MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates at the Frauenkirche Dresden

12 November 2018

ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
Former President of Liberia
Nobel Peace Prize Laureates at the Frauenkirche Dresden

2018 — Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
2017 — Frederik Willem de Klerk
2016 — Ahmet Üzümçü
2014 — Mohamed ElBaradei
2010 — Martti Ahtisaari
Introduction

05 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
   Sebastian Feydt - Reverend of the Frauenkirche

07 A place for peace – Frauenkirche Dresden
   Peace work of the Frauenkirche Dresden Foundation

09 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
   She understands what migration means and
   how it is home to big dreams

13 Welcome
   Dr Peter Meis – Deputy Bishop of the
   Evangelical Lutheran Church Council in Saxony

14 We need to talk.
   And we can afford to do it.
   Michael Kretschmer – Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony

Peace lecture

19 Changing the narrative of
   migration and global development
   Ellen Johnson Sirleaf – Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
   and former President of Liberia

The peace competition

29 Student competition
   At the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lecture 2018

30 Beyond the day
   Commitment to the topic “All different – all equal”

31 From a board game to an Instagram page
   16 creative contributions were assessed by a selection committee

33 The winners
   The winning entries of the peace competition in the short

37 A place of peace and learning
   Impressions of the winners’ theme day

Keynote speeches

45 Demographic dynamics
   Ulrich Weinbrenner – Head of Directorate of Social Cohesion
   and Integration at the Federal Ministry of the Interior

49 Africa - A continent of chances
   Prof. Dr. Heinz-Walter Große – Chairman of Subsaharan Africa
   Initiative of German Business (SAFRI), the Regional Initiative
   of the German Industrial Associations and the African Company
   Association for Africa
What do we have to do today to make the world a (more) peaceful place in 20 years’ time?

This is a question that preoccupies people of all ages and which motivated the Dresden Frauenkirche Foundation to organise a series of annual events, the highlight of which is always a speech given by a past winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Our work as a foundation derives from the obligation to establish the reconstructed Frauenkirche as a vibrant place where the virtues of tolerance, peace and reconciliation are preached and which is open to peace forums and new initiatives. By inviting winners of the Nobel Peace Prize to deliver an address in the Frauenkirche, we are upholding the legacy of Alfred Nobel in honouring those who work for international understanding, disarmament, peace and reconciliation, and in acknowledging their contribution to humanity.

After impressive encounters with Nobel Peace Prize laureates in previous years, it was a great honour for the Dresden Frauenkirche Foundation and its partners to welcome our most recent, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the former president of Liberia.

This publication documents her moving speech and brings it to a wider audience. We feel sure that you will be inspired by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s response to the central question which is of such vital relevance to the younger generation in particular. She advocates changing the narrative of migration and global development so that it moves people towards a commitment to reconciliation, understanding, peace and security for our One World.

SEBASTIAN FEYOT
Reverend of the Frauenkirche
Chief executive officer of the Frauenkirche Dresden Foundation

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates in the Frauenkirche Dresden
A place of peace – the Frauenkirche Dresden

INTRODUCTION

Promoting encounters

Experiencing history

Encouraging action

Exchanging visions

Revealing perspectives

Shaping the future

Inspiring contemplation

Living diversity

With its history of destruction and reconstruction, the Frauenkirche stands as a strong international symbol for tolerance, reconciliation, and peace. The Frauenkirche Dresden Foundation is dedicated to preserving this place of cultural heritage, to spread its vital message, and to initiate peace projects.
Undeniably courageous: When Ellen Johnson Sirleaf stood for election as President of Liberia in 2005, her homeland was riven by civil war, poverty and violence. Countless Liberians had fled the country’s bloody civil war. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf herself had spent 12 years of her life in exile, had been subjected to political persecution and locked up behind bars. Her victory at the ballot box made her the first woman in Africa to be elected head of state. She continues to ponder the consequences of dispossession and violence, writing about it and speaking in public. Now she has addressed an audience in Dresden.

During her presidency (2006 – 2018), this economist and politician, born in 1938, succeeded in stabilising Liberia and imbuing its people with courage and confidence. For this reason, she is still revered by many today as Ma Ellen.

When the civil war came to an end, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf worked in collaboration with the United Nations to develop a programme for disarming and reintegrating ex-combatants. The welfare of traumatised former child soldiers was especially close to her heart. More than 120,000 fighters were processed by UN peacekeepers during this time. In addition, she used the office of president to promote equality for women and introduce free education.
compulsory school attendance for children. She sees it as her mission to encourage children and teenagers to embrace learning and take their destiny into their own hands. “Dream big and work hard,” as she is fond of telling them. And that’s the message she also conveyed in her conversations with young people in the Frauenkirche Dresden.

The Nobel Peace Prize was jointly awarded to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee (Liberia) and Leymah Gbowee (Yemen). Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Leymah Gbowee are considered to have been the driving force behind the ending of the civil war in Liberia. The Nobel Prize was an acknowledgement of their non-violent struggle in 2011 to make the country safe for women and to assert women’s rights.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf not only questions traditional role models, she confronts them head on. Relentlessly. Her own life, her entire career has to be seen against the background of her strong belief in reform and of the formative processes she has undergone. She was already the mother of four sons when she went to study with her then husband in the United States. She has never shied away from any challenge—graduating in Public Administration at Harvard, working for the World Bank and the United Nations, and standing for election as president of her country.

However, her campaign for the education and advancement of women is not restricted to those of the more affluent classes. Her vision of a modern Africa is diverse—sometimes radical—and involves the training and qualification of women in technical professions.

