



SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER SOON

GOD'S KALEIDOSCOPE 3

***An International and Ecumenical Conference on
Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Democracy, Challenging Hostility
04-07 December 2025 at the Evangelische Bildungsstätte
Schwanenwerder, Berlin, Germany***

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

This Conference with the working title ***Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Democracy, Challenging Hostility*** is a follow-up to our impactful Conferences on Racial Justice, held in Freiburg from 8-12 November 2023 and in Bad Boll, Germany, from 4-7 December 2024. The influence of these conferences is evident in the life and witness of the Diocese in Europe and the Church of England, as well as among key church partners and the broader ecumenical community. The image of the kaleidoscope symbolizes the rearrangement of diverse elements into new, harmonious patterns, emphasizing the need for inclusive dialogue and solidarity with those often perceived as outsiders, including migrants, refugees, and displaced persons, in the face of rising hostility.

In recent weeks, there has been a strong call from stakeholders and grassroots movements to sustain the momentum generated—until everyone embraces the idea of being part of God's Kaleidoscope. As the Bad Boll conference affirmed, it is “Either all of us or none of us.”

This task is not easy since it involves untangling the knots that have been formed over years of injustice, pain, unresolved emotions, and intentional mistreating of people. Disentangling these knots from the past is not about erasing it but about understanding how it weaves into who we are today. It requires self-discovery and healing along with patience, gentleness and time. It requires courage to recognise the gifts of those in our midst, those whom we see as strangers, as not belonging, giving them room to flourish and to reject subtle discrimination and biases. It requires calling out the entanglements and how they affect human dignity and a joining of hands in ensuring that oppressions are broken free of, and humanity is able to live without discrimination and with dignity. All this calls for realisation, repentance, renewal and restoration.

The first two conferences named the challenges of racial exclusion and drew up a panacea well summarised in the two conference statements. It is important that these commitments are followed up and lived out and the larger church owns the same in the formulations of its own agenda.

The need for this Follow-Up Conference

Current realities in Europe and the world present a context of conflict, fear, misinformation, disregard for human dignity, and threats to life. Societies are increasingly focusing on “othering” through polarization and populism. Nationalist movements and extreme populist rhetoric deepen societal divisions, undermining honest conversations, compromise, and collaborative policymaking. The erosion of democratic values and prophetic voices from institutions of long-standing integrity follows, as independent bodies like the judiciary, the press, and electoral commissions come under increasing pressure, weakening essential checks and balances.

Aggressive anti-immigrant sentiments, exclusionary policies, and xenophobia are rising, creating social tensions and hindering efforts to build inclusive communities. New expressions of hostility include hate speech, racial intolerance, suppression of dissent, cultural and religious discrimination, gender-based injustices, and an apathy toward climate justice.

Social media has evolved with huge challenges in the context of racism, discrimination, and threats to democracy. Although good communication via social media platforms are possible, they are also significant breeding grounds for hate speech, targeted disinformation, and group-based discrimination.

Churches have a calling and responsibility to speak out and furthermore address issues within their own structures. Left unchecked, these tendencies marginalize vulnerable groups and jeopardize the future of humanity.

Faith communities must move beyond mere pleas for mercy and carve out a new trajectory for justice, peace, and love. This prophetic call must be understood in its entirety and implemented with urgency and faith. Stakeholders, including young leaders in churches and faith-based organizations, must come together to strategize the way forward.

Our calling as churches is to remain attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance, discern deep-rooted divisions and exclusions—however subtle—and uphold all that fosters coexistence and the celebration of diversity.

Our Roadmap

- Build on the achievements of the Freiburg and Bad Boll Conferences by implementing follow-up actions addressing racism and exclusion.
- Equip participants to counter modern-day hostility through Bible studies, worship, and Christian confidence.
- Listen to the lived experiences of people who face exclusion and marginalization.
- Redefine democratic engagement in the pursuit of racial justice, gender justice, and climate justice, integrating these commitments into faith communities.
- Develop practical approaches for collaboration between faith-based communities and secular organizations in fostering racial justice and inclusion.
- Explore ways to make communities radically inclusive.
- Engage young voices and support their aspirations for a just and inclusive society.
- Deepen our understanding of the identity struggles of immigrant communities, particularly children and young people.
- Together, we aim to develop approaches to counter social media challenges through strengthened digital civil courage, the promotion of inclusive narratives, and the advancement of

ethical media standards. By fostering collaboration between media professionals, activists, and policymakers, we seek to amplify anti-racist voices and ensure a lasting positive impact in social media environments.

Dates and Venue

4th – 07th December 2025, *Evangelische Bildungsstätte Schwanenwerder, Berlin, Germany*

Registrations

Registration is now open for the Conference. The Conference fee including accommodation will be 450 Euros and the details can be found in the Registration Form attached. Online registration facilities are also available.

Conference Organising Team

The conference organising team will include the **Diocese in Europe Racial Justice Working Group**: The Venerable Dr Leslie Nathaniel (Chair of the Working Group), Ms Hureem Salas, Mr Ezekiel Victor, Revd Canon Joanna Udal and The Revd Augustine Nwaekwe;

The Conference Coordinator: The Rev. Vinod Victor, the Chaplain of the Anglican Church in Freiburg; **The Conference Secretary**: Ms. Molly Catherine. **The Conference Treasurer**: Ms Carol-Ann Khatri from Bonn/Köln

The Conference Logistical Support: The Anglican Centre of the St Catherine's Church in Stuttgart with the Baden Wurttemberg team; Also, as needed, the Chaplain of St. George's Anglican Church Berlin.

For Further enquiries please contact the Secretariate at racialjusticeconference@gmail.com

Participants will receive nearer the time a detailed description regarding travel to the Conference Centre from the Airport or from the Railway Station.

Conclusion

God's Kaleidoscope 3 - **Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Democracy, Challenging Hostility** builds upon the journey from lament to action. This conference offers a huge opportunity to build on past achievements and to continue with energy and momentum, aligning education, participation, confidence-building, church engagement in peacebuilding, and healing in a rapidly changing and hostile context. It aims to be a significant step toward a racially just, radically inclusive, and healing community.

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe



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Bishop of the Diocese in Europe

The Ven Dr Leslie Nathaniel
Archdeacon of Germany, Northern Europe
and the East
Chair of the Diocesan Racial Justice Working
Group

