



cec

conference of european churches



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe

The following is a joint press release from the Conference of European Churches, the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, and the World Council of Churches.

Press Release
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Brussels

Refugee and Migrant Crisis: Ecumenical organisations appeal to ministers of Justice and Home Affairs Council

Five of Europe's ecumenical organisations have called on the ministers of the Justice and Home Affairs Council for a unified, ambitious and rights-based refugee and migration policy. The Conference of European Churches joins with the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), Eurodiaconia, ACT Alliance EU, and EU-CORD in this appeal.

The letter calls for commitment from the European Union and its Member States to consolidate efforts to save lives of refugees, increase the places for the resettlement of refugees, and put in place policies enabling safe and legal pathways to Europe.

A number of other recommendations are made with the hope that policies will meet the needs of economic migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. "People across Europe believe that it should provide protection and opportunity for those who seek it," said CCME General Secretary Doris Peschke. "We, along with countless others, cannot accept the death, destitution and dehumanisation taking place across our Union."

The majority of those seeking safety and a new life in Europe come from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Eritrea. The International Organization for Migration estimates that 350,000 migrants have been detected at EU external borders so far in 2015. Upwards of 2,600 have drowned in the Mediterranean and hundreds other through failed land crossing efforts.

"As the humanitarian crisis in Europe and its neighbourhood escalates we must also increase our efforts in advocating for a just, humane, and faithful response," remarked CEC General Secretary Rev. Dr Guy Liagre.

[Please click here for the full text of the letter.](#)

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The [Conference of European Churches](#) (CEC) is a fellowship of some 114 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 national council of churches and organisations in partnership. CEC was founded in 1959. It has offices in Brussels and Strasbourg.

The [Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe](#) (CCME) is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. Members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and Councils of Churches as well as church-related agencies in presently 18 European countries. CCME cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.