In order to develop freely, people need to be protected against violence and abuse—and not only in public spaces. In order to achieve this, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf initiated a law on domestic violence in her country, once again illustrating the wide-ranging nature of her definition of peace. On the final day of her presidency—and in the face of stubborn resistance—she issued a decree prohibiting female genital mutilation (FGM). But there is still some way to go before it is universally enforced.

In 2018, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf left the office of president after serving the full two terms. But that did not mean she would be retiring from the public arena. As chairperson of the United Nations High Level Panel on Migration, she is working to promote the economic and social development of member states, to support intra-regional integration and to accelerate development on the African continent.
Welcome

SPEECH BY DR. PETER MEIS
Chairman of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Council in Saxony

Madam President, Prime Minister Kretschmer, distinguished guests of the Diplomatic Corps, I welcome you here today. I also welcome guests from Dresden and the surrounding area, but most of all, I welcome the large number of students from Saxony, whose company I had the pleasure of at his afternoon’s awards ceremony for the student competition marking this year’s Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lecture.

»Blessed are the peacemakers« I am delighted that we are all gathered here in the Frauenkirche today with this as our theme for the occasion. The banner hanging outside reminds us of the spirit and special mission of this church. Anyone entering this building, during or outside times of worship, is met with the greeting »Peace be with you«/ »Sholem aleichem«/ »Salam alaikum«. When we utter these words, we are not simply expressing a pious wish. We are putting the concept into action, introducing it into the space so that it actually happens. By greeting others in this way, we are making peace immanent, as Jesus did when he came among the frightened disciples, and they were filled with joy, because they felt that peace dwelled among them. However, finding sanctuary within this peace also puts us under an obligation. The energy that peace grants needs to be shared with others. It demands of us that we commit ourselves to a peace that goes beyond mere opposition to war. In this way, the indicative becomes the imperative, the protective passive becomes the active: »Blessed are the peacemakers.« Note the stress on ›makers‹ here. A creative act, like composing verse. The peacemakers are not fantasists; they are working away behind the scenes. For almost half a century, the ruin of the old Frauenkirche shaped our perception of the city. It was the passion of the peacemakers that was instrumental in getting the reconstruction project off the ground.

The rebuilt church was consecrated 13 years ago. Today, in all of its recreated splendour, it is an expressive symbol of man’s ability to overcome war and destruction. More importantly, the message of reconciliation and the work done here for peace is seen and appreciated around the world.

It is therefore a great pleasure for us this evening to welcome a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in the Frauenkirche for the fifth time. This is also a premiere inasmuch as it will be a woman delivering the lecture.

Those of you who have attended previous lectures in this series or have even been on a tour of the church (including ascent of the dome) will know what this item is next to me. It is our so-called ›WunschWelt‹ (World of Wishes). Each year, we invite the members of the winning groups in our student competition to write down their personal wishes for peace in this world on a small symbolic origami creation and then place them inside this Globe. For the remainder of the year, this World of wishes will be positioned below the lantern of the church in the main dome area where it can be seen by all visitors. It sends out a message of hope and peace for the next generation from the Frauenkirche to the world.

Frederik de Klerk, who last year spoke of the diversity of a shrinking world and of us as people in increasingly complex situations, expressed his hope: »I hope that the globe this year will include wishes for:
- the enrichment of our lives through interaction between people from different cultures and religions;
- tolerance and mutual respect;
- a compassionate commitment to host and protect people whose lives are being threatened by conflict; and
- determination to build a better world where conflict, injustice and poverty do not force people to flee from their ancestral homes and the countries of their birth.«
We need to talk. And we can afford to do it.

SPEECH BY MICHAEL KRETSCHMER
Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony

Madam President, dear Ms Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, ladies and gentlemen of the Saxony parliament and the Deutscher Bundestag, Deputy Bishop Dr. Meis, Mister Hoef and Dr Oetker, Magnificence, Pastor Feydt, we have the privilege of greeting a very special guest of honour in the Frauenkirche here in Dresden today. Madam President, on behalf of the Saxon State Government, I would like to welcome you to the Free State of Saxony and to our capital city. It is a special honour for us that you as a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate are gracing this series of lectures in Dresden with your contribution.

These lectures have a long tradition, and they consistently succeed in focusing attention on a theme that has had a special significance for the Frauenkirche Dresden since its reconstruction: namely working for peace and exhorting us all to make the case for peace and understanding. And I am very grateful to the Dresden Frauenkirche Foundation for the effort it has once again put into organising a lecture of such significance.

Migration and population growth are powerful forces that are changing our planet. Neither is a new phenomenon: indeed, they have been a recurrent feature of human history. But today, we see them in a different light, and we have so much more scope for mobility. The challenge remains that of dealing with diversity, respecting others by showing compassion and tolerance, and having sufficient understanding to defend and implement the basic human values of living together. The starting point must always be that the dignity of man is indivisible, a principle that is at the core of Human rights. Ladies and gentlemen, we have gathered here today to listen to a very special woman who was rightly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in promoting peace and defending human rights, with a special emphasis on women’s rights. She can look back on an eventful life, including a period spent studying Economics in the USA. Business and finance have always played a major role in her professional life, whether working in the banking sector or for the United Nations.

She made the development of Africa and the defence of human rights her mission in life, both in exile and in Liberia. The first is not possible without the second. Good development requires good governance. This is not possible without the full participation of women. We discussed this in depth this afternoon. And when we remember that women in our country won the right to vote only 100 years ago, we can see that it is only relatively recently that the idea has gained acceptance. It is by no means self-evident in other countries of this continent. The worldwide struggle to break down patriarchal structures goes on.

