

**We care for life. Healing, reconciling, defending the earth:**  
New working material from the Women's and Solidarity Desk  
of the Conference of European Churches (CEC)

CEC's Women's and Solidarity Desk has started to develop building blocks for a more comprehensive and better targeted communication strategy.

The aim is to facilitate a process of mutual exchange and learning for and by those who are working with women in the diaconal structures and networks of European churches and ecumenical organisations.

The objective of the educational and information material is to help the target group identify common concerns and opportunities for co-operation and common action, and to see how their own individual work contributes to the broader common effort.

The method of producing and disseminating material with strong visual, symbolic and creative elements reflects important lessons learned in recent years. While new forms of electronic communication have enabled quick sharing of information at low costs, these do not replace other forms of communication. CEC's vision is for a network of churches providing spaces for personal encounter and sharing among the churches and peoples of Europe, thus supporting and strengthening the process of reconciliation and growing together in peace. This process needs personal encounters along with well prepared materials, including "speaking" layouts and "moving" visual materials. The combination of information, stories and visual material aims at touching not only the intellect and the cognitive dimension of the learning process, but the emotions and affective dimensions of the living context as well. The concept is for an integrated, in depth way of understanding, which would facilitate a deeper encounter between the readers and the persons in and behind texts and pictures.

The publications listed below represent a collection of different elements for this process. The booklets as well as the panels of the exhibition form a coherent whole and support each other, but they can also be used as individual units and background material in discussions of single issues of special importance for respective groups. The booklets give more detailed background information and provides additional impulses to deepen a learning process that can begin with the material made available by the exhibit:

- **The exhibition *"We care for life. Healing, reconciling, defending the earth. Witnesses of Women in Europe"*** serves as an excellent introduction to the key concerns raised in the different publications and highlights the interconnectedness of the wide variety of individual initiatives that grow out of women's commitment and networking.
- **The workbook *"Churches in Europe Against Trafficking in Women"***, has been compiled by the CEC Working Group - a cooperation of CEC, the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE), the Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women, the Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Men, and the Commission of Churches for Migrants in Europe (CCME). It contains working

material for practical use by relevant church offices and ecumenical groups, and a Europe wide list of contact addresses of NGOs working on the issue.

- **The booklet "Jesus Christ Heals. Witnesses from Women in Europe"** is a collection of essays from women from a variety of walks of life and who represent different regional and confessional backgrounds. They all address the thematic aspect of "healing", contributing from existential and experience oriented positions to the theme for the CEC Assembly at Trondheim, held in June/July '03: "Jesus Christ heals and reconciles. Our witness in Europe".

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In addition, please take note of:

**Two text collections from the Diaconal Forum in Järvenpää/Finland, 2001**, (co-operating partners: CEC, CCME, The European Contact Group ECG, and Eurodiaconia - with support from WCC).

- The brochure entitled ***"Let Your Light Shine Before the World. Diaconia in Europe: Facing new Challenges"*** contains background and preparatory material on the key themes discussed at the Diaconal Forum:
  1. The value of work and employment,
  2. Migration and Mobility in a new Europe,
  3. Sustainable Communities,
  4. Quality of life for all.Also included is a summary of the major challenges identified for the future.
- A second brochure, ***"Working Together for Sustainable Life. Experiences from Diaconia in Europe"*** shares case studies and brief introductions to the key concerns addressed, and explains the use of the contextual and praxis oriented approach. The liturgy of the closing worship held at the end of the Diaconal Forum consultation is also included.

If you wish to work with the exhibit and/or any of the other material, please contact:

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