

**Contents**

- ◆ Migrants and refugees
- ◆ EDP in the textile industry
- ◆ Ackermann meets Dr Uwe Mazura
- ◆ EU Dialogue on agrarian issues with partners from RSA, Zambia and Uganda
- ◆ Economy and human rights, national plan of action
- ◆ Human rights and traditional values
- ◆ 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall
- ◆ Workshop for staff officers Auschwitz/Oswiecim
- ◆ Civilian crisis prevention
- ◆ GKKE Statement

*"Tragically, the growing scourge of man's exploitation by man... leads to contempt for the fundamental rights of others and to the suppression of their freedom and dignity."  
 Pope Francis, message for the World Day of Peace 2015*

**"Migrants and Refugees in Germany – political and social tasks"**

The annual meeting of the diocesan committees for Mission-Development-Peace was held in Schöneiche near Berlin from 22 to 24 January 2015. The subject, which had been agreed on already last year and which refers to dealing with refugees and migration, acquired new urgency in the light of recent developments. The Jesuit Refugee Service JRS, staff members of a working group on church asylum in Berlin, a representative of the German Trade Union Confederation's project on fair mobility as well as a staff member of Caritas in the diocese of Dresden-Meißen were invited to participate and to collaborate in this meeting.

The exchange showed that activities to promote a culture of welcome in the dioceses as well as in the parishes can be of increasing importance and, with the support of the diocesan administration, develop a positive dynamic for a joint response of the Church to the signs of the time. The central challenge at present is to gather the great needs with the resources and the willingness to help in such a way that the commitment has a sustainable and meaningful effect. The participants also called for a courageous advocacy work on EU policies in this field. Dr Reinhard Voß, former secretary general of Pax Christi, reported on the experiences he made in peace and reconciliation work during his three-year stay at the Congolese Justice and Peace Commission.

**Commitment to fight against indecent working conditions**

A meeting of the discussion group of trade unions and Justice and Peace was held on 5 November 2014. Prelate Peter Kossen from Vechta denounced the scandalous working conditions of migrant workers in the meat processing industry. Dominique John, responsible for the German Trade Union Confederation's project "Fair Mobility", and Wolfgang Herrmann representing the federal commission for workplace chaplaincy described the cooperation between the Church and trade unions particularly with regard to the problematic situation of many migrant workers for example at major building sites and in other industrial sectors.

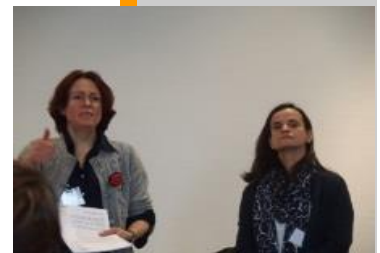
Slavery-like working conditions were also addressed in the this year's subject of the World Day of Peace on 1 January "No longer slaves, but brothers and sisters". In his message Pope Francis denounced the exploitation of dependent people. He announced the *International Day of Prayer and Reflection against human trafficking*, to take place on 8 February.

**World Social Forum on Migration in Johannesburg**

The 6<sup>th</sup> World Social Forum on Migration (WSFM) was held in Johannesburg from 5 to 8 December 2014. Continuing the activities to promote the rights of domestic workers and further to the results of the series of workshops during the 5<sup>th</sup> WSFM in Manila in 2012, Justice and Peace, Brot für die Welt and the Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA) organized the workshop 'Another world is possible - Migrant workers as promoters of global governance - the nexus of just development and human rights'.



P. Ludger Hillebrand S.J of the JRS, priest serving in the custody prior to deportation (at the head of the table), during the MDP meeting



Lissy Eichert UAC (left) and Nieves Kuhlmann (right) report on church asylum in Berlin, St. Christophorus

### ***Decent work and the post-2015 Agenda***

On 24 November 2014, Dr Gerd Müller, the federal minister for development, in a major event handed over “the Charter for the future”, the contribution of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to the post-2015 Agenda to the German Chancellor. The charter has been compiled in an ambitious consultation marathon of six meetings between April and September – with the support of the civil society, especially VENRO. Church representatives in the steering committee were the Catholic Liaison Office and the Joint Conference Church and Development (GKKE).

“No sustainable development without decent work”. This was the subject of a round of talks organized by JP during the above-mentioned event where the CAJ (Young Christian Workers), Don Bosco Mondo and the Catholic Forum ‘Living in Illegality’ presented their work. The focus was on the situation in informal economy, particularly on youth unemployment, migrant labour and social security. Professor Dr Andreas Lob-Hüdepohl contributed his reflections on social ethics. During the consultations on the charter for the future, Justice and Peace requested to anchor decent work and social security as goals in the post-2015 agenda and to give the future international development agenda a human rights-oriented foundation.

