Ecumenical Youth Program on Democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalisms.
World Student Christian Federation – LAC Region

“Ecumenical Youth Movement: Reaffirming hope towards Justice”

1. Introduction

The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) is one of the oldest international ecumenical organizations founded in 1895.

It is composed of more than 107 Student Christian Movements (SCMs) divided into 6 regions of the world. Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LAC) works with 13 affiliated movements in 11 countries. The federation’s job is to empower and connect youth and students around the world by building leadership and capacities to serve in the struggle for justice. Hope in a new world, critical socio-political analysis, and ecumenical celebration and communion are some of our principles and identity.

People from most of the protestant families’ confessions and denominations compose WSCF: Reformed, Anglicans, Lutheran, Methodists, Presbyterian, Baptist, Valdessian, Quakers, Menonites, Bretherns, Disciples, Independents, etc. But also there are members from the Catholic Church and the Orthodox family.

The Latin American and Caribbean regional office, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, serves 13 affiliated and associated movements in the region. It has consultative status with ECOSOC and UNESCO.

2. Context and Rationale

We are facing drastic changes in the regional geopolitical scenario and with this, agendas that in our opinion threaten the dignity of people on the continent, especially the most vulnerable, including women and young people. Conservative governments accompanied by anti-rights movements and religious and political fundamentalisms have taken on a regional configuration and with them there are setbacks on respect to public policies and the rights agenda achieved in the last decade. It is also part of our concern about the departure of youth from historical spaces of socialization to massive fundamentalist religious spaces and the growth of mega-churches that preach against the rights achieved.

It is worth mentioning that this new continental configuration is not accidental, but rather relies on factual, economic-financial and political powers that no longer need the classic forms of democracy to achieve their objectives. The role of the hegemonic media is another element that helps to create narratives and social devices that appeal to xenophobia, homophobia, sexism and the status quo in the inequalities system.

To this, we want to add an emerging component, the relationship between people, states and societies and the situation or status of Human Rights in a post-COVID-19 region. The region is already facing this health crisis, but with it, the crisis of inequalities, informality and precarious employment and the abuse of human rights against the most vulnerable, especially against migrants and in border areas, are also exacerbated. The question that arises is how the impacts of COVID-19 are related to the actions of governments, media and economic, political and religious fundamentalisms with the rights of people and their protection, and how we act accordingly.

1 To know More please visit: www.ws cf .ch, www .fumec .alc .org

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We believe that the voice of young people is fundamental in the creation of new narratives and alternatives, aspiring to build, not only appealing forms of language but also to facilitate channels of dialogue between different visions in an intergenerational dialogue.

3. Scope of the project

3.1 Goals:

Main goal:

To train and equip ecumenical youth and students in contextual analysis, diakonical and advocacy actions in the relation between Democracy, Human Rights and the advance of Fundamentalisms, having three axes of work: Climate Justice, Economic Justice, and Gender Justice in order to mobilize the network of Student Christian Movements as a platform for Solidarity and Advocacy.

Specific Objectives:

- Promote new narratives and communication models to reaffirm our Protestant identity and values for social justice, having as a context the relations with gender equality, migration, climate change, and human and economic relations in a post-COVID 19 world.
- To confront pedagogically with ideas, the strong growths of fundamentalist’s alienating hate speeches against the rights of people. Calling for youth to become change makers and stand up for rights.
- Develop a work plan at the regional/global level but based on the local public-political advocacy taking into account the relation between Democracy, Human Rights and the advance of fundamentalisms to be worked with Churches, civil society organizations and / or Youth State departments, promoting an intergenerational dialogue.
- Recommend clear proposals and a work plan for the regional and global federation in order to incorporate the program on Democracy, Human Rights and the advance of fundamentalisms in the 2020-2024 strategic plan.

