impact on the present, and are careful and theologically wise in shaping future actions. The proposed 2019 CEC Peace Conference:

- Will explore the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 in its centenary year, to identify its legacies and to learn some hard lessons from our European and global past.
- Will identify the current threats to peace in Europe and the world and articulate the challenges presented by the global experiences of the 21st century.
- Will draw inspiration from CEC's role/work, since its creation, as an ecumenical instrument engaged with peacebuilding, healing of memories and reconciliation.
- Will robustly reflect theologically and ethically on the past and contemporary world and identify a theological praxis that can enable CEC and its Member Churches faithfully to engage in transformation, healing and reconciliation.
- Will develop appropriate resources for use by Member Churches and partners, so that there is greater recognition of our common Christian life in the Europe of the 21st century.

Shaping the CEC Peace Conference 2019

The Church is to be both a reconciled and a reconciling body. It is called to witness to and engage in the practice of peacebuilding. Indeed, as a reconciled body called to be God's reconciling body in the world, it must not be a private entity, limiting itself to individualistic or solely pietistic pursuits. Rather, it is called to engage in such public issues as international affairs, economics, globalization, environmental healing and human flourishing. In short, in response to God's action in Christ, the Church will proclaim the gospel publically and be a responsible, godly actor in civic society and in the international order. It will be God's earnest, sign and instrument for peace, locally, regionally, and throughout Europe.

CEC Peace Conference 2019 Methodology

The Conference will therefore take as its starting point St Paul's words to the Corinthians, will explore the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 in its centenary year, and, working with the underpinning assumption that God does not abandon the world even with all its wars and violence, will seek to learn lessons for future peace building. In doing so, it will be exploring international and political experiences and challenges and then move towards robust theological reflection and action, so engaging in theological reflection in context.

CEC Peace Conference 2019 Outcomes

- Participants will be more critically aware of the legacy of the past and the legacy impact on contemporary relationships within Europe and the world.
- The capacity for participants to reflect theologically and ethically on a dark past and the major challenges within 21st century Europe and the world will be enhanced.
- CEC and Member Churches will be empowered to be mobilised and to become more actively engaged in a public role of positive peace building in contemporary Europe, especially through the proposed *Peace Task Force of the Conference of European Churches*

Practical Information

Please find enclosed a draft programme and a registration form.

The working language of the conference is English.

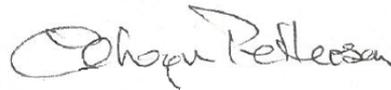
The main venue for the conference is Institut Protestant de Théologie, 83 boulevard d'Arago, Paris, France.

Guests will be lodged in nearby hotels – more information can be found on the registration form.

The conference fee is 500 EUROS.



Fr Heikki Huttunen
General Secretary of CEC



Fr Alwyn Pettersen
Coordinator of the CEC Peace Conference 2019