### ***Talks with federal minister Müller***

On 27 November 2014, JP President Bishop Dr Ackermann had a talk with the federal minister Dr Gerd Müller about the Charter for the Future of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the human rights approach and the post-2015 agenda as well as about the Textiles Partnership and TTIP.

### ***Exposure and Dialogue Programme in the textile industry***

From 25 October to 1 November 2014, Dr Hildegard Hagemann took part in the exposure and dialogue programme held in Silvassa, India, at the textile factory ALOK Industries, a former borrower of DEG (German Investment and Development Company). It was the first time that an EDP was held in a company belonging to the formal sector, i.e. in a company with courses of the day and work contexts quite different from what we are used to. Other participants were Dr Bärbel Kofler and Dr Georg Kippels from the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development (AwZ) as well as representatives from the textile industry.

Against the background of the Textiles Partnership launched by federal minister Müller on 9 October 2014, the participants also discussed the exemplary role of an integrated textile company where it is much easier to verify compliance with standards and to create transparency. In terms of development policies, the question is whether such companies can contribute to poverty eradication. The concentration of a value chain on powerful integrated companies may impede the necessary creation of value chains and employment in rural areas.

### ***Consultation visit with the Clean Clothes Campaign in textile industry***

From 2 to 14 January 2015, the members of the Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) visited Ahmedabad, India, in order to gather information on the working and environmental conditions in the value chain from planting to selling. Partners in Ahmedabad were PRAYAS, an NGO which unionizes migrant workers and supports them in legal cases, as well as the SEWA - Academy, an educational institution of the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA).



Seamstresses in Line 13 at ALOK Ind., Silvassa, India



Members of the CCC and others in a factory to deseed conventionally grown cotton

The twelve-day programme included visits to cotton fields, de-seeding plants, conventional or GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)-certified spinning mills, small dyeworks, weaving mills and to homeworkers, as well as conversations with trade unions, agricultural experts and a one-day Stakeholder Workshop.



PRAYAS and SEWA members at the Stakeholder-Workshop

On the last day – following the Exposure and Dialogue Programme in Silvassa – a half-day exchange with a representative of GOTS India and three representatives of GOTS-certified textile manufacturers (ARVIND and ASHIMA) from Ahmedabad took place.

### ***Bishop Ackermann meets Dr Uwe Mazura, Textile + Fashion***

On the occasion of the launch of the Textiles Partnership by the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development on 16 October 2014, Bishop Dr Ackermann tried to convince still hesitant associations of the textile industry to join the Partnership. On 5 February 2015 he met with Dr Gerd Mazura, managing director of the Textile+Fashion Confederation in order to discuss difficulties and problems. Both sides shared the envisaged aim of a broadest possible participation of companies and an international expansion. At present, discussions are being held between the Textile+Fashion Confederation and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in order to find solutions to the obstacles associated with a possible participation of the Confederation. JP emphasized the importance of the social dialogue and of a support of the textile industry especially in the international context.

### ***EU Dialogue on Agrarian Issues with partners from the RSA, Zambia and Uganda***

After the international expert conference "10 years of voluntary guidelines on the Right to Food" held in Berlin on 11 November, a three-day dialogue with the EU Commission and other European institutions on "Shaping of national and international agri-markets according to principles of Justice" took place in Brussels from 12 to 14 November 2014. Participants in this dialogue were experts who had attended the JP expert conference in January 2014 on 'Sweet Fruits – good for everyone?', Denis Kabiito, Caritas Kasanaensis, Uganda, Angela Mulenga, Right to Food Network, Zambia and Lali Naidoo, East Cape Agricultural Research Project.



Dr Leonhard Mizzi, Jules Seitz, Angela Mulenga, Denis Kabiito, Lali Naidoo (from left to right) at the EU Commission

Dr Leonard Mizzi, the head of unit in the Directorate General for Agriculture, for G7, and the African Union of the EU Commission initiated this dialogue. For the EU Commission it was the first time that it met with small NGOs from the South for intensive talks about post-2015, the common agricultural policy, economic partnership agreements, support programmes for small farming structures and enterprises, issues related to farm and migrant labour as well as to human rights implications of agricultural policy. The participants also visited the Offices of the German Farmer's Association in Brussels and of the International Labour Organisation as well as the COMECE. Here the participants had a meeting with other Catholic organisations located in Brussels.