And you, Madam President, have also experienced the issue of migration first-hand. Anyone who has repeatedly come back from multiple periods of exile not only emerges stronger in themselves but even more determined to serve their country.
In your capacity as President of Liberia, you were able to dedicate yourself to creating stability and consolidating the rule of law. Your aim was to improve the living conditions for your people, especially women, and to defend human rights.

As President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf actively campaigned for women’s rights and against the abuse of women in a country where more than half of all females are prey to sexual violence. The award of this year’s Nobel Peace Prize shows just how important and relevant to our time this topic has become. In my view, such a declaration is a matter of common sense. It makes clear that due legal process must be applied, as we have shown to be possible in our country, the Federal Republic of Germany. We are the first such agreement to be reached by more than 180 UN member states. And ladies and gentlemen, this pact has been the subject of so much misguided criticism. It is part of the solution to the major migration issues of our time. Because what has been written down there is intended to regulate and clarify what has proven to be such a difficult issue in our time. When I read the sort of comments that have been posted on the Internet about this pact, most of them are without any foundation. The purpose of the declaration is to make clear that the abuse of children and sexual violence against women is outlawed. In my view, such a declaration is a matter of common sense. It makes clear that countries are entitled to protect their borders. It makes clear that due legal process must be applied to those who arrive as refugees. Surely a matter of common sense. It makes clear that those who come to another country as refugees should be granted a work permit at the end of twelve months so that they can earn their own livelihood. A matter of common sense, and already implemented here in the Federal Republic of Germany where refugees have this right after only three months. It makes clear that state-sponsored violence against refugees who come to another country should be banned by law. In Germany, of course, already a reality.

But when you remember that, among the 180 signatory states, only a minority are democracies or have a written constitution, I firmly believe that such a pact is necessary, maybe not so much for the Federal Republic of Germany but certainly for other parts of the world. And that is why we have every reason to first inform the German public and to enter into a debate in this country. In my opinion, there has been too little of this in recent months, so I am very pleased that there is now a different approach being taken in Berlin, with debates in the Bundestag. The same goes for the Saxony Landtag, where more light is being shed on the matter. But we also have every reason to ensure that this UN initiative is implemented and that reasonable rules apply, as we have shown to be possible in our country, the Federal Republic of Germany. We are not the ones who suffer the adverse effects of migration but rather the ones who can benefit from the rule of law and order prevailing in other countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, I was very pleased that the invitation was extended to you, Madam President, because we need to know more about Africa. We will not be able to live in peace here in Europe if there is chaos, poverty and terror in our neighbouring continent.
Changing the narrative of migration and global development

SPEECH BY ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate,
Former President of Liberia
Minister-President, Dr Meis, Deputy Bishop, Pastor Feydt, Friends, Colleagues, Officials of Saxony and of the Federal Republic of Germany,

I am extremely delighted to be here this evening and I thank you so much, Minister President, for your kind introduction. It is one of my great honors to be a Nobel Laureate who have in a small way hope to make the world a better place. I am deeply humbled that I have the opportunity to be here. And I would like to say a big thank you to all of those who have been so courteous since I arrived. Those who have arranged this event and have been with us for the past two days as we tried to explore a little bit of Dresden, going to the Opera, going to the Green Vault, being able to walk across here to the church. What a wonderful experience for us. We are going back with such strong sentiments of the couple of days we have been here.

In January of this year, after twelve consecutive years of peace since the end of the Civil conflict, I led a peaceful transition, in my country, the first over eighty years. In the twelve years of my presidency, Liberia experienced a rebirth, reestablishing relationships with our bilateral and multilateral partners, obtaining relief from a $4.7 billion external debt, rebuilding destroyed infrastructure, restarting dysfunctional institutions.

There were good years that led to growth peaking at 9 percent at the end of 2012 with mobilized direct foreign investment on the order of 4 billion US dollars. There were bad years when the Ebola virus hit us in 2013 and drove our GDP down to virtually zero. It took us two years to bring back the confidence of those who had left out of fear.

But throughout the good years and the bad years, Germany has been a trusted friend, helping our reconstruction and rebuilding our health care system. We thank especially Chancellor Merkel who always responded to our call. We thank the many organizations and individuals, perhaps some of them right here in this room, who provided medical material during our epidemic. And we thank the German people for being a strong partner to Liberia.

Tonight I will speak about migration and hope to correct some of the misinformation that migration leads to the so-called migrant crisis.

Migration has always been a driving force in world history. Indeed, people the world over, nations, at some point in time, have all been significantly impacted by migration. The original migration of mankind sees ancient people migrating out of Africa to Europe, out of Europe to the United States and Asia, out of Asia across the world. The Bantu expansion, in our own continent Africa, settled much of the continent’s several thousand years ago, gave birth to ethnicities across Sub-Saharan Africa. Today’s Europe and what we call the Western world, with its languages, cultures and forms of government, derive in part from the expansion of the Roman empire and the movement of all its citizens. The United States is famously a nation of immigration, where the majority of its citizens can trace their ancestry not to the United States, but to places outside their own borders.

My home of Liberia also owes part of its legacy to migration. With support of the American Colonization Society, liberated Africans from the United States created a settlement that is now called Liberia by declaration of independence in 1847. And so I stand here today as part of this legacy of migration. One for my country and one for my own personal roots, to which migration contributed.

