

PRIORITIES OF NCCI—YOUTH CONCERNS

- Encouraging young people to be part of the National Ecumenical Movement.
- Networking with the Local and International Ecumenical partners for sponsorship and partnership.
- Connecting member churches and local youth movements with NCCI Youth Concerns ministry through organizing programmes both at regional and national levels.
- Strengthening direct partnerships with youth fellowships of the member churches and NCCI Youth Concerns ministry and encouraging them to create ecumenical platforms for young people to promote grassroots ecumenism.
- Identifying young people to engage them in a process of articulating their faith and understanding about God.

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Youth Concerns—National Council of Churches in India

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: RE-READING JOSEPH'S NARRATIVE

July 30th was observed as the World Day against Human Trafficking. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines Human Trafficking as “the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others.” Human trafficking in India, although illegal under Indian law, remains a significant problem. People are frequently illegally trafficked through India for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced or bonded labour. NGOs like International Justice Mission, World Vision and others are striving hard each day to curb the menace of Human Trafficking in India. Some estimates by these NGOs are that 20 to 65 million Indians are trafficked annually.

Men and women are trafficked for various reasons. While women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, men and boys are trafficked for the purposes of labour. A significant portion of children are subjected to forced labour as factory workers, domestic servants, beggars, and agriculture workers.

In the bible, we come across Joseph as a person who was trafficked. Joseph was the son of Jacob and Rachel. Genesis 37 is the narrative of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers. Jacob sends Joseph off to find his brothers who are grazing the family's flocks and to report back to him about their activities (Gen. 37:12-14). Joseph gets rather lost and is guided by an unknown man who says that his brothers have gone to Dothan, which is located in a valley known for its rich pastureland (Gen. 37:15-17). Dothan is near a major trading lane, making for a likely appearance by the Ishmaelite merchants. Though the brothers wanted to kill Joseph, Rueben saves him and asks to throw him into the well. Then Judah intervenes when he sees caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead to Egypt and so asks to Joseph to them in exchange for twenty shekels of silver (Gen. 37:28). In short, Joseph was transported from Canaan to Egypt and this transportation occurred by force with the view that he was taken into slavery.

Situations today in India are no different. People are forced into trafficking so that the modern day taskmasters can make up instant money. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. Many human trafficking victims around the world are trafficked by their own family members. In India especially, it is not uncommon for parents to sell one of their children for food or to pay off a debt. This could lead to the increase in Bonded Labour. Joseph was sold not just once, but twice. He was first sold to the Ishmaelites, who then sold him to Potiphar. Human trafficking victims are sold repeatedly. Joseph after reaching Potiphar's house was ultimately sent to jail for a wrong allegation of sexual exploitation. Today hatred against trafficked people are on the increase with many claiming that they are the root cause for many of the social evils prevalent in the society. Somewhere, people forget that they too are humans with life and soul. The narrative of Joseph is particularly interesting because it also talks of God's providence for the trafficked Joseph all throughout. Even after he was wrongly imprisoned, God intervened and provided him the needed care and protection. The church must be a changing force wherein we understand the plight of the trafficked person(s) and stand in solidarity with them and also fight for their rights wherein they get freedom which Joseph ultimately experienced. Once they get freedom, if the church can help in providing them rehabilitation as well, it can help in their future life as well. Let's take up the charge to be responsible custodians of the creation as well as humans wherein we build a better world for all people.

Rev. Joel George Philip

Vicar, Chandigarh, Marthoma Church

PRAYER POINTS

- We pray for the survivors of human trafficking
- We pray for the women who lament in sterilization camps bearing the brunt of overpopulation.
- We pray that may justice be meted out to the victims of Kandhamal carnage as this year marks the decade.
- We pray for the minority communities whose fidelity to the nation is judged by the hegemonic nationalists.

INVITATION TO WRITE

Constituent members of



NCCI, especially Member Churches of NCCI, are requested to share recent reports of youth programmes with the NCCI Youth Concerns department for publication in the E-Newsletter.



CCA invites Applications for 'Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia' (YAPA)-2018



The third session of the Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA), organized annually by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) to train prospective young peace activists, will take place from **14 to 20 October 2018**. The week-long training intends to train and empower a cadre of young peace activists in Asia with a strong sense of commitment to peace and conflict resolution as well as to nurture interfaith and inter-ethnic harmony. Admission will be given to 25 candidates selected from among the applicants of YAPA-2018. Selection will be based on competence, ability to contribute and participate in discussions at various segments of the YAPA, as well as the commitment to implement peace-building initiatives upon return to their home countries. Interested candidates may send their applications to CCA by **20 August 2018**.

