



DESK FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia
(DfSD-ELCRN)

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Re: Invitation to a Half-Day Workshop on “State of Human Rights in Namibia with a focus on Socio-Economic Rights” as part of the 2021 United Nations Human Rights Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process for Namibia.

According to the United Nations calendar of the upcoming reviews in 2021, the human rights situation in Namibia will be assessed in May 2021. The UPR mechanism is a peer review process, in which countries that are members of the United Nations scrutinize each other's human rights situation, followed by a set of recommendations to each government that is being reviewed on how to improve their specific situation.

The review process will be based on three key documents:

- a national report, which will be prepared by the Government of Namibia and submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) summarizing the state of human rights in Namibia;
- a report prepared by the United Nations explaining the human rights situation from the perspective of United Nations agencies operating in Namibia;
- a summary compilation also prepared by the United Nations based on civil society reports on the human rights situation in Namibia.

It is within this context, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) through its Desk for Social Development (DfSD-ELCRN) is facilitating a process through which churches and civil society organizations can provide inputs towards this process. A Discussion Document on the “State of Human Rights in Namibia with a focus on selected Socio-Economic Rights” is being finalized. We want to further enrich this Document with inputs from sister churches and civil society organizations and submit it as a collective to the above-mentioned UN platform.

We therefore kindly invite you to join us for a Half-Day Workshop on Tuesday, 9th February 2021 from 9h00 to 13h00 at the Council of Churches Head Offices in Katutura, Abraham Mashego Street at the Conference Room of Africa Hospitality and Tourism. A link will be provided for participants that would like to join virtually when they confirm participation in the workshop. When confirming participation as indicated below, kindly indicate if you would attend or join virtually.

Outcomes of this workshop will be incorporated in the draft Discussion Document and will be submitted in March 2021 during the UPR Pre-session, which is being organized by UPR Info— an organization based in Geneva that provides a space for civil society to engage with the process. The Pre-Session meeting will take place prior to the human rights review of Namibia under this mechanism in May, 2021. This is an opportunity in which civil society, including the church will present their reports on the human rights situation to the members of the diplomatic community to ensure their proposed recommendations to the Government of Namibia to address the situation are being seriously considered by the diplomatic missions in order to be made to the Government of Namibia.

The workshop will also develop an advocacy plan to be spearheaded by civil society organizations and churches in particular and will ensure that the final recommendations from the UPR process for Namibia is followed through and implemented. It will include action steps to put pressure on government and other actors to implement the recommendations with a sense of urgency and to monitor the process. In preparation for the workshop kindly find attached the previous 2016 UPR Review for Namibia and the draft program.

Kindly confirm your participation with a SMS or WhatsApp message to Vanessa Awases (0816355219) or Eneas Emvula (0813185180) or with a reply to this email imuhurudempers@gmail.com.

With the kindest regards,



IM Uhuru Dempers

Director: Desk for Social Development of ELCRN