

# 70 Years of the World Council of Churches

Walking together, serving justice and peace



**COMMITMENT TO UNITY:** founded by 147 member churches in 1948, more than 200 have joined since then.

**THEOLOGICAL CONVERGENCE:** through multilateral dialogue we're now closer in understanding Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, communion as churches called to live in and for the world.

**SEEING GOD'S IMAGE IN ALL HUMAN BEINGS:** WCC fosters exchange of ideas and synergies between the human rights movement and the churches.

**CARE FOR CREATION:** WCC midwifed the concept of sustainable communities in the 1970s, advocated for climate justice since 1992.

**SHARING SPIRITUAL RICHES IN SONG AND PRAYER,** especially through the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle.

**INTERFAITH DIALOGUE** involving leaders from all world religions and especially youth from Abrahamic religions.

**OVERCOMING RACISM:** in focus since WCC's creation, highly visible in the struggle against apartheid, our work to end racism continues.

**CHURCHES' COMMITMENTS TO CHILDREN:** already more than 100 partners committed on child protection and participation, intergenerational climate justice.

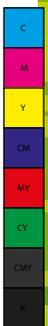
**WCC HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCES OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA** (1976-92): helped churches in 18 military dictatorships stand by the victims.



[www.oikoumene.org/wcc70](http://www.oikoumene.org/wcc70)

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#WCC70 "What's your story?"



## IN 2018 WE CELEBRATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE FELLOWSHIP THAT IS ITS LIFEblood.

This is an opportunity to mark the achievements of the past 70 years in working for Christian unity and action, and to look to the challenges ahead as a fellowship of churches responding to God's call for unity, mission, justice and peace. The WCC is a fellowship, so this anniversary belongs to all of us. So let all of us enjoy a joyful celebration, inspiring encounters and renewed energy for the onward journey!

## LET'S CELEBRATE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

The WCC, its member churches and partners are planning a variety of events to move us forward on our ongoing Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, and at the same time honour and learn from these 70 years of ecumenical endeavour.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the WCC Central Committee meeting in Geneva in June, a joint consultation on sustainable development with the ACT Alliance in Uppsala, exactly 50 years after the WCC Assembly there: the anniversary year of 2018 will offer many opportunities to focus firmly on envisioning our common future: united in faith, eager for witness, and fearless in the quest for justice and peace.

We invite you, and all member churches and ecumenical partners, to take part in this important anniversary. Here are some ways you can participate:

- by sharing stories and prayers or songs related to our seven-decades-old common pilgrimage
- by organizing or hosting events in your own context
- by bringing the WCC anniversary exhibition to your venue or event
- by choosing a day for celebrating the anniversary, preferably on 23 August, which marked the opening of the 1st Assembly in Amsterdam and the formal constitution of the WCC.

Find out more: [www.oikoumene.org/wcc70](http://www.oikoumene.org/wcc70)

## AS WCC, WE ARE ONE FELLOWSHIP, SO THIS ANNIVERSARY BELONGS TO ALL OF US!

Share the joy, the memories, the visions, whatever this occasion brings up for you: post your photos and your thoughts on social media using the hashtag #WCC70

In your ecumenical events and anniversary celebrations throughout 2018, include a #WCC70 photo booth, so your visitors can take a WCC birthday picture!

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