Despite the vast majority of the world’s situation and cultures being part of their own legacies to immigration, the movement of people have become a contentious flagship in today’s global politics. The movement of migrants and refugees, now commonly referred to as the crisis, dominates the news cycles. In some cases, politicians here in Europe and elsewhere use images of migrants and refugees to prey upon nationalist fears at home, and the real economic pressures its citizens are feeling. The ensuring result, however, often creates and perpetuates a climate of hate and xenophobia, rather than economic or social prosperity. This is counterproductive to global development and progress.

The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, to which Germany in compact is a partner, recognize the importance of migration in reducing inequality within and between states. Of the 17 Goals, 11 of the SDGs are linked directly or indirectly to migration. For example, SDG number 2, «Zero Hunger», relates to mass migrations to escape food insecurity. Goal number 16, «Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions», recognizes that insecurity is a leading factor in creating refugees and migrations to safer regions. It would be impossible to achieve all of the Sustainable Development Goals, to which we all are committed, without recognizing the effects of migration on the modern world.

Distinguished friends, Migration has been and must continue to be part of global development. Migration carries economic and cultural benefits for host countries and through remittances, which contribute significant development assistance to origin countries. We must try harder to move away from a negative narrative and take a close look at the distinction...
between a migrant and a refugee in order to address and mitigate the flow of illegal and unsafe migration. I do believe that through appropriate policies, migration can be managed and be beneficial to migrants, to welcoming nations and to origin countries.

In its most general term, a migrant is someone who has left his or her habitual place of residence to move across international borders, seeking assistance elsewhere. According to the United Nations High Council on Refugees, contrarily, a refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her home nation for fear of persecution, war or violence. Refugees are entitled to special protection under international law.

But, the official UN definition does not consider those who flee their home countries for other reasons aside violence and persecution as “refugees.” Many people, such as those in Venezuela and Yemen, leave their homes due to famine, food shortages, or extreme poverty. While these people are not legally categorized as refugees under international law, their situation should be given special consideration within the context of global migration. Credible pathways can and must be found to make them available for those migrants who are involuntarily forced from their origin countries and would face obstacles upon their return, but do not qualify as refugees.

Because the term “migrant” encapsulates both persons leaving a nation of residence voluntarily and involuntarily, some refugees are technically classified as migrants. Indeed, the world’s 25.4 million refugees make up over 10% of all international migrants.

There is overlap of migrants and refugees in large mixed movements, especially those prompted by environmental disaster, social conflict, or other factors that make people resort to desperate actions to leave home. In September of 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants in response to large mixed movements, or migrations that include refugees and other migrants. The Declaration called for a Global Compact on Migration and a Global Compact on Refugees, recognizing that migrants and refugees face many similar challenges.

While refugees enjoy these protections under international law, these two Compacts seek to broaden protection and address factors that force large mixed movements of people to turn to desperate measures to leave their home country, including detention in transit centers, protection of their human rights and access to social services.

Migration has thus become an unfortunate political tool. Nationalist agendas paint migrants as threats to the status quo and dangerous to host nations. Such narratives are really inaccurate. Migration is an essential part of the development process. Researchers have identified development and labour market demands as structural drivers of migration. There will always be migration from one region, many times from low income regions, to other regions, many times high income regions.

But migration benefits destination countries by increasing the labor force, increasing economic output and boosting productivity. Intra-regional migration benefits origin and destination countries through the dispersal of skills, remittances, improving social and cultural links and reducing poverty and inequality. According to the World Bank, migrants transferred an estimated $596 billion in remittances globally in the year 2017. The majority of this went to developing countries.
While most migrants move legally and safely, many – especially those who are entitled to seek refuge? To move away? And did not we, as a collective, exiled more than once from my beloved Liberia for political purposes.

In September of 2015, the world was moved by the image of Alan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy who drowned in the Mediterranean. Alan and his family were Syrian refugees who, desperate to escape the violence of their own home countries, had sought safety in Europe. The small inflatable raft his family had hired to take them across the Mediterranean was turned back by the Greek coast guard, and as they tried to continue their journey, they vanished into the sea.

In closing let me mention: In our increasingly globalized world, migration has been proven to be beneficial for migrants, for host countries, beneficial both in economic and social terms. It has helped to address social and economic disparities and contributes to gender equality. Today, statistics show that women now make up 48 percent of all migrants. Coming at a time when the promotion of women, the promotion of women to greater levels of participation, to all aspects of society is on the rise. Certainly, we cannot see women also joining this category of people seeking opportunities elsewhere, because they feel that their own countries have not presented them with the same opportunities. And also that when they try to flee they are subject to the risks of deprivation, starvation, inhumane treatment. This is why we must do more to ensure that the laws, the regulations, the policies enable us to make the migrant a credible and responsible contributor to world development.

The question for national and global leaders is to see how to incentivise citizens to remain within their own home countries.

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The African Union is currently in the process of reviewing and ratifying relevant proposals such as the African Union Protocols on Free Movements of People; the Agenda 2063, the African Vision, the Agenda 2030, the African Development Bank, said, “The future of Africa’s youth does not lie at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea. It lies in a more prosperous and inclusive Africa – one that promotes creativity and innovation, that expands economic opportunities for the youth. It lies in an Africa that creates jobs for its own people.”

Yet we know that 80 percent of all African migrants travel not outside, but within Africa. As an important enabler and beneficiary of regional integration and eco-nomic development, the migration of those who do leave the continent, 90 percent enter destination countries through legal means, as I indicated before. They are often skilled workers, educated, relatively well off in terms of resources and can afford to pay the cost of their travel. These migrants, whether their destina- tion is the United States, Europe, or somewhere else in Asia or in another African country, are valuable assets for their homes where they live and work.

