

## **What is DOV? (Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace)**

The **Decade to Overcome Violence : *Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace*** (or DOV) was begun as an initiative of the World Council of Churches for the years 2001-2010, running concurrently with the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace.

It has been adopted as a key focus for the work of the whole National Council of Churches in Australia. Some specific initiatives, such as this resource, have therefore been taken under the banner of DOV (Decade to Overcome Violence) in Australia, but other features of this primary ecumenical commitment are found in the work of NCCA Commissions, member churches, and other agencies. More widely, DOV is seen in the peacemaking partnerships, actions and prayers of individuals and groups everywhere.

### **WHAT IS THE DOV CALL?**

The **Decade to Overcome Violence** calls churches, ecumenical organisations, and all people of goodwill:

- To work together for peace, justice, and reconciliation at all levels - local, regional, and global.
- To embrace creative approaches to peace building which are consonant with the spirit of the gospel.
- To interact and collaborate with local communities, secular movements, and people of other living faiths towards cultivating a culture of peace.
- To empower people who are systematically oppressed by violence, and to act in solidarity with all struggling for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.
- To repent together for our complicity in violence, and to engage in theological reflection to overcome the spirit, logic, and practice of violence.



The DOV logo (WCC):

**The hands in the shape of the heart over the broken earth signify the need as well as the hope of overcoming violence. The yellow earth stands for hope amidst turmoil, while the sharp edges of the green shape emphasise the danger that the earth is in. The movement around the earth signifies the dynamism of this global initiative**

## SEEDS OF PEACE

### **‘Building Communities of Peace for All’ DOV in Asia Focus 2005**

*Peace for Asians is not simply the absence of war or conflict. Rather it is the realization of God's will for fullness of life for all - which includes healthy food and decent jobs for the poor, security and dignity of life for those who have experienced violation and abuse; and sustainability of the natural resources, to name a few. (CCA: DOV Focus on Asia paper 2004)*

Each year of the *Decade to Overcome Violence* there is a focus on a particular country or region of the world: in 2005, Asia. This focus will be developed further as part of the new *‘Building Communities of Peace for All’* five-year focus of the **Christian Conference of Asia** (of which of which the National Council of Churches in Australia is a member Council).



This mural offered at the 12th Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) General Assembly in April 2005 incorporates the logo of the *Decade to Overcome Violence* [i.e. the clasped hands and/or heart] as well as the DOV Asia Focus logo of the dove. Different ways of building communities of peace in plural Asia are depicted, with people of different faiths and ethnicity working together, and linking humanity and creation.

*The mural was done collectively by young artists of UGATLAHI in the Philippines.*

Asia is of course a vast continent, and its forms of violence, interpersonal and collective, physical, psychological, sexual and deprivation, vary greatly. Living in Asia can no longer be romantically conceived of as becoming one community but living together as many diverse communities that are held together by the same vision of peace for all.



*(Picture above right: Dancers at the Peace for Life conference in Mindanao in late 2004, organised by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, with the support of the WCC, CCA and Christian World Service-NCCA)*

#### **More information**

[www.overcomingviolence.org](http://www.overcomingviolence.org)

[www.cca.org.hk/issues/DOV](http://www.cca.org.hk/issues/DOV)