

## An Exchange Programme, Debates and a New International Plan of Action



The 13<sup>th</sup> International Council of the IYCW was held last August in Ghana with the participation of young workers from around the world who represented their national movements.

The theme we had chosen was « **Young Workers as Actors of Change** » because we believe in the creativity of young people and in their capacity to change the situations in a positive way. We also learned from history that young workers have often initiated actions aiming to bring changes in society.

Before the council, delegates had the opportunity to participate in an enriching exchange programme.

[Click here to see photos of all the Ghana events](#) .

## International Exchanges

We had 3 international exchanges in 3 different areas (Accra, Kumasi and Tamale). The aim was to learn from each national



movement and to support each other to develop actions. These exchanges helped understand the situation of young workers in Ghana and the actions carried out by the Ghana YCW.

We visited the working and living places of young workers, the neighbourhoods, and participated in base group meetings. We also took part in cultural activities.

We learned a lot through sharing our processes of action and some cultural aspects.

### **Public Opening of the IC & Rally**



On 11<sup>th</sup> August we had the public opening of our 13<sup>th</sup> International Council in Accra. All delegates, YCW members from Ghana and around 500 people participated in the public opening. Most Rev. Charles Palmer Buckle, the Archbishop of Accra, participated in the

opening and gave an inspiring speech about the characteristics of youth, which really motivated the young people there. Delegates of the council presented 4 key demands of the IYCW related to social protection, just work, gender equality and quality education. They asked the support of the public for the actions of the YCW in Ghana and around the world. After this opening celebration the delegates and all young people marched in the streets of Accra to present our demands with slogans, mobilising public support for our action campaign.

## The International Council

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August we held our international council in Koforidua at the Catholic pastoral centre. Young leaders from



around the world, together with the international team members and chaplains, participated in the council. We had deliberations on the current reality of young people in their countries.

We were able to share and analyse the actions in our national movements and to identify the positive impact of the actions as well as the challenges overcome in the process. At the end of the deliberations, we were able to identify 4 specific areas for our actions in the next 4 years. They are social protection, just work, gender equality and quality education. We evaluated our coordination and the financial situation of the movement. We had very good debates on these points. Finally we voted our International Plan of Action for the coming 4 years and we elected our new international team members to ensure the implementation of the International Plan of Action.

### **Thank You for Your Support**

We would like to thank all the YCW national movements, regional teams, base groups, activists and former members and leaders who supported us in the preparation and organisation of our international council. We also thank our partner organisations, donor agencies, well-wishers and friends who contributed to the success of our 13<sup>th</sup> international council.