

**Frankfurt Declaration dated September 19, 2019
from the young people from ten European States gathered at the 3rd International
Meeting Days of the Hedwig Forum – Church of the World**

1st Topic: Freedom of movement in Europe

Open borders create possibilities

Europe's borders have become more penetrable, first through the establishment of the Schengen-area, later through the fall of the "Iron Curtain". This development has led to many possibilities of seeing Europe. This applies to vacation-education trips, but also applies to those seeking jobs. Meeting with people who - maybe at one point - were on the side of the inaccessible people, the enemies, dissolved tensions and concepts of the enemy. Thus, travel can be active work towards peace.

Freedom of movement can promote economic disequilibrium

The occurring east-west travel of workers brings necessary working resources for Western Europe, foreign currency for Eastern Europe and, thus, increased purchasing power. However, families are torn apart – with all negative consequences. Eastern European nursing staff and medical personnel, e.g. leave the so-called "European orphans" in their homelands.

Just standards everywhere

Membership in the EU does not only mean walking through open doors to the democratic global community. It is also an obligation to implement the standards applicable there in the own country. This shall be more consistently demanded by the EU politicians.

2. Topic: Migration to Europe

Migration as a challenge for Christians

Many people knock on the door of the "European house"; these are mainly people who want to flee poverty, wars, persecution and natural disasters. "Every stranger who knocks on our door gives us the opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed or rejected guest of every era (c.f. Mt 25,35.43), as our Pope Francis says¹.

Make migration humane

We feel obligated to this. The politics of isolation, as practiced in the European Union and in many other European countries, is in opposition to this word. We want these people to be granted better and safer possibilities for legal entry into the States of the European Union. The many deaths of people fleeing while escaping has to end. All people who have arrived here should be able to find fair and humane conditions for their stay in our country. Refugees have a right to fair proceedings on their residence status. Those people who only stay with us for a certain time shall have access to work and education. If they return to their homeland, they

¹ Message on the world day of the migrant and the refugee from 2018.

should receive support. Complete integration shall be made possible for those people who have to or wish to stay in our countries permanently.

Alongside the poor

As Christians we want to stand alongside the refugees and we demand of our church to support and promote this integration work with their means.

At the same time we call on the political responsible people of our countries and in the European Union to fight with courage against the reasons for fleeing rather than the migration flows and to champion sustainable justice, peace and equal economic chances in the whole world.

3. Topic: The responsibility of the EU/Europe in/for the world: justice and peace

An open and peaceful world

We want a world that is peaceful and just and in which God's creation is preserved. We want the EU/Europe to meet with its neighboring countries on equal terms. The EU/Europe should cooperate with other countries in the scope of fair economic structures instead of isolating its markets.

We want the EU's/Europe's foreign affairs to not be dominated by military means. Rather, it shall be set on civil conflict resolution and conflict prevention so that the use of military means is not even necessary.

Make justice possible

We recognize and respect the desire of all people to live in freedom and wealth. Thus, we are willing to share our wealth, on a fair and global basis. We are convinced that a person's place of birth should not decide his or her economic wealth. Finally, everyone will profit from a fair and global economy.

Living sustainably

We are willing to reduce the negative influences of our way of live on the global climate even if other countries are not following suit (yet). We are convinced that the EU/Europe is strong enough to transform its economy and societies and, thus, make a contribution to saving our world for future generations.

Living good for all people is the key to a peaceful and just world.

Or: A peaceful and just world is the key to a good life for all people.

4. Topic: Responsibility as Christians for Europe

For justice, peace and preserving creation

Christianity has significantly influenced the history, politics, culture and society of the European continent. As young Christians we thus feel a special calling on the basis of our belief to campaign for justice, peace and preserving creation in Europe.

With all Christians, religions and people of good will

On the basis of our christening we are committed as members of the Catholic Church together with our spiritual directors, bishops and Pope Francis to good communication and cooperation with other Christian churches and communities, with all other religions and with all people of good will in the European countries.

With all faults, weaknesses, commitment and prayer

As we know our faults and weaknesses, as well as the failures of the Christian Churches in the past and present we say: wars and violence in the name of religion shall no longer exist! We know that for Europe's future to be successful we are dependent upon God's help. Europe does not only need our commitment but also our prayers.