



Trondheim, Norway  
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## European Young Reformers

### Final message to the European Leadership Consultation

“Freed by God’s love to change the world”

This is the sentence we have all had before our eyes during those days. Freedom, liberation, has been the theme of panels, talks and discussions not only during this leadership consultation, but since the beginning of process of The Global Young Reformers Network. We have asked young people around the world to tell their stories about what they are freed from and, in relation to that, what they are freed *to*.

Now it is stated in our theme: We are freed to change the world. This might seem overwhelming. But we are doing it all the time. Every single day I am changing the world around me. That’s what I am freed to do, and that it what I should do. What we all should do. So let us be goal-oriented. We *are* changing the world, let us do it in a *good* way.

During the last days we have been discussing concrete matters about where our churches, our communion, play an active part. We have been discussing the unacceptable situation in the Mediterranean Sea. We have, during this very meeting, received the news of a new earthquake in Nepal. We have discussed the climate change and our responsibility for creation. These are all things we can change, should change and are free to change.

As young adults in Europe today, this is our reality. We meet across borders in a way no generation has done it before. We live a world where “local” and “global” are overlapping concepts. But we also live as Christians in a more and more secular and atheistic society. This is the world in which we form our Lutheran identities. This is the world in which we live out our mission as Christians, our discipleship.

As European Young Reformers we want to put forward two overarching themes to be taken home to our local churches:

The first theme is Lutheran identity.

Understanding our identity as Lutherans, and all the diversity that comes with it, is crucial for our working together as a communion, as well as for our mission in the world. It also entails questions about youth participation and leadership in our own churches and the relationships between the different European churches.

The second theme is climate justice. We want to encourage churches to actively engage, to fast for the climate, to talk about climate justice in relation to theology and to interact with politicians and society.

Our LWF General Secretary Martin Junge phrased a strong sentence earlier this week: “A church on its own is church at risk”. The LWF is in many ways a great organisation for young people. We are here, we are listened to and we are welcome. Martin Junge was very clear in his presentation. “We are here and we are now”. It is a question of youth participation, not youth decoration. We are here, so that no one will have to say “but the young people today think...” and “young people today are like this or that...” We are all part of the same communion.

A church on its own is a church at risk. A church without children and youth is a church at risk. Not because of us in some, ontologically way, being “the future of the church”, but because of the importance of this very communion. Churches have to see children and youth as part of the community and full members of the church, not only formally but also in practice, in order to be whole.

We, together, across generations – and I include both those younger and those older than anyone present here today – are coming together in Christ. We are freed to change the world. We are obliged to do it as good a way as we can. But we are not doing it alone.