

Aachen/Berlin, 18th of August 2022

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We cordially invite you to our digital conference on "**Religious Freedom and Populism**", which will take place on **14 November 2022** (2:30 to 4:45 pm and 6:00 to 8:00 pm) as a cooperation event of the German Commission Justitia et Pax and the International Catholic Mission Society missio Aachen.

With the chosen topic, we are taking up a development that we are observing with concern: Both on a national and international level, right-wing populist and extremist forces are trying to appropriate issues such as religious freedom and the persecution of Christians for themselves. In doing so, they distort the concept of religious freedom and detach it from the context of the human rights approach. In the first part of the conference, typical patterns, structures and narratives of appropriation will be shown. In the second part, approaches to solutions will be discussed in order to counteract corresponding attempts of populist appropriation. We are pleased that **Frank Schwabe MdB, Federal Commissioner for Freedom of Religion or Belief**, will take part in this discussion.

We would be pleased if you could attend our conference. **The first part of the event will be simultaneously interpreted** so that participants can follow in both German and English. Please send us your response using this digital form: <https://forms.gle/6qhbS3Fp9VpuRWTPA>. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Jörg Lüer
Secretary General Justitia et Pax



Fr. Dirk Bingener
President missio