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To

Leadership of Members and their Colleagues,

Participants of Previous Annual Conferences

Participants of the OEGender and Justice Network

Invited Guests

**Invitation to the Oikosnet Europe Annual Conference 2015**

**Corrymeela ( Northern Ireland), 9 – 13 September**

Corrymeela/Sigtuna, 1 June 2015

Dear Friends of Oikosnet Europe,

It is our pleasure to invite you with this letter to the next Annual Conference of Oikosnet Europe. The Annual Conference is scheduled to take place upon invitation of our member Corrymeela in Ballycastle (Northern Ireland) under the main theme

**“Fear and remembering in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”.**

**from 9 to 13 September 2015.**

As usual, the meeting will begin on 9 September at 17h00 with an opening worship. It will end with breakfast on 13 September.

We are happy and glad that our member Corrymeela is inviting us for the Annual Conference 2015. The Corrymeela Center and Community ([www.corrymeela.org](http://www.corrymeela.org)) is well known for its reflection and action on issues related to peace and reconciliation as well as for its hands-on work in the Irish community and worldwide. Corrymeela is known in many parts of the world for its long-standing expertise. Our Annual Conference will be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Corrymeela. During our Annual Conference, especially during the study day, during worship life and through encounters with staff and experts, we will be able to gain some insights into the work of Corrymeela and we will profit from the center’s expertise.

Besides the study day and an excursion under the main theme, we will also engage in some important business issues of Oikosnet Europe. As many of you will know, in recent years Oikosnet Europe has undergone a process re-defining its vision and mission and adjusting its structures in service of its members. At the Annual Conference 2015 we will have to take some crucial decisions on the practical implications of this re-defined vision and mission in Europe. Among other issues, we will look onto how to engage in common projects. In Villigst (Germany) last year, many Oikosnet members attended the Annual Conference and profited from the networking among Oikosnet members from north and south, east and west of Europe. We will continue this process with the Annual Conference 2015. This is why we are looking forward to welcoming you in Corrymeela. Cordially welcome!

As usual, the Annual Conference will be preceded by a meeting of the Gender and Justice Network, from 7 to 9 September. The Gender and Justice Network (formerly Women’s Network), in 2015 will address the issue of “care” and also profit from the Irish experience. The Gender and Justice Network, looking onto issues especially from a gender perspective, invites women and men alike!

As a special offer, the Annual Conference 2015 will also be preceded by a Training under the program “Dialogue for Peaceful Change” (DPC), 5 to 9 September. The DPC grew out of a co-operation within Oikosnet Europe, in which Corrymeela, together with other Oikosnet members, was very supportive.

Attached to this invitation, you will find a separate invitation for the preceding DPC Training. The program of the Gender and Justice Network and the program for the AC will be mailed to you in a few weeks.

Some practical information:

- Registration

The registration for the Annual Conference as well as for the Gender and Justice Network is done online. For the **Annual Conference**, please register under the following link: <https://dinkurs.se/Annualconference2015>. For the Gender and Justice Network, please register here: <https://dinkurs.se/GenderandJustice>. Deadline for registration is **14. July 2015**. Please note, that your registration is only valid when you have paid the respective conference fee. For registering for the DPC Training, please use the attached DPC registration form, which is to be returned to: [belfast@corrymeela.org](mailto:belfast@corrymeela.org)

- Arrivals and departures

The closest Airports to Corrymeela are in Belfast (Belfast International Airport and George Best City Airport). Shuttle busses will be provided from both airports to Corrymeela. The bus drive from Belfast to Corrymeela will take almost 2 hours. Therefore, please plan your arrivals and departures accordingly (no later arrival than 14h00 on 9 September for the Annual Assembly)

- Conference Language

The conference language for all three events will be English only. Some consecutive translation on a voluntary basis might be possible, but a sufficient knowledge of English (active and passive) is required. For the DPC Training this requirement is even more crucial.

- Costs

Then conference fee remains at the level of previous years: **350€** for the Annual Conference (Board, Lodging, Conference Fee, local transport) and **130€** for the Pre-Conference of the Gender and Justice Network. For the DPC Training, please consult the separate invitation (attached). However, according to our agreed policy and given the difficult financial situation of some of our members, we want to state that the lack of resources should not be an obstacle for members to attend the Annual Conference. There is a limited budget for supporting members in need of financial support to attend the Annual Conference, which will be distributed on a "first come – first served" basis. If you are in need of support, please contact our Treasurer Kostas Zormpas: [gdirector@oac.gr](mailto:gdirector@oac.gr).

- Agenda

If you have any issues, projects etc which you want to discuss at the Annual Conference or if you have any special contribution to make or if you have any questions with regard to the agenda (e.g. the elections), please get in touch with Rüdiger Noll ([noll@evangelische-akademien.de](mailto:noll@evangelische-akademien.de)).

In any case, we will provide you with further documents and practical details for the meeting in due time after your registration.

- Proxies

In case that you as an Oikosnet member will not be able to attend the Annual Conference 2015 (we hope this to be a most unlikely scenario), we would still like to hear from you. And do not forget to transfer your voting rights to another Oikosnet member. We will provide you with from for that in order to be in line with our statutes. For some decisions it will be crucial to have a quorum.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you at the Annual Conference 2015 in Corrymeela. For the time being, we remain

With every good wish,



Jaap van der Sar

Oikosnet Europe



Colin Craig/Pádraig Ó Tuama

Corrymeela