

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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All the major Christian confessions should adopt a code of conduct for Christian missionaries in early 2011.

(Bonn, 26.10.2010) Christianity wants to show that it totally rejects abuse and all physical or mental violence, said the director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance, Thomas Schirmacher (Bonn), on Wednesday evening at the 3rd Lausanne International Congress on World Evangelism in Cape Town.

The coming code of ethics is in favor of mission, however it will condemn all immoral forms, such as psychological pressure or material incentives for people who want to change their religion, said Schirmacher, who is a sociologist of religion and the Spokesman for Human Rights of the Evangelical Alliance as well as founder of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (2006).



Thomas Schirmacher leading a discussion about a code of ethics in mission at Capetown 2010

According to statements from the Vatican, the World

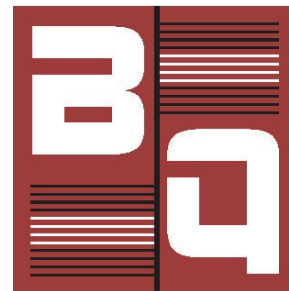
Council of Churches, and the World Evangelical Alliance, such a document will be jointly adopted. The World Evangelical Alliance claims to be a platform worldwide for more than 400 million theologically conservative Christians from more than 120 countries. The World Council of Churches, a coalition of Protestant, Anglican, and Orthodox churches, represents more than 500 million Christians. The Vatican represents more than a billion people. The three organizations together represent 97 percent of all Christians.

A code of conduct for religious conversion has been discussed among Evangelical and Protestant leaders for several years, in dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church. Conversions not only lead to controversy between religions, but they can also contribute to intra-Christian tensions. The original plan was to accept a code of conduct this year, but careful deliberation has required extra time.

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A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Institute for Prolife and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/ilfw

Institute for Emergency Counseling, Terminal Care and Grief Counseling
www.bucer.de/ist

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.iirf.eu

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

Theological Commission of "Hope for Europe" (European Evangelical Alliance)
www.hfe.org

Martin Bucer Seminary
www.bucer.de

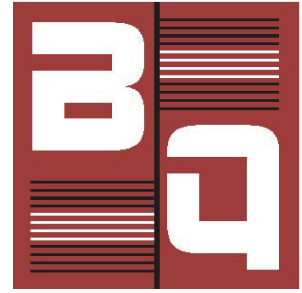
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www.vkwonline.de

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Peter Beyerhaus, professor emeritus of missiology from the University of Tübingen, supports a code of ethics for missions. Missions often have a bad public reputation, he said in Cape Town. Only if you carefully define both the freedom for mission and the limits of the mission can these allegations be properly challenged.

More than 4,000 evangelical mission leaders and experts from 190 nations met until October 24 at the 3rd Lausanne International Congress on World Evangelism in Cape Town. Christians from the entire world discussed the future of the churches and the possibilities of missions.

Downloads:

- Photo: a discussion group regarding the code of ethics at the Congress Cape Town 2010; selected people in the picture, from left to right:
 - Far left: Prof. Dr. Peter Beyerhaus
 - Standing: Petson Netha, African Evangelical Alliance
 - With his back to the camera: Dr. Christof Sauer, Co-Director IIRF
 - To the right of Sauer: Detlef Bloecher, Chairman of the AEM
 - Standing, leading the discussion: Prof. Dr. Dr. Thomas Schirmmacher
 - To the right of Schirmmacher: Rev Godfrey Yogarajah, Sri Lanka, Executive Director, Religious Freedom Commission, World Evangelical Alliance

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