



*Jesuit
European
Social
Centre*

INVITATION PRESS BRIEFING

Who pays for Human Rights?

International research and advocacy project on Tax Justice & Poverty.

WHERE? Café Frangelico room, La Viale Europe (205 Chaussée de Wavres, 1050, Ixelles), Brussels
cf. map attached, a few minutes walk from the European Parliament.

WHEN? 10th December 2019 at 18.00.

ORGANIZED BY the Jesuit European Social Centre.

SPEAKERS:

1. Fr. Dr. Jörg Alt SJ, Jesuitenmission Nuremberg (Germany), Project Coordinator Europe
2. Pascal Andebo, Project Officer, Justice and Ecology Office, Nairobi (Kenya)
3. Fr. Charles B. Chilufya SJ, Director, Justice and Ecology Office, Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar, Nairobi (Kenya), Project Coordinator Africa
4. MEP Markus Ferber (EPP), member of the ECON committee, European Parliament
5. MEP Evelyn Regner (S&D), Chair of the FEMM committee, European Parliament

BACKGROUND

10 December is traditionally called “**Human Rights Day**”. Human Rights enjoy a high degree of support and acceptance: Everybody agrees that the Rights for all Human Beings need to be guaranteed. But: guaranteed at what price? And: At whose expense?

The [Tax Justice & Poverty research project](#) investigated the links between (un)fair taxation and poverty in **Germany, Kenya and Zambia**. In all countries, it found that the gap between poor and rich is growing, not least because private, corporate and criminal wealth holder no longer contribute their fair share to the Common Good of all in accordance to the Principle of Ability to Pay.

At the same time, **the research corroborated evidence that Africa loses more money each year due to tax dodging, money laundering and capital flight than it receives via Official Development Aid and Foreign Direct Investment**. If Africa were able to stem those outflows, it would no longer need Developmental Aid or resort to risky borrowing at financial markets. At the same time, it could provide its citizens with health-care and education as well as jobs for its young generation which then would no longer be forced to emigrate.

These issues will be discussed at a closed workshop which will precede this briefing - “Tax Justice and Poverty - European workshop on tax dodging and illicit financial flows between Africa and the EU.” This event has been convened by the presidents of the Jesuits in Africa and Europe as well as the President of the Social Affairs Commission of the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the EU.

The event, hosted by the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union, will bring together 30 representatives of the European Parliament and Commission, researchers, tax and advocacy experts from NGO and church backgrounds. They will discuss four areas of interest, linked to the Tax Justice & Poverty Research findings and advocacy objectives:

1. How to stem Illicit Financial Flows and to improve Corporate Taxation?
2. How to stem Illicit Financial Flows and to improve taxation or private wealth?
3. How to ensure legal and policy coherence? Developmental Aid paid for capacity building of African Tax Administrations is pointless if the amount, which Trade or Double Taxation Agreements keep from Africa, surpasses that which tax administrations are able to collect.
4. What can Jesuits and churches do to advance tax literacy and tax advocacy?

This Workshop in Brussels will be complemented and accompanied by further talks with parliamentarian and governmental representatives in Germany.

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