

Paper by GKMD, a member of Unum Omnes reaffirming the principle of human dignity in Catholic Social Teaching

The organization UNUM OMNES

UNUM OMNES is an association of Catholic men's organizations that work in and is active in approximately thirty Countries of the world on the basis of the "Catholic social doctrine", which aims to achieve social justice for everyone, but above all for the poor and disadvantaged people, UNUM OMNES advocates equal treatment for all people in all member states. As a men's organization, it also works to combat discrimination against women and to promote programs that aim to achieve equality for women.

Starting position and background

The killing of the American George Floyd on May 25th, 2020 aroused dismay and outrage around the world. This act is representative of a wide range of discrimination against non-white people. It makes people aware that there is a gradient of dignity between people: people in the northern hemisphere tend to feel superior to those in the southern hemisphere.

This has its roots in colonialism, in which black people from Africa were enslaved, deported and mistreated. National Socialism in Germany extended discriminatory racial thinking to people of Jewish faith and turned it into a murderous orgy of killing, in which 6 million Jews were killed. The tribal struggles in Africa have also killed countless people because some felt superior to the others. The clashes between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland also cost many lives. Racism does not only exist between "white" and "black", but also between "white" and "white" and "black" and "black" and can affect all groups of people who are different from or weaker than the majority societies.

The Catholic Church calls baptized Christians on every continent "sisters and brothers". This is an expression of their deep conviction that for the Christian religion origin, skin color, tribe and gender are not a condition of belonging to their religious community, but the belief in God, the Creator of the world, in Jesus Christ, who defines the boundaries between Heaven and earth dissolved and to the Holy Spirit, who works good in all people. Based on this conviction, St. Paul could write: "There are no longer Jews and Greeks, no more slaves and free people, no more men and women, because you are all "one" in Christ Jesus "(Gal 3:28).

Many Christians also have to confess that the Catholic Church has repeatedly betrayed these issues in its long history. It was involved in a variety of ways, for example in the system of colonialism or in the racial madness of National Socialism. The equality of all people was not always more important to her than power and self-assertion. If we Christians today demand to finally put an end to inhuman violence against minorities, they know from their history to this day about their own failure. In particular, as a result of the scandal about the sexual abuse of children by dignitaries of the church, she was recently reminded that the Catholic Church is not a special world of the blessed, but consists of fallible people and that they therefore do not appear as the highest moral authority for all people but can only remind oneself of their most sacred principles and recommend them to other people for imitation.

Men are predominantly those who use violence against the weaker and minorities. It is also predominantly they who sit at the control points of power that organize the institutional disadvantage of certain groups of people. This appeal is directed in particular to the male sex comrades, so that they can reflect on the good and the truth in themselves and are thus able to

distance themselves from all attempts that they want to instrumentalize for hatred and violence against minorities and vulnerable people.

We appeal

Catholic men feel responsible in many ways for the development of a peaceful society. In UNUM OMNES they feel connected as brothers in the one world. Their skin tones are of different dark and light colors, but in Christ they all feel “one”.

We therefore appeal to Christian brothers and all people of good will:

Confess yourselves to the creator of all people on earth!

Have the courage to stand up against racism and marginalization of minorities!

Get the poor and needy to their rights!

Stand up for a fairer distribution of goods!

Make a place for the vulnerable in your churches and communities!

Look out for ways to avoid or resolve conflicts!

Keep peace with other religions and religious communities!

Help ensure that all children receive the same educational opportunities and at least one filling meal a day!

Get involved in society's discussions for a fairer world!

We ask all member organizations to spread this appeal in their countries and in their dioceses so that we can show solidarity with all those affected by racism and exclusion and thus contribute to peaceful development in our societies