

CONCEPT NOTE

Topic: CHURCH AND RACISM consultative webinars {Rise to life {as insurrection}: Building life flourishing societies}

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

The Council for World Mission (CWM) through its thematic area '**Building life flourishing societies**' has shown its deliberate intentionality of fighting life-denying systems and ideologies. The thematic area talks of Social Justice as a theoretical framework that looks at doing a mission from the margins and with the margins. A number of issues have been identified as critical to social justice and doing mission from the margins, Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), Caste-ism, solidarity with the indigenous people's movement and Racial Supremacy.

The event would take the format of a webinar series and subsequently a workshop. The webinar in this case is understood as Plato c. 385–370 BC would put it (paraphrased), a friendly contest of extemporaneous speeches given by a group of notable men (*and women I add as they were not included*). The webinar can also be defined in the Philosophical circle as '*Drinking together*' I add to from the same '*drink together from same social justice well*'.

OBJECTIVES

The concept of racism seems to be getting some textual (Christian bible in this context) as it speaks of divine racism and righteous anger as opposed to reverse racism. Such reading of the scripture has led CWM to speak of misrepresentation and misapplication of the scripture on divine or chosen race.

The webinar series therefore will try:

1. To interrogate and challenge Racial supremacy and the theology that supports it
2. Locating the margins and the centre in the context of Racial tension and discourse

The idea is to have these series that will lead us to the main workshop to be communicated (Rise to Life as Insurrection)

Topics:

Webinar 1 (17 August 2023)

Times would be communicated to accommodate all time zones

Introduction and purpose of the webinar (5 minutes)

Topic 1. (10 minutes)

Church and racism: Unpacking the concept (where do the two collide and or collude)

Questions and comments (5 Minutes)

Topic 2 (10 Minutes)

Divine racism: Leading and or misleading theologies

Comments/Questions (5 minutes)

Webinar 2 (13 September 2023)

Times would be communicated to accommodate all time zones

Introduction and purpose of the webinar (5 minutes)

Racism and liberation theologies: Engaging the Minjung theology¹ (10 minutes)

Question and comments (5 minutes)

Church and Racism: Unsettling Babylon (10 minutes)

Questions and Comments (5 Minutes)

¹ Minjung theology focuses on Jesus being the friend of the poor and his powerlessness during crucifixion leading up to his resurrection. Minjung theology was inspired by the liberation theology being preached in Latin America. Ahn Byung Mu is the biggest proponent of minjung theology