

Value Foundation

The point of departure for the Swedish Mission Council's work is the biblical narratives of God, people and the world. God's love is unconditional and embraces all people without exception. Every individual is created in God's image and has equal and inviolable human dignity. God created humankind to live together in the world, which means that we are dependent on one another. As people we are called to take care of all of God's creation and take responsibility for each other and the world we live in. God gives power to the powerless and rights to the oppressed.

This is why we work in the field of international development cooperation for a just, peaceful and sustainable world where human rights are respected. We seek to create opportunities for people to participate in and shape their own development. Through dialogue, cooperation and knowledge, our aim is to work together to create the necessary conditions for sustainable change.

Living within God's Mission means – through our words and deeds – recognising and strengthening the forces of good in the world and fighting against unjust power structures. Jesus challenges everything that marginalises people and tells us that with power comes responsibility. Jesus offers hope and transformation and the promise of life in abundance. God's love for the world and reconciliation in Christ have consequences. Reconciliation is a foundation for solidarity, reciprocity and restorative justice for humankind and the natural environment. Life wins over death.

We are therefore called to work together to remove unjust power structures and systems that have a negative impact on people's lives, such as discrimination, inequality and other forms of oppression. We build peace and strive for reconciliation between people and the reconstruction of societies. Our experience in development cooperation and the voices of the people that we meet, form the basis for the advocacy we are engaged in here in Sweden and internationally.

The Spirit of God is constantly at work in the world so that all people may have a life of fullness. We are called to be part of God's Mission to spread the gospel, which is good news to all of creation. Faith and spirituality are a source of hope and community. This hope invites us to resist and transform everything which destroys life.

This is why we aim to promote theological reflection and knowledge on the role of religion in society. We safeguard the significance of the right to freedom of religion and belief for people. We embrace the desire of churches and Christian organisations to be a driving force for sustainable change to social structures and people's lives.

Churches and Christian organisations are called to unity for the sake of God's Mission to serve people beyond ethnic, cultural and confessional boundaries, for a testimony of unity in diversity. Recognising and respecting each other's specific gifts and needs – both spiritual and material – is the foundation for reciprocity in God's Mission.

This is why we, as a council, regularly create spaces for dialogue for a diverse range of churches and organisations in Sweden who, based on Christian principles, work for a redeeming and just world. We strive for transparency and quality in our work so that we can take responsibility for the change we are helping to bring about. We build long-term relationships with respect for each other's differences. We are inspired and learn from each other.