Source:: <http://cca.org.hk/home/news-and-events/cca-invites-applications-for-young-ambassadors-of-peace-in-asia-yapa-2018/>

UNITED
NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY

#YouthDay #SafeSpaces4Youth

2018
SAFE
SPACES
FOR YOUTH

Interreligious summer school brings together Christian, Jewish and Muslim students



World Council of Churches Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland rang with scriptural sharing, research, and dialogue drawing together perspectives from Judaism, Christianity and Islam as students work to complete a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Interreligious Studies. The course was organized by the WCC in cooperation with Fondation de l'Entre-connaissance in Geneva and Fondation Racines et Sources in Geneva. The program of study comprised of two components, a distance learning session from 2-22 July, then a residential learning segment from 23 July to 10 August. Students have come from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and North America. This year, the CAS in Interreligious Studies is focusing on the role of religions in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations. Source: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/interreligious-summer-school-brings-together-christian-jewish-and-muslim-students>

NEW INTERN

Catherine Christopher Nair belongs to the Methodist Church in India. She has completed B.A.(hons) Sociology and is currently pursuing Masters in Social Work from IGNOU. She has been working with Supreme Task India – a social organization involved in uplifting the educational standard of underprivileged children, since February 2018. She has also Interned with Kitaab Club and Indus Action. She presently serves as an intern in Policy, Governance and Public Witness – NCCI.



CCA URGES CHURCHES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



The United Nations (U.N) observed 30 July 2018 as World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and urged its member churches and councils to make every effort to combat human trafficking in their respective situations in Asia. In recognition of the U.N's World Day against Trafficking in Persons, the General Secretary of CCA, Dr. Mathews George Chunakara stated that "many Asians experience the worst forms of cruelty in the modern slavery of human trafficking. This should be arrested in all possible ways by governments and systematic advocacy measures should be undertaken to protect the dignity of victims of human trafficking". The CCA General Secretary said that an inter-regional consultation on human trafficking with a focus on 'Migration, Human Trafficking and Asian diaspora in the Arabian Gulf Region' will be organised by CCA from 11 To 14 November 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand in which representatives of Asian diaspora churches in the Arabian Gulf countries would also attend. Source: <http://cca.org.hk/home/news-and-events/cca-urges-churches-to-combat-trafficking-in-persons/>

UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE

Youths are invited to participate in the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference: 'We the Peoples...Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems' from 22-23 August 2018 at the UN Headquarters, New York.

Thematic Roundtables

- Women and Girls Mobilizing
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70
- Doing the Math: A Repositioned UN Development System
- Youth: Today's Leaders
- Shared Planet Shared Prosperity
- Towards UN-75: Communicating the Case for Multilateralism

Deadline: **12 August 2018**

Source: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/25239/>

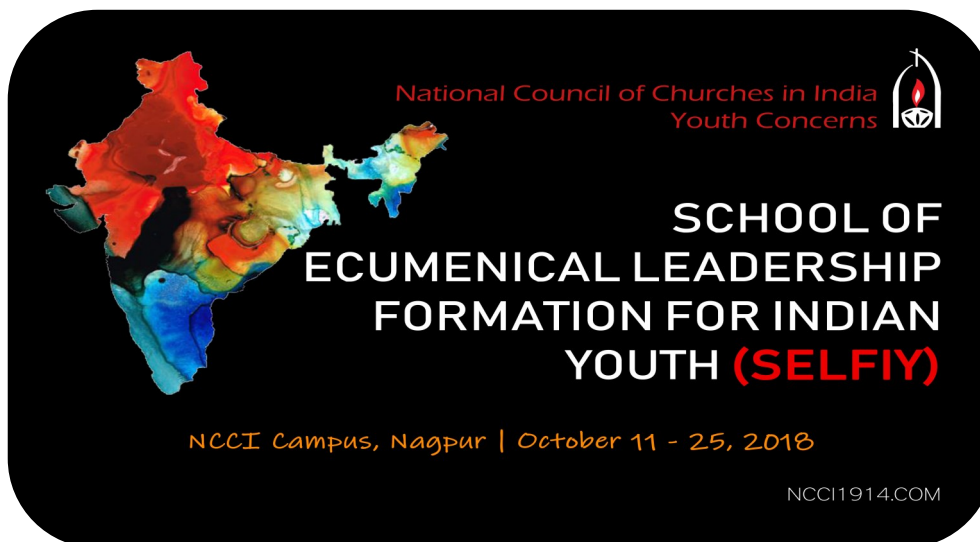


Finding Global
Solutions for
Global Problems

UN HEADQUARTERS,
NEW YORK
22-23 AUGUST 2018



School of Ecumenical Leadership Formation for Indian Youth (SELFIIY)



As her commitment towards building ecumenism, the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) through Youth Concerns (earlier known as the Commission on Youth), has produced various young ecumenical leaders in both national and international levels over few decades. In continuing the vision of witnessing in forming young ecumenical leaders, the School of Ecumenical Leadership Formation for Indian Youth (SELFIIY) programme aims to enhance the prophetic Indian young minds so that the Indian Church and society at large may witness the ecumenical society of just and inclusive communities with equipped young leaders. We request the churches to nominate two candidates (one boy and one girl) for the same.

Eminent social activist Swami Agnivesh assaulted by BJP's youth

Eminent social activist Swami Agnivesh was assaulted by BJP's youth wing workers in Jharkhand's Pakur area on July 17, 2018. The assaulters were reportedly upset with Agnivesh's recent statement defending consumption of beef. They thrashed him and tore apart his clothes. He was also shown black flags. The BJP, however, distanced itself from the incident saying its workers were not involved in it.

Source: <https://countercurrents.org/2018/07/17/eminent-social-activist-swami-agnivesh-assaulted-by-bjps-youth-wing-in-jharkhand/>

