

Mitigating Racial and Gender (In)Justice

An Invitation to Collaborate with the WCC



Rev Nicqi Ashwood
Dr Masiwa Gunda

We must face our fears

Why do we fear being equal to others that look different? Why do we fear honestly remembering the past, how that past is responsible for the present and already deciding the future? Overcoming racism is overcoming these fears that, in many cases, have now been institutionalised in our laws, policies and practices.

*– Dr Masiwa Gunda
Church & Peace Conference on Racism 2023*

Our challenge as church leaders, is to determine the appropriate responses for affirming human dignity and life in fullness in the face of COVID-19 and other physiological and social pandemics.

*- Rev Nicqi Ashwood
St Andrew Theological College Gender Justice Course 2022*



WHO ARE WE?

The transversals of **Overcoming Racism Xenophobia, and Related Discrimination** and the **Just Community of Women and Men** are committed to ‘leaving no one behind’ by ensuring that issues of dignity and equity are included in all our conversations as faith communities. We seek to strengthen male-female and race relations within our membership, while advocating for shifts in the power structures which undergird this.

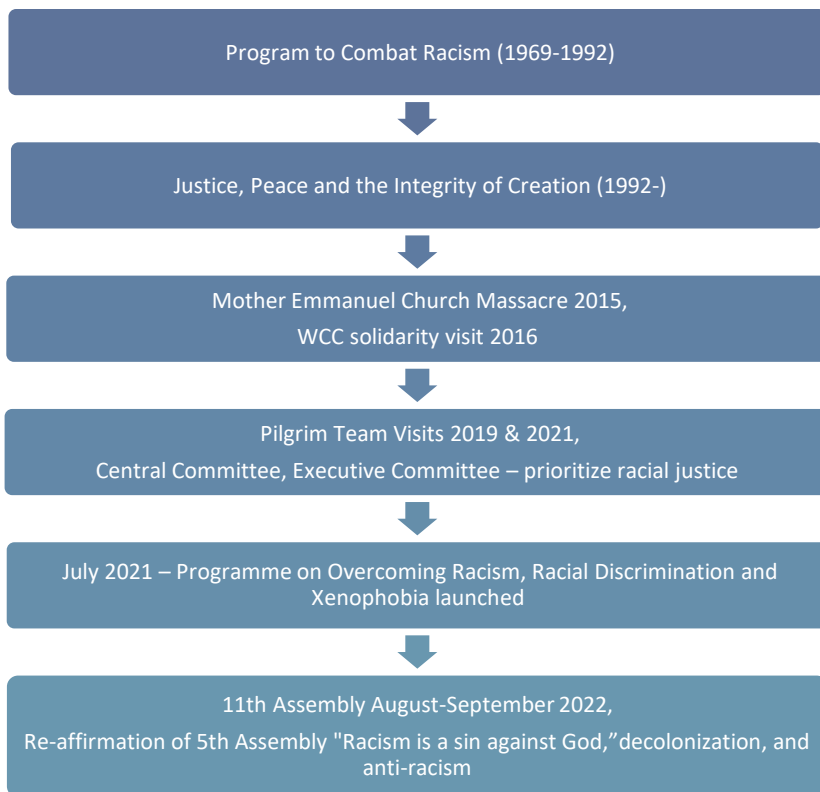
Recognising the role of Western epistemological systems in the gender and racial binaries, we advocate for decolonisation and decoloniality in our work and beyond.

As we represent your concerns and successes, join us on this pilgrimage of discovery, truth-telling, and transformation from the churches to the world and back to the churches.



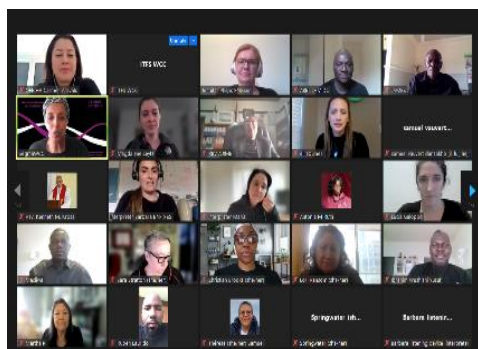
OVERCOMING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED DISCRIMINATION

History of Transversal 6



SUCCESS STORIES – OVERCOMING RACISM

- Successful launch of Collective for Anti-Racist Ecumenism (CARE) Network
- Solid relationships were established with Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD) & Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (PFPAD)
- Anti-racist ecumenical Bible study & unconscious bias toolkit
- Pre-session side-event to the third session of the PFPAD, with the rapporteur of the PFPAD offering the keynote address
- Successful awareness-raising on decolonization and reparations in ecumenical circles.