The question for global and national leaders is to see how to incentivise citizens to remain within their own home countries. How to provide adequate opportunities for quality education, employment, and growth. As a for- mer leader of an African nation, one which recently saw the end of our era of war and conflict, I see that people flee. That we have a challenge, that we must create a better environment in our home country. We must also send a message that the primary responsibility for the development of our people lies within our countries and within our means. What we ask is that for those that flee for reasons of safety or better opportunity as has been done all over the world, that the policies would allow them the opportunities they seek and enable them to make a contribution to their host countries. As Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, said, “The future of Africa’s youth does not lie at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea. It lies in a more prosperous and inclusive Africa – one that promotes creativity and innovation, that expands economic opportunities for the youth. It lies in an Africa that creates jobs for its own people.”

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Sustainable Development Vision and to ensure the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. Once ratified and implemented, these protocols will help us in Africa to harness the development benefits to create better conditions that will keep the majority of our people at home, where we need them for our own development.

Last month, Germany hosted the Berlin Summit with 12 African Presidents and Prime Ministers. A pledge was made to set up a new development fund to address the issue of unemployment in Africa, a root cause of migration. It will encourage private investment over state aid to create jobs in Africa. We applaud and I am encouraged by efforts like these which aim to usher in a new phase of partnership and cooperation between host and origin countries in Europe and in Africa.

We are also encouraged by an enlightened African leadership that is committed to resolving this so-called crisis, solving this issue by ensuring that Africans take their rightful place in the development of their continent. And when they leave to make sure that they make a contribution to the country to which they have gone. And that together we can create partnerships not only between and among nations, but partnerships between people. For we all seek a better world of equality, equal opportunity, and prosperity for all our people.

May we all tonight, as we go home, make a commitment to be a part of this positive force of change. To be a part of those policies and practises that will recognize the human being as equal and will find the means to ensure that we all become contributors to a better world.
Student competition to coincide with the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lecture

The message of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lecture is very much aimed at the next generation. It is a matter close to the heart of our guest of honour as well as to the event organisers at the Frauenkirche Dresden Foundation that young people should be reminded of the part they have to play in securing a peaceful future. This is the purpose behind our student competition, which is a regular feature of the accompanying programme to the Nobel Laureate Lectures. This year is the fourth occasion on which students attending secondary and vocational schools in Saxony have been invited to come up with ideas for a peaceful tomorrow. The prizes for the winning groups included a personal meeting with the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate on the day of the lecture in the Dresden Frauenkirche.

«Home is where the future is»

The entries that came in are testimony to the interest of young people in politics and to their serious engagement with the subject of migration. This was exactly what Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had in mind when formulating the main challenge of the competition: «Home is where the future is – Outline key elements qualifying a region as worth living in and to care for.» The common thread running through the series of lectures is: «What do we have to do today to make the world a (more) peaceful place in 20 years’ time?» However, the issues that are up for discussion each year vary according to the guest of honour. The focus in 2018 was on a global concern that has been dominating the media. The organisers were looking for new ideas and solutions for an issue that young people must surely be aware of from watching the news. The approach to the topic was highly varied in terms of content and methodology. In addition to considerations of what constitutes «home», the main reasons for flight and migration and the often inhumane conditions that arise as a consequence were identified and illustrated by means of personal stories. Participants were then asked to extrapolate what might be the prerequisites for a thriving community that strengthen the bond with «home». The three winning entries reflect the breadth of the critical analysis of the subject. A total of 96 young people from Dresden, Elsterberg, Meissen, Mylau, Pirna, Riesa and Zwenkau entered the competition. The schools management and class teachers are to be congratulated for the support and guidance they have once again given to their students throughout this year’s competition. Some schools, including the Evangelische Kreuzgymnasium Dresden, the Semper Gymnasium Dresden and the TRIAS Oberschule Elsterberg, have been regular participants in the student competition in recent years. Contributions from these schools have frequently featured among the winning submissions, which certainly encourages the motivation of students and teachers to participate again next time round.
Beyond the day: Commitment to the topic of the year 2017 «All different – all equal»

The outstanding entry from the TRIAS Oberschule Elsterberg is a perfect example of the encouraging way in which the influence of the student competition radiates beyond the day of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lecture in the Frauenkirche.

In 2017, Frederik Willem de Klerk formulated the following competition question: “All different – all equal: How to shape a modern multi-cultural society?” Students from the TRIAS Oberschule Elsterberg had participated in the competition with a poster campaign, but they were not among the three winners. Nonetheless, the involvement of the young people had impressed the panel of judges so much that a “Certificate of Special Merit” was drawn up and signed by F. W. de Klerk himself. The students were present for the speech and were deeply moved by the words of the former president of South Africa.

On the occasion of the submission of this year’s competition entry, their teacher Doritta Korte reports: “The lecture given by Frederik Willem de Klerk has made a lasting impression. We have set up a joint project with Colorido in Plauen. The guiding principle of this association is: «All different – all equal». The ongoing commitment is testimony to the importance of initiatives such as the student competition.

From a board game to an Instagram page: 16 creative contributions were assessed by the judges

As in previous years, the entries in 2018 were prepared by groups of students in accordance with the competition rules, i.e. without any adult intervention. The 16 submissions were impressive by virtue of their creativity and methodological diversity: videos, songs, a scenic reading, interviews, board games, an Instagram page, a radio show, essays, a magazine and a cartoon.

