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**World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)**

**IRLTP: Global Advocacy Training Program**

**December 1 - 6, 2016, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

1. **Theme:** Youth Agenda in Advocating for Migrants and Refugees Rights and Its Intersection with Racial Justice
2. **Executive Summary**

Last December 7 to 15, 2015, the WSCF organized a program on Ecumenical Transformative Diakonia focusing on Migration and Refugees held in Palermo, Sicily, Italy. The Program developed an Action Plan on how WSCF, a global movement of youth and students can engage young students from across the world in responding to the issues of forced migration in their different contexts and situation and respond to the call for advocacy and solidarity on specific themes. The program likewise came out with an analysis and common understanding of the root causes of forced migration specifically from the so-called Migrant Crisis in Southern Europe, where the program was held. It also affirmed WSCF theological basis for its engagement on the issue of migrants and refugees.

The Program has provided the framework from which WSCF begins to make a strategic contribution towards the churches, civil society work on migrants and refugees. Given this initial work, WSCF aims to follow-up and pursue a strategic approach in its engagement with the issues of Migrants and Refugees in the next few years. Specifically, this proposal aims to further the recommendations in the Action Plan (see Appendix 2) agreed upon during the Palermo Program to sustain and increase the members capacity to engage in advocacy and transformative diakonia work on Migration and Refugees at the global, regional, and national levels.

In addition, the IRLTP, in this next round, aims to develop a more nuanced analysis and strategy that intersects Racial Justice as an analytical framework in developing advocacy and campaign plans for Migrants and Refugees Rights, recognizing that most of migrants and refugees are discriminated on the basis of their racial background and origins.

It is therefore on this basis that the WSCF Global Advocacy Training on Refugees and Migration Rights and its intersection with Racial Justice 2016 is being organized with the following objectives:

**Objectives of the Program**

1. To increase the capacity of the SCMers for advocacy and solidarity work through an Advocacy Training Program at the international and local levels on Migrants and Refugees Rights;
2. To develop an Advocacy Campaign that would highlight the situation of the youth migrants and refugees intersecting with Racial Justice and create a advocacy plan on how their specific issues and concerns, such as education and employment can become key issues in the negotiations of Migrants Rights over-all;
3. To provide a space for sharing of advocacy needs and plans at the national level SCMs
4. To be exposed, to learn and participate in an actual global advocacy flat form (Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

At the end of Program the following goals will have been achieved,

* An Outline of Advocacy Training Module on Migrants and Refugees Rights will have been developed
* A Statement on the Youth Agenda and Advocacy Campaign Plan for Refugees and Migrants Youth would have been produced
* 25 individuals will have acquired the knowledge and skills in Advocacy and Solidarity on that they can share in the work and ministries of the regional bodies of WSCF and the national movements
1. **DESCRIPTION**

**Project Rationale and Background**

WSCF provides opportunities for ecumenical leadership formation, leadership training programs, peace and justice activism and interregional exchanges. The WSCF’s mission is to empower students to be agents in the constructive transformation of the world by providing a space for prayer and celebration, theological reflection, study and analysis of social and cultural processes, and solidarity and action across the boundaries of culture, gender and ethnicity.

In its current Strategic Plan for 2016-2019, WSCF identified as it cross-cutting theme Migrants and Refugees as a focus issue that the Federation would be working on at different levels of the organization. As cross-cutting theme, Migration and Refugees will be highlighted and integrated in two main global programmatic strategies, the Advocacy and Solidarity Work and the Ecumenical Transformative Diakonia.

In December 2015, WSCF organized a global program in Palermo, Sicily aimed at providing the framework of analysis and theological basis for its global engagement on the issues of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers. WSCF draws its theological basis on its work with migrants and refugees from the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the first Deacon of the World, our liberator and redeemer. His teaching of unconditional love and acceptance, service to all, “there is neither Jew or Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” in Galatians 3:28, his preferential option for the poor, breaking-down of social structures and barriers enabling us to be one and in solidarity with the migrants and refugees in todays context. Jesus challenges us to ‘become good neighbors to others’ in the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, not by our own rational choice of who is and should be our neighbors, but by compassion and openness to the people that we cross our paths with that only God has chosen for us as neighbors. In Micah 6:8-9, we are called “to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.”

In Palermo, WSCF affirmed that “migrants are human beings with dignity and worth who cannot be reduced to mere commodities traded and exchanged in the global market place.” Subsequently, “freedom of movement is a human right that allows people to forge human relations and found sustainable communities. These principles are key concepts to our understanding that forced migration of people rooted in climatic vulnerability, war and conflict, global inequality, colonial historical injustice and development agendas that privilege the global north and the elites within developing countries have contributed to the massive forced movement of people that today the world is witnessing. These have resulted in internal displacement and forced and external movement of peoples that have produced asylum seekers and massive numbers of refugees.

Youth and young people have become particularly vulnerable in the increasing trend in global migration. According to the UN DESA report in 2010, there were 27 million international migrants aged 15 to 24 in the world, accounting for 12.4 percent of the 214 million international migrants worldwide. Young people leave their countries of birth to seek employment abroad as international migrants. The most prominent reasons for young people to migrate are in search of alternative livelihoods and opportunities in education, employment, marriage and family reunification, as well as protection from conflict and persecution, the UN DESA report added.