### ***Economy and human rights, national plan of action***

With the opening conference "Nationaler Aktionsplan Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte" (National plan of action, economy and human rights) which was held on 6 November at the Federal Foreign Office, the responsible department gathered important actors from industry, civil society and from different government departments. This event should mark the beginning of a transparent and possibly participatory process of elaborating a national plan of action over the next years. The aim of this first conference was to identify topics which will probably be discussed controversially by the different actors with the help of the 31 articles of the UN Guiding Lines. They will be discussed more deeply in about 6 – 9 expert workshops organized by the Federal Foreign Office. It is planned to hold another conference in November 2015 which will bring together the results of the expert workshops and which will present the state of debate. A repeatedly raised question concerned the relationship of such a national

process to current international negotiations on trade agreements such as TTIP which will have wide-ranging effects also on the implementation of the guiding lines.

### ***Human rights and traditional values***

The working group human rights and cultural traditions met on 6 February 2015 in Berlin to hold its constituent meeting. In an introductory contribution Professor Dr Heiner Bielefeldt underlined the basic modernity of human rights which imply a critique of tradition as shown by the intended goal of *Empowerment* inherent in human rights. What is required is a critical communication which is based on a respectful approach not to traditions but to the people living their humanity in other contexts. The discussion at the same time revealed that this element of tradition critique represents a challenge to all societies, irrespective of their belonging to the global South or North. The participants emphasized that, seen from this perspective, it must be warned against an exclusive appropriation of human rights by a Eurocentric reading. All cultures show elements of strengthening human rights, but everywhere these rights must be implemented against resistances which are also nourished by traditions.

### ***International Conference on "Religious Freedom. A human right between claims and instrumentalisation"***

From 26 to 28 November 2014, an international symposium on religious freedom was organized in cooperation by the Catholic Academy 'Franz Hitze Haus', Missio and the Institute for Christian Social Sciences at the university of Münster. Dr Legutke was invited to moderate a final panel discussion. Other participants were Professor Marianne Heimbach-Steins, Dr James Channan OP, director of the Lahore Peace Center in Pakistan, Dr George Ehusani, director of the Lux Terra Foundation in Abuja, Nigeria. It became obvious that in view of the tense situation especially in the hosts' countries, the interreligious dialogue will continue to be an indispensable instrument for establishing conditions of peace and of respect for human rights. Nevertheless, it could not be overlooked that the respective political lines of conflict which play a major role in all these disputes can only be resolved on this political level. Religions can at most support and accompany these crucial processes.

### ***International Meeting of Bishops in the Holy Land***

From 10 to 15 January 2015, Bishop Dr Stephan Ackermann and Auxiliary Bishop Renz took part in the 15<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Bishops in Israel and the Palestinian territories, including visits to Gaza and Hebron. With 40 participants, this year's international meeting was particularly well attended. The problems at the Gaza border crossing point where the bishops were detained for nearly 7 hours were met with particular public attention. At the end of January, Bishop Ackermann had the opportunity to talk to the ambassador of Israel in Berlin about the situation in Gaza.

### ***Specialist Course 'Church and Conflict'***

On 16/17 October 2014, the second specialist course 'Church and Conflict' organized with the Association for Development Cooperation (AGEH) took place in Cologne. The course aims at familiarizing experts with the theory and practice of the Church's teaching on peace. During the course it became obvious that not only teaching peace ethics but also individual reflections on the relationship towards the Catholic Church are major prerequisites for developing a visible understanding for the Church's actions. These reflections not least will help to better use the potential of the Church's teaching on peace in many practical contexts.



### **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall**

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the German Bishops' Conference organized a meeting in Berlin on 8 November 2014. In this meeting, which was also attended by guests from Poland, Ukraine and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cardinal Marx emphasized the importance of prophetic insistence for overcoming communism.



*Prof. em. Dr H.-J. Meyer (left), Prof. M. Marynovych (right) (Ukraine)*

The conversation with Federal Minister Schäuble and Bishop Gudziak from Ukraine revealed a clear idea of today's challenges, which must be measured against the pleasant memory of the fall of the Wall if it is not to become a meaningless affirmation of what has already been achieved. So it was certainly no coincidence that the current situation in Ukraine was the subject of particularly intensive discussions.



*Dr Schäuble, Cardinal Marx, Bishop Gudziak, Patrik Schwarz (from left to right)*

### **- Maximilian Kolbe Foundation - Workshop for staff officers in Auschwitz/Oswiecim**

From 3 to 7 November 2014, the 3<sup>rd</sup> international workshop for regular officers from Poland, France and Germany organized by the MKF and the Centre for ethics education in the armed forces took place in Auschwitz/Oswiecim. Against the background of the history of Auschwitz, the discussions focused on reflections on numerous current experiences of violence made by the major part of the participants. In addition to its political and symbolic expressiveness, the workshop represents an important contribution to the culture of internal leadership. Much interest in the workshop was shown by the participating representatives of the armed forces. They particularly appreciated the fact that the Church provides room for an adequate dealing with these topics charged with tension.