The scoring took into account the different types of school and was carried out by a panel of nine judges. This included three prominent experts from the worlds of science and politics: Ulrich Weinbrenner (Head of Directorate of Social Cohesion and Integration at the Federal Ministry of the Interior), State Secretary Herbert Wolff (Saxon Ministry of Education) and Dr Ellen Ueberschär (Joint Head of the Heinrich Böll Foundation). There was also one composite vote for university students and one for school students derived from three individual assessments. The three student members of the panel have a longstanding connection to the Frauenkirche on the basis of honorary services rendered. Also included in the student vote were the opinions expressed by members of last year’s winning groups.
Young people from all over Saxony have participated in this year’s student competition in the context of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lecture. The judges praised the in-depth and creative engagement with the topic and declared three groups joint winners.

»The willingness to engage with the topic of migration and to raise the awareness of others is an impressive and encouraging contribution from the younger generation to shaping the future« said the judges in their summing up. »For this, we thank and congratulate the prize-winners.« Tribute was paid to the highly professional use of media as well as to the formats chosen. The judges were impressed by how the students mastered this »contentious and highly topical subject«.

The winners

»A multicultural recipe for home«
Cartoon/Short film
Submission by Clara Eihorm, Maria Ilgner, Eva Victoria Kreft, Morsa Rudolph, Bengt Sandhop, Laura Schloemann and Lucas Starke, Year 11 students at the Evangelisches Kreuzgymnasium Dresden
Teacher: Dr Frank Nicht

»The students have been very clever and original in not only covering the topic of home but also in making the link between local and global level, thereby highlighting the complexity of living together in society. They have done this in a way that is both entertaining and informative.

The cartoon focuses on a young mayor who is progressive and believes in compassion and a willingness to listening. She also effortlessly manages to integrate experiences from around the world into her concept of a liveable city in which people from all backgrounds can find a home.

Two encouraging messages emerge from the video, from which it is not hard to guess the student team’s own position: firstly, that young people are ready to take on responsibility; and secondly, that the exchange of ideas with friends all over the world is not only a private and gratifying matter but can also provide the inspiration for social cohesion in one’s own home country. And as a by-product, the young authors have shown what good educational material targeted at their own age group can and should look like.«

Comment from the judges delivered at the awards ceremony by Dr Ellen Ueberschär (Joint Head of the Heinrich Böll Foundation)
«For their competition entry, the six students researched key concepts, interviewing young people from different backgrounds in the process. They wrote lyrics for their own song which they then produced, using rhythms with a modern, youthful appeal. The video, which was filmed against the backdrop of Dresden landmarks, underscored in a creative way typical of the youth scene the questions and promptings that they had packed into their lyrics. This fresh, creative and ambitious approach to identifying current crises, wars and conflicts, bringing together the major social themes of flight and homeland as well as the realistic transfer of codes and ciphers testify to a thoroughgoing analysis of the theme of the competition and to a real desire for a critical yet constructive involvement in the way our society works.

»Also noteworthy was the discernible media literacy of the students. They have grasped the essence of the music video, recreated its format and independently produced one of their own. They write, they sing, they film, they edit. And they have generated a personal perspective that gets viewers interested and encourages them to think about the content.«

Comment from the judges delivered at the awards ceremony by State Secretary Herbert Wolff (Saxon State Ministry of Culture)

PEACE COMPETITION

Heimat – Dieser Ort, wo du dich auskennst
(Home – this place where everything is familiar)
Music video and song

Submission by Julius Richter, Lorenzo Rodemacher, Moritz Elkan, Nelly Petrasch, Amelie Große and Martha Hiecke, Year 10 students at the Romain-Rolland-Gymnasium Dresden
Teacher: Stefanie Pusch

«A Morning off the Coast of Lampedusa» is the title given to the production by the TRIAS Oberschule Elsterberg students. It consists of excerpts from a one-hour scenic reading with music.

The students, who are aged 12 to 14, take on the role of refugees who are crossing the Mediterranean on their way to Europe. In the course of the reading, which is accompanied by film clips, they show in a really touching way the frequently life-threatening experiences of the people who attempt the sea crossing to Europe. The harrowing accounts combined with images of people trying to stay alive in capsizing boats paint a realistic and thus alarming picture of what is happening on the Mediterranean Sea almost every day on the southern approaches to Europe.

»This year, around 2,000 people have died in the Mediterranean, fleeing poverty, desperate circumstances and political persecution. This dramatic and far too often deadly aspect of migration to Europe does not feature large in the perception of the German public. The students of TRIAS Oberschule Elsterberg have faced up to what is happening out there: they do not close their eyes to this drama.«

Comment from the judges delivered at the awards ceremony by Ulrich Weinbrenner, (Head of Directorate of Social Cohesion and Integration at the Federal Ministry of the Interior)
The three winning groups were invited to a special theme day at the Frauenkirche. The first part was dedicated to exploring the Frauenkirche as a place of peace and reconciliation.

At the rebuilt Frauenkirche, the traces of destruction have been left visible. They are there to remind visitors that wounds can heal and that reconciliation is possible. This central message is aimed at each and every one of us – we must make an individual and personal commitment to always live together in peace.

The day began on the Neumarkt square, studying the Frauenkirche from the outside, and then continued inside the church, with frequent stops at features of the building that warranted further discussion.
The new dome cross

Reconciliation has always been and will always be possible. Being aware of this implies the challenge for each individual to actively live and promote reconciliation in every day life.

The pulpit

The young people read selected texts loudly from the pulpit and thus experience ways in which their own voices are filling the large space with words of peace.

Exploring the church area

The first encounter of the students within the church happens quietly. They start exploring and understanding the church by means of a plan with specific recommendations for action.

The old dome cross

Lighting candles, the students reflect upon people who are close to them and upon those whom they have difficulties with.