Zoom UN Mechanisms Training



Presenters on Racism Brunnen workshop during 11th Assembly



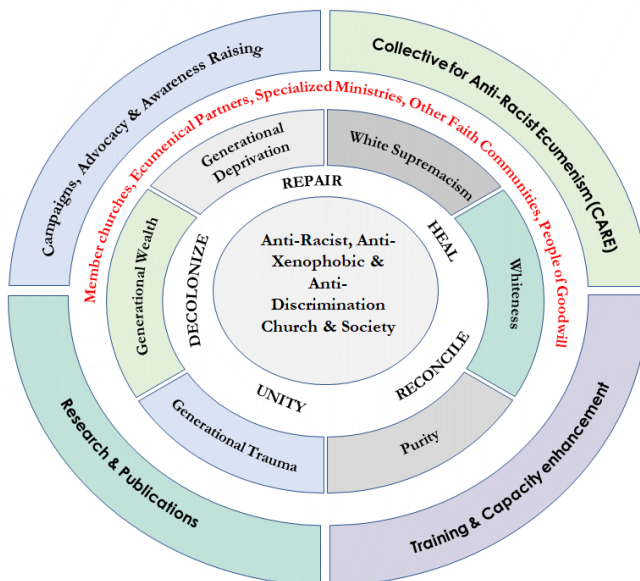
SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES – OVERCOMING RACISM

- Publication costs for the official launch of the Bible studies
- Diversity and inclusion audit
- Costs for biennial face-to-face reference group meetings, including engagement of the community and key stakeholders in the region, (particularly ecumenical partners, Regional Ecumenical Organization, and WCC governance)
- Engagement of member churches in recognizing the reality of racism in their own contexts (need for awareness-raising and conscientizing of victims to their problem).



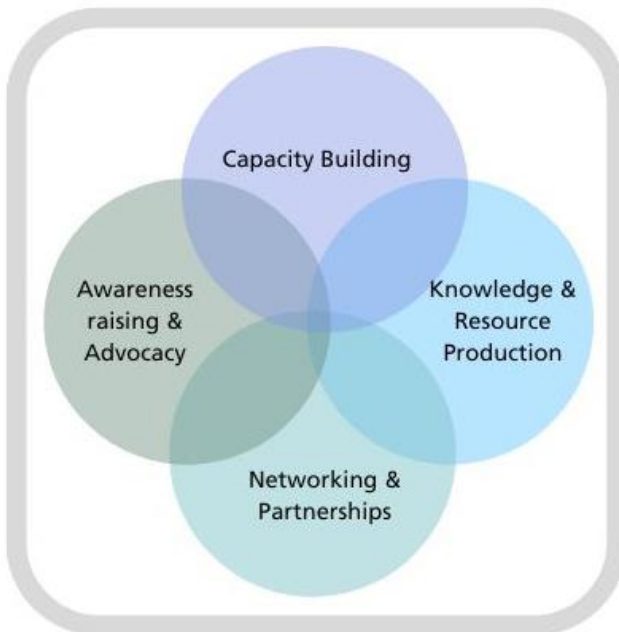
APPROACHES, ISSUES, AND GOALS

In working to achieve the greatest impact in churches and wider society, four main approaches are eclectically deployed (outer circle). Our work acknowledges the importance of working together for sustainable impact (second circle). We are open to working with all who share the vision of an anti-racist world. Our focus is on issues and aspects of life through which racism finds destructive legs and hands (third circle). We propose actions that can help mitigate these issues (fourth circle) with the hope they can lead us to realize anti-racism as a way of life in churches and society.



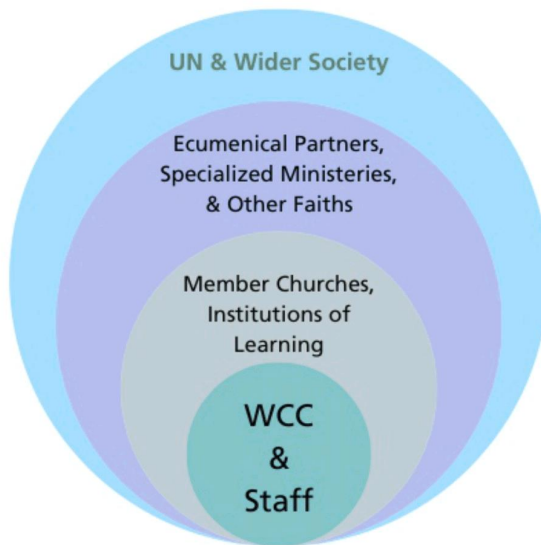
MARKS OF SUCCESS

- Toolkit and Bible Study published and launched
- Diversity and Inclusion audit of the WCC Secretariat
- Increased participation of marginalized groups in advocacy spaces at the UN and elsewhere
- Reference Group meeting involves engagement with communities and key stakeholders in the African Region



