

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

Her Quest for Justice and Freedom

“Raped”, “sexually assaulted”, “molested” these words have acquired permanent spaces in the news. We come across them every day and they no more disturb us. Such numerous instances have numbed our souls and minds and we no more feel the horror and pain of such a gruesome act. Those words printed in news are read by millions across the world but do not pierce our hearts anymore; they have unconsciously been “normalised” in our minds. “A 28 year old abducted and raped”, “a minor girl molested in school”, such instances are reported every single day. This “rape culture” has become a very prominent part of our society. Sometimes I feel so helpless and powerless, what difference can I make? What more can I do than to just be part of protests, rallies and social media aggression against sexual violence? My aggression makes no difference. Moreover the piercing silence of the government about the allegation of rape and molestation on the so called eminent personalities fills me with disgust. Am I even considered as a daughter of this nation? Or this “honour” of being called “a daughter of India” can only be invested on me when I win a medal for this country?

The #MeeToo campaign has mobilised so many shattered souls. After so many years of torment we could gather courage and raise voice but it has still not promised justice. Moreover the atrocities faced by the Dalit and Tribal women have always been overlooked. It is so ironical that the society would instead threaten and put barriers in our lives than stand beside us. So many dreams die daily because of this fear. This so called “safety” seems to be the cage that restricts our movement and freedom. This horror restricts us to move away from our families for higher education and work to other cities or nations.

God yearns that we become agents of justice and peace in the world. God expects us as “Children of God” that we stand against such social evils. But the reality is that we instead fear evil. Our notion of being like Christ is just confined to being gentle, humble, loving, forgiving and enduring. The fear-less Jesus who raised His voice against the temple authorities, who publicly criticised the hypocrite Pharisees, who took a stand for the woman who was accused and was being stoned for committing adultery is very often overlooked and ignored, this is because, we don’t want to come out of our comfort zone and fulfil our calling to stand against oppression. If we consider ourselves to be followers and disciples of Christ we need to shake off the numbness that has overpowered our emotions. Let not the prevailing evil around us make us indifferent rather mobilise us all, irrespective of differences. Let’s get involved physically to mend broke lives and further prevent this evil from growing. Let’s strive to be the Jesus who weeps with the broken hearted and is outraged to see lives being destroyed.

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PRAYER POINTS

- We pray for our nation whose topography is constantly being drenched by the blood of innocents.
- We pray that may the youth discover alternatives that would shatter the prevailing sinful order.
- We pray that justice be meted out to the sexually assaulted women across the globe
- We pray for ecology and its sustenance.

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.

School of Ecumenical Formation for Indian Youth (SELIY) - 2018



The School of Ecumenical Leadership Formation for Indian Youth (SELIY) was organized by the Youth Concerns of NCCI from 11th – 25th October 2018 at the NCCI Campus, Nagpur. The programme aimed at enhancing the prophetic Indian young minds so that the Indian Church and society at large may bear witness to ecumenism in a much more organic and tangible way. SELIY was indeed a fortnight of fellowship. There were 20 participants representing various churches and ecumenical organizations. There were youth participants from Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Salvation Army, Methodist Church in India, CNI, HCC, ELC MP, Syrian Orthodox, SCMI and IPC. This year we focused on youth members from North and Central India. The proceeding SELIY will emphasis on the young people from South and North East India. The programme covered various topics through presentations, plenary, group discussions, documentaries, movies, activities and contextual Bible studies. The topics dealt with were Ecumenism and its contextual importance, Migration and Human/Sex Trafficking, Caste System, Dalit and Tribal/Adivasi, Communication and Advocacy skills, Patriarchy, Economic Challenges, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Minorities, Religious Fundamentalism and Freedom of Religion, 4th Industrial Revolution, Disability, Mission and Evangelism, Justice and Peacebuilding and Role of Youth in India and Theology. Participants had social as well as interfaith field exposures. The programme was concluded with a bonfire and interaction. In the feedback session the participants expressed their joy and the great learning experience they had during this programme. They left NCCI with a sense of deep ecumenical commitment and an earnest desire to bring transformative changes in their church and society.

Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI) - Fellowship Programme



NCCI - Youth Concerns in partnership with SCMI organizes a Fellowship Programme which aims to provide free English and Computer training courses to undergraduate students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. The programme commenced on 15th October 2018 at the NCCI Campus, Nagpur. Three classes in a week is the frequency being maintained. There are around 16 students enrolled for the programme. The duration of the programme would be a year. The purpose of this programme is to facilitate the socially disadvantaged students to increase their proficiency in Computer skills and English language. On January 2019, National Level Leadership Training Camp (NLLTC) would be organized in Bengaluru and Nagpur where the students would come together and share their experiences about the Fellowship Programme.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign



From 25 November to 10 December, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. UNiTE Campaign's global advocacy theme this year is: **Orange the World: #HearMeToo**. The colour orange will be a key theme unifying all activities towards the initiative. The NCCI urges its members to creatively get involved in this campaign.

What's it like being the only Female Cleric at the Synod on Young People?



Rev. Martina Viktorie Kopecká, 32, had the distinction of being the only female cleric at the Synod of Bishops, which is taking place from Oct. 3 to 28 in Rome. Dressed in the liturgical vestments of the Hussite Church—a black robe with an imprinted red chalice and white stole—she delivered an address to the whole synod body on Oct. 11, emphasizing the importance of ecumenical relations, calling the synod a “sign of hope” and affirming the capacity of young people to be bridge builders. “The true ecumenical movement must be lived and shared together,” she said. Rev. Kopecká is representing the World Council of Churches. Even at her young age, she has been entrusted with great responsibility at the W.C.C. She serves on their central committee and 20-member executive committee, and she moderates the ECHOS commission on youth in the ecumenical movement. Source: <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/10/22/whats-it-being-only-female-cleric-synod-young->



Third Annual Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia

The third annual training of peace activists, the Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia (YAPA), of Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) was held from 15 - 20 October 2018. The week long YAPA-2018 with focus on the theme ‘Peace with Justice and Human Security’ was attended by 27 young people sponsored by CCA member churches and councils as well as representatives of Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim organisations in Asia. Mr. Shitovi Sema, Coordinator of NCCI’s North East India Programme Center also participated.

Source: <http://cca.org.hk/home/news-and-events/third-annual-young->

Synod urges Church to Listen to Young People



The Catholic Church and all its members must get better at listening to young people, taking their questions seriously, recognizing them as full members of the church, patiently walking with them and offering guidance as they discern the best way to live their faith, the Synod of Bishops said. The synod, which ran from Oct. 3-28 at the Vatican, brought together 267 voting members — cardinals, bishops, 18 priests and two religious brothers — and 72 experts and observers, including three dozen men and women under 30 to discuss “young people, the faith and vocational discernment.” While young people can feel overlooked or ignored, synod members said such attitudes are detrimental to the church and its missionary mandate. Young people challenge the church to be better and their questions force older church members to find clearer ways to express church teaching or to respond to new situations with the wisdom of faith.

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/synod-urges-church-to-listen-to-young-people/83740>



A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed — what gospel is that?

— Oscar Romero —

AZ QUOTES

Murdered Salvadoran Archbishop Óscar Romero Canonized

Pope Francis conferred sainthood on murdered Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero at a ceremony in the Vatican on 14th October 2018. "We declare and define Paul VI and Óscar Arnulfo Romero Galdámez... to be saints and we enrol them among the saints, decreeing that they are to be

venerated as such by the whole church," Pope told a crowd of 60,000 people. The Pope wore the blood-stained rope belt worn by Archbishop Romero when he was murdered and used the chalice and pastoral staff of Pope Paul VI.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-45853434>