In addition, discrimination and violence faced by migrants and refugees are multi-faceted, one of which is rooted in Racism and Xenophobia. Racism and the perpetration of neo-colonial practices across the word are part of one of most virulent violent systems that has been in place since European settlers have sailed out to conquer other nations and people over 500 hundred years ago, colonizing entire continents such as Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific and what are known today as the Americas. To this day, racism, the marginalization and killing of indigenous people as well as forced migrations are integral elements of the continuation of colonialism through warmongering, the economic exploitation of lands, waters and so-called natural resources, the displacements of indigenous people from their ancestral land and the murder of indigenous activists who lead movements protesting the conquest of their living habitats.

**WSCF Experiences and Responses**

Work on the issue of Migration is not new to WSCF. Apart from the Palermo Program last year, Migration was the annual global theme of WSCF in 2007 with a global program organized in 2007 in Mexico, on the “Migration, Movements, Justice.” An issue of the Student World, WSCF global publication focused on Migration and Justice containing theological themes and stories of migrations from all over the world. Member movements were conscientized of Migration thru the Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS), regional programs and workshops and national initiatives. All of which has created a groundswell of enthusiasm to advocate for the rights of migrants wherever and in whatever circumstances.

Nine years later in 2015, WSCF began yet another journey of engaging with the theme with a different lens and global agenda. Acknowledging the global phenomena of forced migration as an intrinsic characteristics of today’s globalized world, we aim to highlight the need to develop a nuanced analysis and agenda in advocating for rights of migrants and refugees in general, and the youth migrants specific issues and agenda in the global discourse on Migrants human rights.

**Program Content**

Specifically, the content of the IRLTP Global Advocacy Program will focus on the following key sessions and topics:

* **Developing a Youth Agenda and Campaign Plan for Migrants and Refugees Rights.** A one-day Conference which aims to identify key youth issues and agenda in the global discourse on Migration Rights relevant to youth and students and a come-up with a common framework for a Campaign Plan of these key youth issues and agenda. The Conference will be organized jointly with representative of youth groups and organizations participating in the Civil Society Days prior to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).
* **Develop an Intersection Analysis and Approach to Migrants and Refugees Rights with Racial Justice and Indigenous Rights.** Implicit in the inputs and program is the intention to bring a nuanced understanding of the intersection of Racial Justice with Migrants and Refugees. In the Program, we will intentionally invite resource people with strong emphasis on their indigenous and racial justice perspective and experience. We will also include in the Exposure Program, a time to visit and meet groups of indigenous people engaged in Migrants and Refugees advocacy work.
* **Advocacy Skills in Working for Migrants and Refugees Rights.** A two-day advocacy training skills, which aims to provide tools for students and youth advocating and organizing campaigns and programs with and for migrants and refugees. The session will include an overview of advocacy spaces in various UN levels, government and non-government spaces, understanding international instruments and protocols on the rights of Migrants and Refugees, learning from the experiences of campaigners and advocates.
* **Exposure advocacy work in the Civil Society Days (CSD) and GFMD.** Participants will have chance to participate and be observers in the various events at the Civil Society Days (CSD) and GFMD in order to have a concrete experience and understanding of how advocacy work is done in this global platform. Participants will also visit migrants communities and groups in Bangladesh to better understand their issues and concerns.

**Participants**

25 Student Christian Movement (SCM) members will participate in the program, 2 from each WSCF region Asia Pacific, Africa, Middle East, Latin America and Caribbean, North America and Europe and three from US and Canada, and representatives from youth networks and groups.

**Proposed Program and Timetable**

**Day 1 – December 1**

* Arrival of participants
* Registration and Billeting
* Logistics Orientation

**Day 2 – December 2**

* Opening Worship with local host
* Welcome and Program Orientation
* Module 1: Contextual and Analytical Framework
* Understanding Global Context and realities
* Advocacy Platforms (global, regional and national)
* WSCF Advocacy and Solidarity Work: An Introduction
* Module 2: Why Advocacy? Advocacy Theories and Practice
* Case Study Presentation on effective advocacy work

**Day 3 – December 3**

* Morning Prayer and Bible Study Reflection
* Module 3: Tools and Skills in Advocacy Work
* Module 4: Campaign Planning
* Revisit the WSCF Advocacy Plan
* Case Study Presentation on effective advocacy work

**Day 4 – December 4**

* Exposure Program (whole day)
* Debriefing from Exposure Program
* Closing Worship

**Day 5 – December 5:** Youth Conference on Migrants and Refugees Rights

* Panel Presentation from migrants youth
* Responses from Youth Organization
* Workshop on the Youth Agenda
* Presentation of the paper Youth Agenda
* Solidarity Night

**Day 6 – December 6**

* Participation in the CWWM and IAMR (tentative)
* Departure for some IRLTP participants
* WSCF Staff Meeting (Dec 6 -8)