

World Student Christian Federation

Definition of Empire from the WSCF Inter-Regional Programme
"Empire, Christians and Basilea",
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Definition of Empire

We understand Empire to be the coherence of economic, cultural, political, religious and military powers that constitute a global system of domination.

Empire:

- Manifests in local, regional and global systems of exploitation and domination.
- Operates on the logic underlying over-production, materialism, competition, individualism, mass-consumerism, violence and coercion.
- Includes human and economic relationships that stratify societies through unjust concentrations of wealth and power in the hands of the few at the expense of the many.
- Is implemented through the neo-liberal economic model and promoted by powerful nations as the motivation, the process and the goal of all intelligent and rational human behaviour.
- Contributes to the supercession of national sovereignty in order to benefit the most powerful individuals, nations and organisations.
- Denies the right of peoples to utilise resources within their environment and their right to determine their social, political and economic destinies.
- Controls and subverts education and the media in its interests.
- Relies on exploitation of Creation and the violation of workers' rights and other human rights.
- Exploits gender inequality and promotes gender-based violence particularly toward already marginalised women by reinforcing systems of patriarchy.
- Works through a system of hierarchy, exclusion and ranking that marginalises young people and robs them of their future.
- Imposes cultural hegemony in order to extend its influence.