JUST COMMUNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN

Target Groups



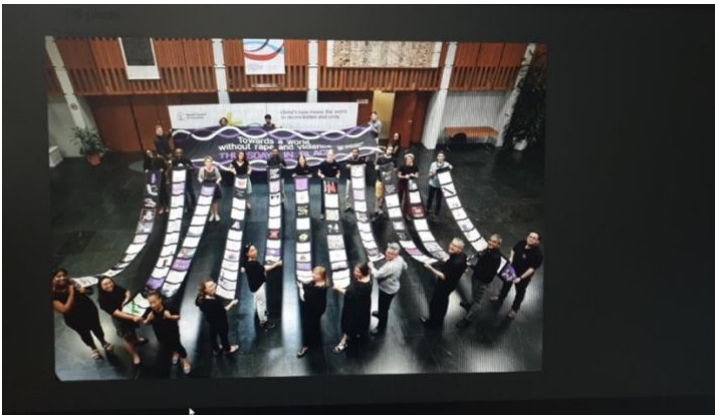
KEY FOCI OF JUST COMMUNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN

- Increasing the visibility and leadership of women in WCC and member churches
- Providing theological and anthropological resources
- Expanding and strengthening networks of women and men
- Promoting and Advocating for women's rights in UN and similar spaces
- Normalising non-discriminatory policies in member churches



SUCCESS STORIES OF JUST COMMUNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN 2023

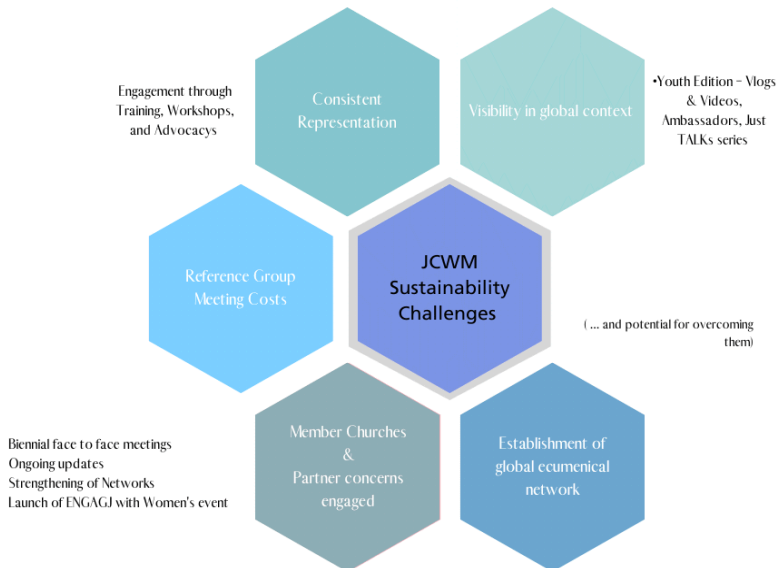
- Successful training of 10 youth on overcoming online violence
- Launch Of #TiB Youth Edition
- Accompaniment of Christian Council of Churches in Angola (CICA) women with training on Universal Periodic Review, raising awareness of #ThursdaysInBlack and Obstetric Fistula
- Increased participation of delegates to the Commission on the Status of Women (highest in several years) and hosting of parallel events
- The largest cohort of trainees for the Women's Human Rights Advocacy Training



Sustainability Challenges

The Just Community of Women and Men seeks to make an even greater impact in your context. We need your support in ensuring that the quality of training for which the WCC is known remains constant in all facets—trainers, materials, and locations. Our Vlogs, Bible studies, and JUST Talks need your input. You might also consider supporting our in-person activities.

Contact us for details.



MARKS OF SUCCESS ...



- Ecumenical Network of Global Advocates for Gender Justice Just Talk series occurs bi-annually
- Increased number of Thursdays in Black videos and vlogs
- The cohort of delegates and trainees on UN mechanisms and local advocacy consistently above 10
- Increased leadership, representation, and participation of women in ecumenical gatherings and at member churches and regional partner events and assemblies
- Reference Group meeting involves engagement with communities and key stakeholders in the host country
- Intergenerational collaboration among JCWM networks and programme partners
- Publication of tool kit on overcoming cyberviolence and other resources



Contact us:

Rev Nicqj Ashwood
Programme Executive
Just Community of Women and Men
Nicole.Ashwood@wcc-coe.org

Dr Masiwa Gunda
Programme Executive
Overcoming Racism
Masiwa.Gunda@wcc-coe.org

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**World Council
of Churches**

Postal address:
P.O. Box 2100
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Visiting address:
150 Route de Ferney
Grand-Saconnex (Geneva)
Switzerland

Tel: (+41 22) 791 6111
Fax: (+41 22) 791 0361

www.oikoumene.org

