

World Student Christian Federation

Inter-Regional Programme : Empire, Christians and Basilea,  
Nairobi, Kenya  
31 July - 9 August 2006.

## **WSCF International Solidarity Plan**

### **Introduction**

We, the participants of the WSCF Inter-Regional Programme "Empire, Christians and Basilea" believe that we live under a global system of domination that constitutes an Empire. We believe that the Empire's political, economic and military powers are used to subjugate the many for the profit of the few. We believe that naming the powers that control our world is the first step in being liberated from the Empire's ideological captivity. The next steps are unmasking and engaging the Empire and creating alternatives.

Raising awareness of the Empire means we must name how it exercises control in different contexts. We must learn to see through the ideological veils that keep us unaware and recognise our responsibilities as agents of personal and institutional change.

Accepting these responsibilities, we must use our imagination and draw on the prophetic tradition to see our world with new eyes. We believe we must build relationships based on justice in local communities and amongst nations. We declare that the Basilea of God, in the form of egalitarian social and economic relationships, is our alternative to Empire.

In our discussions and actions regarding Empire we propose the following:

National/ Local Movements are encouraged to:

- Organise events to promote awareness of Empire and to create spaces of resistance to Empire for people inside and outside the movement.
- Study the issue of Empire from a contextual, Biblical and theological perspective.
- Mobilise local branches to recognise and respond to the manifestations of Empire in their local contexts.
- Promote and engage in community-based initiatives within their localities as a way to create alternatives to Empire.
- Build alliances with churches and other local groups that work to respond to Empire.

WSCF Regions are encouraged to:

- Reformulate the definition of Empire to reflect the specific context of the region.
- Select an aspect of Empire which particularly affects the region and work extensively around that issue in order to build awareness, seek solidarity and promote action.

- Initiate contextual Biblical and theological reflection on Empire.
- Compile stories of resistance and alternatives to Empire from the region.
- Create regional programmes to promote awareness of Empire.
- Support local and national movements in their efforts to promote awareness, create programmes and organise resistance to Empire.
- Establish relationships and seek to influence organisations (religious, social, economic, political and cultural) that make decisions that affect people's lives.

The global Federation is encouraged to:

- Realise that building communities of Christian students who can recognise the Empire is a form of resistance to it. WSCF should therefore promote movement building in regions where the Federation is less visible.
- Support regional offices to organise programmes and events for the national and local levels to resist Empire, taking into account the contextual realities.
- Provide resources for global and multi-regional theological and Biblical studies to resist Empire.
- Create inter-regional initiatives across the political, religious, class and cultural boundaries that are imposed by Empire, while honouring cultural differences.
- Share information about regional efforts to resist Empire.
- Contribute the student perspective to broader ecumenical efforts to resist Empire.
- Strengthen the Federation's role with the United Nations and its agencies to raise awareness and take action on decisions that create and reinforce Empire. Open channels for the regions and the national movements to engage with the United Nations and its agencies.
- Make alliances with global social and peoples' movements in creating alternatives to Empire.