



World Council of Churches

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To the World Council of Churches
member churches and
Central Committee members

Dear friends in Christ, partners in our fellowship,

I am delighted to invite you to join us in celebrating International Youth Day on 12 August and in launching a new resource for churches' engaging and forming youth.

As you have perhaps seen in our [news release](#), we are once again marking the UN's International Youth Day with a special celebration of youth, their gifts and challenges. The online festivities will include music and song, prayer and Bible study, and expert presentations.

The special focus this year is the mental health of young people, an arena of particular concern in these stressful and uncertain days, and one in which the churches can be especially helpful.

Indeed, we are also launching a rich resource for congregational engagement with the mental health of youth, a kind of congregational toolkit with background information, and suggestions for workshops, conversation topics, and prayers. It can be an important resource for your ministry and programming, and you can find it on our [website](#). Please take a moment to become acquainted with the toolkit and to consider it for your work.

We also welcome further contributions to the 12 August programme, and we invite you to submit your ideas, including arts, video greetings, photos, songs, dances, and other creative ideas to youth@wcc-coe.org, please send your materials on or before 20 July.

As we have seen from recent events, whether in wrestling with climate change, gender justice, or racial equality, young people are not just our future church or its future leaders. Nor are they simply persons whose needs we must meet. They are instead already full partners and catalysts in our ecclesial communities, in the ecumenical fellowship, and in the active betterment of our world. We rejoice in their gifts and commitment, and we are eager to facilitate their participation in the deep spiritual and social communion we all share.

Please do join us on 12 August at 2:00 PM (Geneva/Zurich time) for this important virtual event!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă
Interim General Secretary