



International Ecumenical Peace Convocation

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011

"Glory to God and Peace on Earth"

Echos Youth Essay Contest

A programme of the World Council of Churches





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Echos Youth Essay Contest

The World Council of Churches (WCC) in collaboration with its Echos - Commission on Youth in the Ecumenical Movement, invites young people to participate in an essay contest for the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation.

What are the criteria?

- The topic is "Glory to God and Peace on Earth"
- The essay should be 1,500 to 2,000 word long.

What are the guidelines?

- Submissions will be reviewed by an international panel.
- Essays should be written in English.
- Essays will be considered for their contribution to the topic and not for their English-language proficiency. They should not have been published before, or be under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- Authors should submit two typed copies of their essay and, wherever possible, an electronic copy.
- The essay should be accompanied by a summary abstract of not more than 100 words and a brief description of the author (name, titles, church affiliation, present position, biographical information, publication credits and contact details).

How does one submit an essay?

Essays should be submitted to the following email address: iepcyouth@gmail.com and by post: **World Council of Churches, P.O. Box 2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland, (Echos Youth Essay Contest).**

Who can participate?

Youth (ages 18-30) from different theological, denominational, confessional, and geographical areas interested in peace and justice work.

What do essay contest winners receive?

- The five (5) most outstanding essays will be selected as the essay contest winners.
- Full sponsorship to the IEPC and youth pre-IEPC event, May 2011.

When are the winners announced?

Winners informed 13-17 December, 2010

Winners announced in December 2010 issue of Youth Newsletter

The deadline for submission is 31st of October 2010





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The idea behind the essay

Peace when present, is an expression of God's love for humanity. On the other hand, violence respects no nationality, status, or age and disregards the inherent gift of peace from God. The youth are most vulnerable, for as often as they find themselves victims, many are also perpetrators of violence. As the member churches of the World Council of Churches (WCC) seek to strengthen its position on peace, provide opportunities for networking, and deepen the common commitment to just peace and processes of reconciliation, the **International Ecumenical Peace Convocation** (IEPC) will be a space that nurtures the realization of this vision as well as celebrate the achievements of the Program: Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV), which began in 2001.

The **Echos – Commission on Youth in the Ecumenical Movement** is a representative and advisory body of young adults that endeavors to promote ecumenical leadership development of youth and create spaces for meaningful participation of young adults in the life and programs of WCC.

In January 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Echos, met concurrently with the Reference Group of the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence, and the Planning Committee of the WCC International Ecumenical Peace Convocation. Together, they affirmed a common understanding in fostering youth participation at the event and identified some concrete steps to be taken during the preparations leading up to it. One of those concrete steps is an essay contest that makes an effort to gather young people's reflections on peace thus, enabling their voices to impart relevant lessons from their personal perspectives and contexts.

Peace here on Earth is both of and for God's Glory. Adapting the theme, "**Glory to God and Peace on Earth**", the IEPC youth essay contest invites contributions from a broad-spectrum of youth voices having different theological, denominational, confessional, and geographical backgrounds with a common interest in peace and justice work. Five outstanding articles will be selected as winners after which the respective authors will become a sponsored delegate to the IEPC and the pre-IEPC youth event.

Echos values the importance of youth participation during the IEPC not only because it is in responsible observance of the decisions taken during the 9th WCC General Assembly but more so as an affirmation that young people are here and now - active agents for peace and justice - invaluable contributing and leading the way in our common journey towards Shalom. Echos further commits to raising awareness about particular experiences of violence in the lives of youth, offering contextual perspectives on bringing about just peace, and sharing the hope of just peace within the churches and Christian Youth Organizations it represents.



(Photo: Joint Echos, Reference Group DOV and Planning Committee IEPC meeting, January 2010, Addis Ababa.)



World Council of Churches

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Visit the IEPC website at:
www.overcomingviolence.org/iepc

For more information on the contest, please contact: iecpyouth@gmail.com

(Photo cover: **Nikos Kosmidis**, Stained glass, St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Melbourne, 2010)