

## World Council 2007 theme:

### *'Dialogue, Learn, Live: Students Make a Difference!'*

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During the ICM in 2004, the process for selecting a theme for the World Council was launched, with those present brainstorming together key words and issues that they felt should be included in the theme. Following this the international team engaged national movements to propose possible themes. In April the international team gathered all the suggestions and tried to identify the common words and issues being expressed. From this we developed the theme for the World Council:

#### ***Dialogue, Live, Learn: Students Make A Difference!***

The following information clearly explains the underlying message of the theme, with detailed explanations of each word and an explanation of how the theme links to the IYCS Global Campaign. It also emphasizes the need for all national movements to begin seriously engaging in the campaign and reflecting on the elements of the theme in order to prepare effectively for the World Council. There is also a list of suggested ways in which to engage in the campaign and reflect on the theme over the coming years.

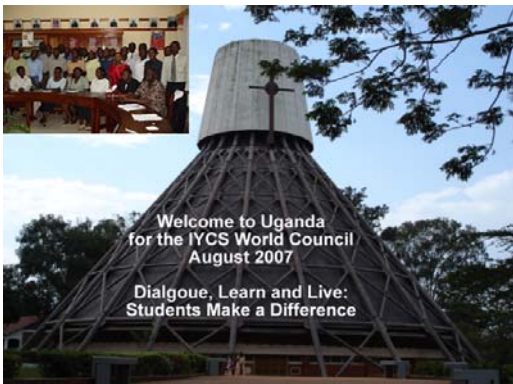
We are requesting members to use their creativity to design a logo that can be used on posters, stickers, t-shirts etc. All entries are to be sent to the International Secretariat by the **1st June 2006**.

In order for us all to prepare efficiently for the World Council it is important that all national movements engage in the preparation process and keep the international secretariat informed of their progress. We therefore encourage all of you to send us regular updates on your fundraising and other preparations.

We will keep you continually informed about the planning and preparation processes so that you can be involved every step of the way!

God bless you all!

IYCS International Team



Local Organising Team in Uganda, Uganda Martyrs Shrine

#### **What is the underlying message of this theme?**

To help understand the message in this theme it is important to break it down and examine the meaning and experience of each word in today's global context.

#### ***Dialogue:***

Throughout the world there is an increase in experiences of war and conflict. As a result of this there is an every increasing fear of 'the other' in our communities and society at large. There is a great need in our world today for an openness to and true understanding of others. This dialogue does not simply require political, cultural and religious leaders to speak with each, it is a call for us all to identify how we can engage in an everyday dialogue with those around us. We need to actively engage in various forms of dialogue with those around us, to discover their stories, their struggles and to build together a community of solidarity and peace.

#### ***Learn:***

Learning is a life-long process of opening ones mind to new things, a process of discovering. We learn through speaking and engaging with our families and friends, teachers and peers, others in our school yards and communities. Since the International Committee in 2003 IYCS has been promoting a need for an Integral Education that does not simply focus on intellectual development, rather the holistic formation of all human beings. As IYCS we also strongly believe that we learn best through doing and therefore encourage young people to reflect on their actions.

#### ***Live:***

As a movement by definition, IYCS is a living organ that is always changing and evolving. We must continually analysis the student milieu and global context to ensure that we are meeting the present needs and have a vision for the future. At another level each of us has been given an opportunity by our Creator and that opportunity is life. To live a full life in which we actively engage with our neighbours, we actively struggle for what is just and right in our world. By being given life we have been called to live that life to the fullest.

### **Students Make a Difference:**

This is a statement firstly challenging students to be active, to change the realities that surround them and that affect others. Secondly calling others in our communities to acknowledge that students have the ability to engage and make changes in their communities and in the world. It is also part of our vision as IYCS, we want to form students to be active in their communities and to bring about positive change.

### **How does the theme and world council link to the IYCS Global Campaign?**

Over the next 3 years in preparation for the World Council IYCS will be focusing on implementing a global campaign. The theme of this campaign will be 'Student Make a Difference'. One of the aims of having a global campaign is to deepen our sense of Internationality as one movement and strengthen our voice by unity together in action on various issues that affect our members.

This campaign is an important part of the preparation process for the World Council, as the World Council will be used as a space for exchange and evaluation of the experiences and actions in relation to the campaign. It will also be a space to identify a common global campaign for the following years.

### **How can you be part of the World Council preparation?**

*Suggestions for how to engage in the global campaign and reflect on the World Council Theme.*

**Please note:** In order to prevent confusion we urge all levels of the movement to integrate the theme of the World Council into all programs, events, activities and actions, *without using the theme itself!*

#### **In your local group:**

- Use the global campaign resource kit in your group to develop actions that relate to your local realities
- Discuss in your local group the different elements of the theme and how it relates to you
- Encourage all members of your local group to design a logo for the World Council
- Use the methodology of the review of life to deepen your understandings and reflections on the difference elements of the theme
- Organise activities around the theme during IYCS week 1-8 September to help fundraising for your national representatives to attend the World Council
- Write poems and stories on the theme
- Organise a debate on the theme

### **At the national level:**

- Ensure that your national action, orientation or campaign links with the global campaign
- Organise formation sessions and develop resources on the global campaign that meet the needs of your national reality
- Organise exchanges and formation sessions on the theme of the world council
- Encourage all members of your movement through your website and newsletters to design a logo for the World Council
- Have a section in your national newsletter for people to contribute their reflections on the theme and their actions in relation to the campaign
- Regularly update the regional and international secretariats about how you are preparing for the world council

Organise activities around the theme during IYCS week 1-8 September to help fundraising for your national representatives to attend the World Council in 2007

### **At the regional level:**

- Ensure that the regional programs and actions are connected with the global campaign and world council theme
- Organise formation sessions and develop resources on the global campaign that meet the needs of your regional reality
- Organise exchanges and formation sessions on the theme of the world council
- Encourage all members in your region, through your website and newsletters, to design a logo for the World Council
- Have a section in your regional newsletter and website for people to contribute their reflections on the theme and their actions in relation to the campaign
- Regularly update the international secretariats about how you are preparing for the world council
- All regional councils that take place before the world council should somehow link with world council theme, without using the theme exactly...

Organise activities around the theme during IYCS week 1-8 September to help fundraise for the World Council in 2007. Also encourage national movements to do the same at a national and local level.