The broken altar table

Touching the broken altar table evokes memories of personal pain and ruptures.

Jesus in the central altarpiece

Mount of Olives Tableau

Imitating the posture of Jesus praying at the Mount of Olives, the young people gain a new sense of such strong emotions like fear and loneliness. They remember personal situations when encounters with other people offered solace and strength.

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Jesus in the central altarpiece

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Imitating the posture of Jesus praying at the Mount of Olives, the young people gain a new sense of such strong emotions like fear and loneliness. They remember personal situations when encounters with other people offered solace and strength.
Cross of nails
Reconciliation requires forgiveness. No person lives without becoming guilty. Peace becomes possible if we forgive each other over and over again.

The belfry
"Prayer calls are blowing across Baghdad/the sound of the shofars across Jerusalem;/ Bud- dah’s prayer bells across Tibet…/I perceive one single sound made out of many:/Peace,/Peace,/ where God resides." The words of a poem by Christian Lehnert written for the peace bell Jesajah resonate in the belfry.

Aaron with incense burner at the altar
Only those who love themselves will also love others. Inhaling the smell of an incense seed, the students reflect upon their love for themselves.

On the dome
The look straightens into the distance and towards the future, which the young people will take responsibility for.
Asking questions about peace

For many of the students it was certainly the highlight of the day: meeting Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in person. To be introduced to a person of such standing is a rare honour, and the students were clearly conscious of this.

In preparing their entries for the peace competition, several of the groups had already studied the life and achievements of the former president. Ahead of the meeting, specific questions were then compiled and the students exchanged views on which topics were most important to them.

On the evening of the day of the lecture, the winners of the student competition gathered in the crypt of the Frauenkirche to receive their certificates from the hands of the guest of honour, a moment that they will surely remember for a long time. They will also have plenty of photographs to remind them of the occasion.

For Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, migration is one of the most important issues of our time. Therefore, the symbol of the house was chosen to match up with the challenge of this year’s peace competition: »Home is where the future is – Outline key elements qualifying a region as worth living in and to care for.«

During the lecture that evening, the youngsters were seated in the front rows. They were a very privileged group within the audience, because they had already had the pleasure of meeting Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on a personal level.
Demographic dynamics

Madam President, Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen,

it is an honour for me to be addressing you here today, and I will try to be as brief as possible. As you can see from the gracious introduction, I head the Migration Department in the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community. Former Minister Thomas de Maizière has asked me to say a few words to you on his behalf and to convey his best wishes. Unfortunately, he is unable to be here today due to other urgent commitments in connection with the forthcoming CDU party congress.

The main topic for this evening is ›Migration and Africa‹. So despite the fact that only a relatively small proportion of the approximately 1.2 million refugees we have received in Germany in recent years has African roots, I will briefly comment on African migration.

As we have already seen, we have witnessed considerable population growth in Africa and, from the figures available, we know that in sub-Saharan Africa the population is set to grow by between 2.5 percent and 3 percent a year. There are currently around 1.2 billion people living in Africa, and we expect that this will increase to 2.5 billion people by the year 2050. A very substantial proportion of world population growth will take place in Africa over the next few years. It is a worrying trend, as I see little sign that many governments in Africa are responding to this development.

In contrast, demographic development in Europe is in decline. The population is expected to decrease from around 520 million people to 470 million people by the year 2050. So we will see very opposite developments north and south of the Mediterranean: a rapidly growing and, on average, very young and dynamic population in Africa will come into contact with a declining population in Europe, which at the same time will be characterised by considerable ageing. Nobody can predict what impact this development will have on migration with all its complex and multi-factored causality. However, we can expect that, despite major efforts to manage migration and step up repatriation, we will see a significant increase in the number of African migrants coming to Europe and Germany.

Turning to Germany, information available suggests that there are around 540,000 people with African roots currently living in Germany. Ten years ago, this figure stood at 270,000. In other words, the number of people...
with African roots has roughly doubled in the last ten years. This is just one example to clarify how the population in Germany has changed. And it is a process that will continue.

Madam President, allow me to pick up on a phrase that you used in your lecture just now in the Dresden Frauenkirche: "to change the mindset of peoples." You considered this to be a necessity for the people of Africa.

We in Germany face a similar obligation. We are becoming an increasingly diversified society. It is all about raising awareness among ordinary people of the inevitable changes that are coming in their lives. The state must, of course, make changes at all levels, in all areas of society using all means at its disposal. However, this can only succeed if the willingness of the public to shape the future is given cultural and social support. It is important that we maintain and foster social cohesion by preparing people for the changes that are coming in their lives. I am thinking, for example, of digitalisation, changes in the world of work and in the makeup of society, as well as climate change. Migration is just one of many aspects of this global evolution.

Finally, I would like to quote Madam President once more. You said that migration has always shaped human development. This is indeed true, and it is right that people are made aware of what this will mean for them and for the lives they are leading now and will lead in the future.

Many thanks!
Africa – A continent of chances

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY HEINZ-WALTER GROSSE
Chairman of the Subsaharan Africa Initiative of the Federation of German Industry (SAFRI)

Madam President, Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen,

When I was invited, I was asked to speak in German tonight. Well, I now have this well prepared speech in front of me, but having just listened to your speech, dear Madam President – and I can only congratulate you for what you have told us – I feel obliged to speak without notes to express my heartfelt appreciation towards you. And, by the way, many issues that I wanted to touch have already been raised and answered.

