



International Workshop on German experiences made when dealing with a past burdened by violence from 3 - 9 July 2022, Berlin

Dealing with a past burdened by violence plays a central role in peace and reconciliation processes worldwide. In the day-to-day business the potentials for healing and reconciliation and the challenges associated with them are constantly threatening to get out of sight. As classical soft factors with a distinct cultural signature, they are still generally underestimated. This has an impact on the long-term effectiveness of peace work. Nevertheless, the local churches in their respective contexts have gained a lot of valuable experiences which are worthwhile to exchange. Against this background Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation, AGIAMONDO and the German Commission for Justice and Peace have held international workshops on this topic since 2009 with the respective Bishops' Conferences of Sierra Leone, Uganda, Burundi, Colombia and different countries in Europe in order to make better use of these diverse experiences for the work of the Church and to support the respective partners. These workshops have proved to be effective means of strengthening church reconciliation work and of cooperation between the Catholic associations and the local churches. At the request of our partners we organized 2018 a workshop in Berlin that dealt with the main German experiences in dealing with a history of violence. 2022 we like to repeat this shared learning and sharing experience.

The workshop aims to support the partners in sharpening their own perspectives of action in dealing with the German experiences and to provide the German participants with a deeper understanding of their own background.

For this purpose the participants will visit relevant places of remembrance and actors in order to explore the topic in its manifold dimensions in discussions with them.

The OPEN-SPACE-method is to be used for deepening the experiences and for a transfer into the respective contexts of our partners. In addition to inspiring the participants, the joint learning movement is intended to strengthen the relevant basis for understanding between the participants. Moreover, the workshop is an important political sign of the Church's commitment in this important field and a contribution to ongoing discussions on Conflict transformation, dealing with the past and reconciliation.