### **Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation**

On 14 November 2014, the final meeting in the first term of office (2010 to 2014) of the Board of Trustees of the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation was held. The Board of Trustees agreed that the work of the Foundation has developed positively in the past years. Especially in view of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and the workshops in Auschwitz, new forms of church reconciliation work could be developed and successfully practised. At present, talks about possible cooperations are being held with partners from Russia and Ukraine. The tense (church-) political situation there requires patience, perseverance and a continuous commitment to establish a basis of trust.

Prior to its regular meeting, the Board of Trustees visited the Berlin Center for the Treatment of Torture Victims to gather information on the experiences made in dealing with traumatization. Afterwards a joint event on "reconciliation as a political option for action" was held at the Catholic Academy with the Federal Foundation Flight, Expulsion, Reconciliation.

### **- GKKE - Cooperation project with pharmaceutical companies and GIZ in Tanzania**

The cooperation project to promote pharmaceutical education to improve access to good quality health services in Tanzania went into its first round with a broad participation of church and state partners in Tanzania. The GKKE pharmadialogue had suggested this public-private development partnership, a DeveloPPP.de Programme where Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck and Bayer Health Care as well as the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) support a training institute of the church, the Kilimanjaro School of Pharmacy (KSP) in Moshi/Tanzania in developing and spreading a state-recognized training course leading to qualification as "dispenser".

The curricula for three educational levels in Tanzania were revised together with representatives of the schools. In a workshop with the stakeholders

held in Dar es Salaam on 9 February 2015, the new curriculum was presented and discussed and will now be submitted to the National Council for Technical Education NACTE.

### ***Evaluation of the GKKE Forum Carajas being part of the Ecumenical Dialogue Programme***

On 15 January 2015, the results of a study were presented in Berlin with the title "Dialogues with economy: Evaluation of the experiences made in the context of the dialogue programme Brazil (GKKE Forum Carajás) on the creation of dialogue programmes today" being used. Brot für die Welt had commissioned an evaluation of the GKKE Forum Carajás, Brazil, to gather information and knowledge for future industrial dialogues. In the study the whole period of the German-Brazilian Ecumenical Dialogue Programme of GKKE from 1992 to 2003 is outlined and analysed in retrospect.

Two factors for success were underlined during the presentation: The necessary stamina shown by the churches and GKKE when preparing and observing the dialogue and the importance of exposure components in the dialogue.

### ***GKKE arms exports report in 2014 and Thursday discussion***

In its latest arms exports report 2014, GKKE demanded the implementation of the announced change of course in arms export policy. The presidents Prelate Dr Karl Jüsten and Prelate Dr Martin Dutzmann together with Jan Grebe, chairman of the expert group, presented the GKKE arms exports report 2014 to the Federal Press Conference on 8 December 2014. The media response was very positive.

Three days later, on 11 December 2014, a Thursday discussion on "A change of course in arms export policy? Arms exports between foreign trade balance, security policy interests and peace ethics" was held in support of the public and political debate. Among the participants were Dr Michael Mertin, President and CEO of JENOPTIK AG Jena and Agnieszka Brugger, MP. Matthias Machnig, secretary of state at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) was represented by head of department Dr Eckhard Franz.

### ***Civilian crisis prevention as a trademark of German foreign policy***

Under the heading "Culture of Prevention" instead of a "Culture of Reaction" GKKE has published a statement on the fourth report of the Federal Government on the implementation of the Action Plan "Civilian Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building" on 4 February 2015 and demanded to make the culture of prevention "a trademark of German foreign policy". This requires not to lose sight of the living conditions of people and societies in crisis and conflict constellations. GKKE expects the government to deal with the lack of coherence for example in its climate, agricultural or foreign trade policies. GKKE suggests as a first step to examine all externally oriented activities, including the licensing of arms exports, whether they meet the demands of crisis prevention.



*Grebe (GKKE, BICC),  
Dr Mertin (JENOPTIK),  
Dr Boysen, Brugger MdB, Dr  
Franz (BMWi) (from left to  
right) during the Thursday  
discussion*

Please visit our website at  
[www.justitia-et-pax.de](http://www.justitia-et-pax.de)

For statements and press  
releases please click on  
"aktuell" or "Presse".

Publications are available at  
the "Publikationen" section or  
at the JP office.

#### ***Imprint***

***Deutsche Kommission Justitia et Pax  
Kaiserstr. 161, 53113 Bonn  
E-Mail: [justitia-et-pax@dbk.de](mailto:justitia-et-pax@dbk.de)  
Web: [www.justitia-et-pax.de](http://www.justitia-et-pax.de)  
Editor: Gertrud Casel***

*German Commission for  
Justice and Peace – A joint  
institution of the German  
Bishops' Conference and the  
Central Committee of  
German Catholics for  
promoting development,  
human rights and peace*