Let me briefly introduce myself. I am the CEO of a family-owned 180 - years old company. We are one of the global players within the medical device industry. I am the first non-family chairman of the board. Our company’s name is B. Braun Melsungen AG. In 2018, we were very close to seven billion euros in sales and presently employ 64,000 people all over the world. 1,000 of these people work in Africa and we have been supplying all African states with our products and medical services for many, many years to improve the health care standard in Africa and to save lives. In 2015, I was appointed Chairman of SAFRI (Subsaharan Africa Initiative of German Business), the Regional Initiative of the German Industrial Associations and the African Company Association for Africa.

Right now, Africa is a hot political and economical topic. The coalition agreement of the German government gives proof of this, as Africa is mentioned there for 28 times. China by the way is mentioned only five times. I will make a few remarks regarding China later on.

Madam President, you mentioned the big summit with our Chancellor Angela Merkel, with whom I travelled to Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria at the end of August this year. I will travel to South Africa and Botswana together with our Federal President Steinmeier on Sunday next week. You can see, Africa is really an urgent subject within the political and economical considerations of our country. You also mentioned the one billion euros that were announced as an investment fund. Now it is a big challenge for us to make the right decisions on how to invest this huge sum and how to encourage German companies to stay active in Africa in order to secure sustainability of our efforts and actions.

If you look at German-African trade nowadays, you will see that it counts 47 billion bilateral euros, 47 billion! That sounds like a big sum and it matches exactly the trade volume we have realized with Hungary. I am quite sure this comparison makes clear what the real challenge is. A big number of projects is already going on right now. According to the African Association
German Companies the projects that are currently under way sum up to one billion euros. Many German companies – large ones as well as small ones – are interested in doing business in Africa, but most of the activities are limited to collecting orders and supplying goods. They do not create jobs. But creating jobs is my understanding of value-added investments in Africa. It is somewhat different in South Africa and even in the Maghreb states in North Africa, but this definitely holds true when it comes to the Sub Sahara region. German companies still concentrate very much on Asia. China offers a single market with 1.4 billion people, what might also be very difficult sometimes. But Africa with its 54 states is quite a different issue. Our company supplies medical products to all 54 African states, Liberia is supplied via NGO activities.

It is very important for Germany to move away from the negative discussion on migration which portrays Africa as a threat and to start to create a win-win situation for Africa and Germany. It has already been mentioned that the African population will nearly double until 2020. I think the strength of Africa will be the young. Strengthening young people by offering education and a future employment perspective is something I am really burning for. And I would like to convince other companies to invest in Africa.

During the already mentioned conference in Berlin, I had the great honor, to meet and speak to the South African president Ramaphosa. We talked about South Africa and its neighboring countries. I think that if companies have already gained experience in South Africa the next step, which is to move into other African countries, is probably a logical one. This is what we have been doing in our company. As mentioned earlier we have 1,000 employees in Africa, and 800 of them work in South Africa. We just invested in an infusion solutions factory in Kenya and we are about to open several other subsidiaries in other African states. We also discussed the export of raw materials. Ghana for example is one of the biggest cacao beans producer. The country exports cocoa beans to Switzerland and reimports chocolate! In my opinion, this must be changed and it is our duty to both convince and support African companies to produce their own products and create jobs for their own population.

«Compact with Africa»

With «Compact with Africa» we made a big step towards a better framework for private investment. With the G20 Africa Conference, we offer African countries a platform to reach out to investors and to increase private sector involvement in Africa. The African states can basically apply to be a Compact state and as a consequence must comply with certain governance rules. But, Madam President, one issue remains: corruption. I understand that corruption is sometimes part of the payment system on the African continent, but I have zero tolerance in this matter. Wherever I discuss this in Africa, I see willingness and change, but it is still an issue.

Only if countries commit themselves to changes and reforms, Germany will support direct investments in those countries as part of the one-billion-euro funds. I am convinced that German companies, first of all, with all their know-how and expertise are able to offer a lot to Africa. Our dual educational system for example – there are many, many initiatives under way to support Africa in terms of progress and development. There is also an exchange between start-up companies coming from Africa and Germany. I see many initiatives in the educational sector, especially in the health care system. Yet, there is one topic I miss in most discussions: agriculture. I just visited an initiative in Zambia and they convinced me that it is possible to prevent starvation and that we should support efforts to change the current situation. I think we all agree that nobody should have to starve.

Let me say a few words on Chinese investments in Africa. I think that your remark »They’re not coming, they’re there!« is perfectly right. The Chinese discuss their intentions openly in public. You can even watch it on the Chinese English television station CGTN. However, I think we should not be afraid of China. There is so much room in Africa. There are enough things to do. We could even cooperate with Chinese companies. We should explore possibilities instead of considering them as competitors, and see whether we can work together: Africa, Europe and China!

You can even watch it on the Chinese English television station CGTN. However, I think we should not be afraid of China. There is so much room in Africa. There are enough things to do. We could even cooperate with Chinese companies. We should explore possibilities instead of considering them as competitors, and see whether we can work together: Africa, Europe and China!

«I think we all agree that nobody should have to starve.«

Madam President, I am convinced that Africa with all its young, intelligent and enthusiastic people will have a great future. From our perspective it is very important, too, that we work together as partners, doing business on a mutually satisfying basis. Africa is a great continent and I will contribute whatever I can in my scope of responsibility to come closer to our common goal. I love Africa!

Thank you very much.
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It is both the Foundation’s mission and our heartfelt desire to bring young people, pupils and students, citizens from Dresden and international experts into dialogue about current peace issues. Here in the Frauenkirche Dresden, in this significant place of cultural heritage, they experience what it means to all of us to be able to make our globalized world more peaceful.

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