3.2 Calendar

July -September
- Start of the program with the promotion of communications and the request for articles to the students on the subject to publish in the Magazine FUMEC Comunica
- Begins the work to prepare the first regional consultation

September
- “Regional Consultancy about Democracy, Fundamentalisms”: 5 Working days in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

October:
- Follow up and synthesis of the regional consultation. Media and communication Work.

Last Weekend of November:
• “Regional workshop about Human Rights, Fundamentalisms and Gender Justice”: 4 working days at the Theological Evangelical Seminar (SET) Matanzas, Cuba.

December - April
• Communication strategy implementation and follow up of the work plan developed in the consultation.
• Small-scale project support in 5 or more National SCMs.
• Visits and exchanges.
• Publication of the results through a youth booklet and “FUMEC Comunica” Magazine (two special editions)
• Presentation of a new 4-year program on Democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalisms and the role of the ecumenical youth.

3.3 Participants and beneficiories

Young people between 18 and 33 years old from Student Christian Movements (SCMs) from Latin America and the Caribbean of the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Brasil, Perú, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Cuba, El Salvador y Uruguay; and members from protestant churches and other Faith Based organization (FBOs)

Direct beneficiaries of the “Regional Consultation on democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalisms”
30 in total: 15 young people from América Latina + 15 young people from Brasil

Direct beneficiaries from “Inter generational regional workshop on Human Rights, fundamentalisms and Gender Justice”
50 in total aged between 18 and 30 years old.

General beneficiaries of the program and follow up process:
Direct outreach, 300 Young people from 11 countries in the Region.

4. Methodological, Strategics and operatives components

Crosscutting thematic Axis to be developed under the main theme “Democracy, Human Rights and Fundamentalisms in LAC region. “Where we are? Where do we want to go? “How do we get there?”

• Gender Justice, Women and the diversity Rights Justicia de Género
• Climate and Ecological Justice
• Fair Communication and Media
• Human relations and changes in a Post-Covid Scenario.

Crosscutting perspectives to be developed:

• Contextual Analyses: local, regional and global
• Theological reflection and popular methodologies of Bible reading

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2 You can request the document on proposed programmatic agenda and methodological elements for the whole program.

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• Capacity building in transformative diakonia
• Capacity and movement building in advocacy

Monitoring, tools and development of the national and regional activities:

• Internal and external communication strategy building
• Program working group creation to monitoring and evaluation; including young people leaders from the countries
• Media and Social Media outreach: Including articles, Magazines and Social Media developments
• Promotion and funding of 5 or more small-scale projects to work locally in different countries
• Work visits and exchanges

5. Proposed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure (Dependind on the Program Activity)</th>
<th>Regional Consultation in Brazil (September 2020)</th>
<th>Regional Consultation in Cuba (November 2020)</th>
<th>Communications, local projects, follow up and monitoring and final publication. (July 2020- April 2021)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>including: National and international airfare, Accomodation, Food, Internal transport, Materials and resources, Visas and misc. Local Projects follow up, Communications, coordinator and program Advisory. when appropriate: Publication and syntesis, Designing cost, other materials, Communication pack development, local project funding and follow up, and exchange support</td>
<td>18000</td>
<td>8550 USD</td>
<td>7750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead, Admin and general core expenses</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub- Total</td>
<td>19500</td>
<td>9400</td>
<td>8400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>37300 USD</td>
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<tr>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Confirmed Funds (USD)</th>
<th>Promised funds (USD)</th>
<th>Requested to SGPD (USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Consultation (Sources: United Chruch of Canada; CONIC Brasil; Chruch of Sweden)</td>
<td>10500</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>5000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second consultation (Sources: SCM Cuba, WSCF LAC, United Chruch of Canada)</td>
<td>4400</td>
<td></td>
<td>4000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Follow up, local projects and communication process July 2020- May 2021.(Sources: Karibu Foundation, WSCF own Resources)</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td></td>
<td>7000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cost</td>
<td>16300</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>17000</td>
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| Requested Contribution to SGPD | Total: 17000 USD | Program Expenses 15300 USD | Core Expenses 1700 USD |