



Revitalising solidarity. Relations between North and South in changed framework conditions

Conference on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Ecumenical Service on Southern Africa (KASA)

Saturday, 4 June 2016 at the Arche, Heidelberg–Kirchheim, Wicherngemeinde, Breslauer Str. 39, 69124 Heidelberg

Until the mid-1990s, South Africa was known as a classic example of solidarity in an international civil society, targeted at supporting the local groups involved in their battle for liberation from the racist apartheid regime. Since 1994, South Africa has been in a new era: democratic elections meant that the abolition of political apartheid was sealed. Nevertheless, socio-economic justice has still not been achieved, even 22 years later. In view of the escalating situation in South Africa itself, in the region and in a world society confronted with multiple crises, the call for global solidarity grows louder again. However, what can and must this solidarity look like? First and foremost, solidarity is highly demanding. It demands that the nature and reach of the global crises be understood and the respective contexts of subjects acting in solidarity be subjected to an exact analysis.

Only then can approaches be defined to find an escape from the crisis in changing framework conditions.

It is this type of solidarity as a sophisticated answer to the challenges of our time that is to form the general subject matter and debate of this conference. It plans to thrash out exactly what it can mean and achieve to practise solidarity with the global South in today's context of Germany and, even more so, of Europe.

The conference is being held on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Ecumenical Service on Southern Africa (KASA) and the ESSET (Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation). Both organisations were founded in 1996 with the aim of contributing in their respective contexts and in cooperation with one another towards pooling progressive powers and generating synergies in terms of socio-economic justice. What is the status of this agenda today? How can solidarity be experienced in real life in changed framework conditions? These are the questions we plan to discuss at the conference, any you are most cordially invited to join us.

Speakers:

Graham Philpott is Director of the Church Land Programme CLP in Pietermaritzburg. The CLP strives to cooperate in a process with marginalised groups in a concerted way to build common solution strategies. In doing so, the CLP supports people in their battle for liberty and in regaining their collective bargaining power.

Nomasonto Magwaza is Director of the Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation, ESSET in Johannesburg. ESSET is committed to social justice and combating the systemic exploitation of the poor and marginalised groups.

Prof. Dr. Vuyani Vellem is South Africa's liberation theologian at Pretoria University and Chairman of the Board of ESSET.

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Jahre KASA

Programme

- 9:00** Arrival, registration, coffee
- 9:30** Welcome address/introduction by *Simone Knapp* (KASA) and *Nomasonto Magwaza* (ESSET).
- 9:40** **Option for the poor and excluded - options with the poor and excluded? Solidarity in the 21st Century.**
Lecture by and discussion with *Graham Philpott* (CLP).
- 10:20** **Resistance against exclusion, exploitation and discrimination. Experiences with solidarity in the “new” South Africa.**
Lecture by and discussion with *Prof. Dr. Vuyani Vellem* (ESSET).
- 11:00** **“Giving other voices space and a say”. Reflections on solidarity work in a German and European context.**
Dr Boniface Mabanza (KASA).
- 11:20** Break
- 11:35** **Fishbowl. Discussions on the question: What forms of solidarity do we need? Answers from civil society to the current challenges**
Presenter: *Dr. Hans Lessing*, Spokesman of the Managing Committee of KASA.
- 12:45** Luncheon
- 13:30** **Solidarity in practice What is the future of solidarity?**
Round-table discussion with *Hugo Knoppert* (Zimbabwe Europe Network/Netherlands); *Dagmer Paternoga* (Attac Germany); *Michael Allimadi* (State Association of Municipal Migrant Representative Offices - *Landesverband der kommunalen Migrantenvertretungen*); N.N. (AfricAvenir) (invited).
- 15:00** End of conference

Simultaneous interpreting services will be provided in German and English. In order to be able to make all the necessary arrangements as early as possible, please be so kind as to register by 25 May with:

birgit.albrecht@woek.de

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