

How to be a Positive Influencer in Society

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João Martins
ADRA Europe





Justice.
Compassion
Love

ADRA.org

And what does the Lord require of you?
To act **justly** and to **love mercy**
and to walk humbly with our God. *Micah 6:8*



To serve humanity so
all may live as God intended





Some of the world challenges

716 Million
People live with less than
1,9 US\$ a day

DATA: World Bank

Population of Europe: 746,4 M



Some of the world challenges

129 Million
Girls don't go to School

DATA: UNICEF

Population of Europe: 746,4 M



Some of the world challenges

40 % of people
Don't have access to toilets



Some of the world challenges

117,3 Million
Forcibly Displaced People

DATA: UNHCR

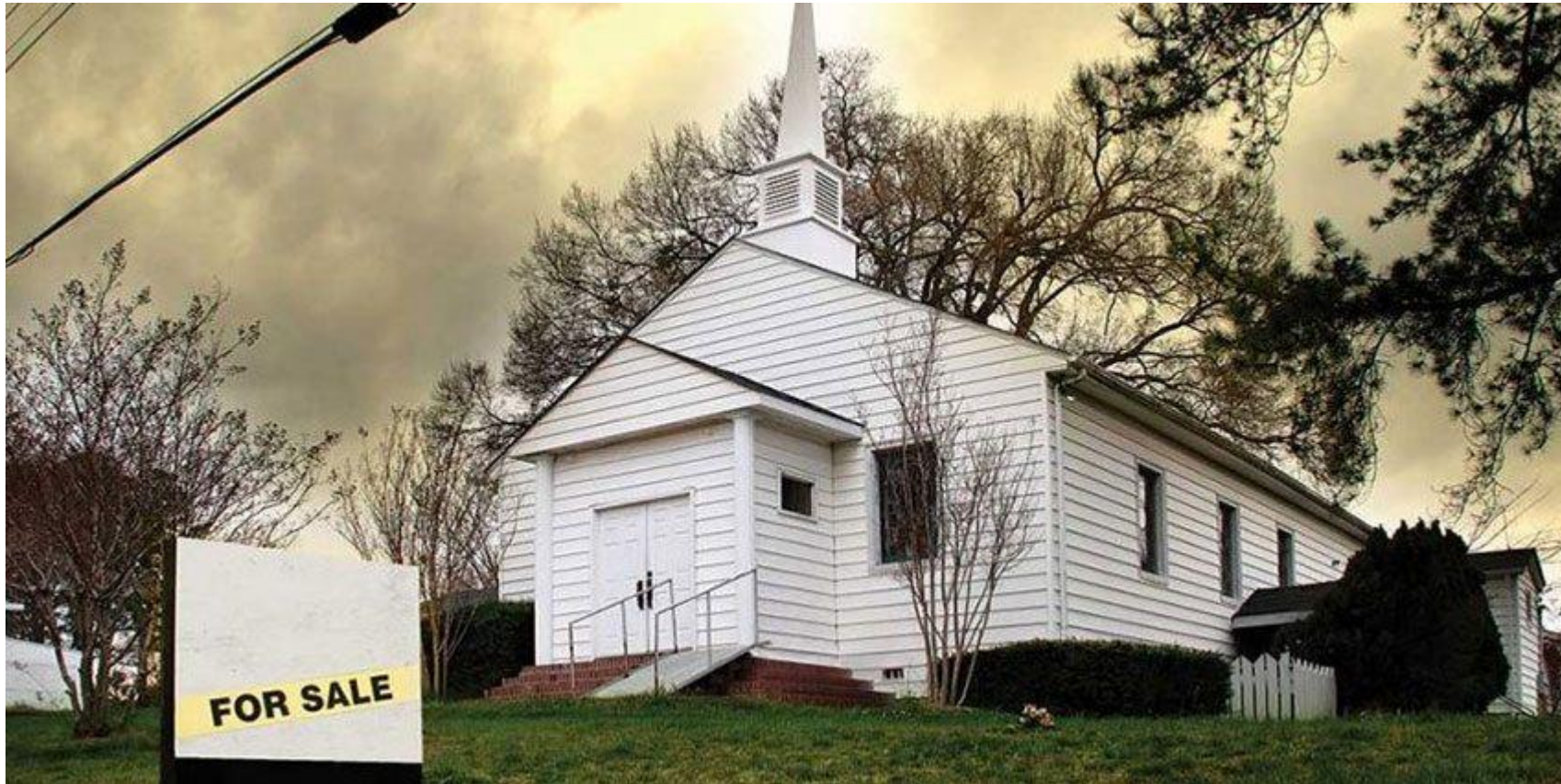
Population of Germany: 83,24 M



Can the Adventists be Indifferent to This?



Will anyone in the community notice if your church closes today?



“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:2-3



“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

Luke 4:17-18



He defended the cause of the poor and needy,
and so all went well.

Is that not what it means to know me?’
declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 22:16



Speak up for those who cannot speak for
themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.

Proverbs 31:8



Become an Influencer

Advocacy:

The process of influencing those with power to transform an unjust situation in order to create a more just outcome, particularly for the benefit of those who are suffering, excluded, or vulnerable.



“We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

Elie Wiesel - Nobel Peace Prize Winner and Holocaust survivor



“In the end, we will remember not the words
of our enemies, but the silence of our
friends.”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



“[Adventists] fail to do their whole duty unless they exert their influence by precept and example—by voice and pen and vote... We need not expect that God will work a miracle to bring about this reform, and thus remove the necessity for our exertion. We ourselves must grapple with this giant foe...”

Ellen G White, Review and Herald, Oct. 15, 1914.

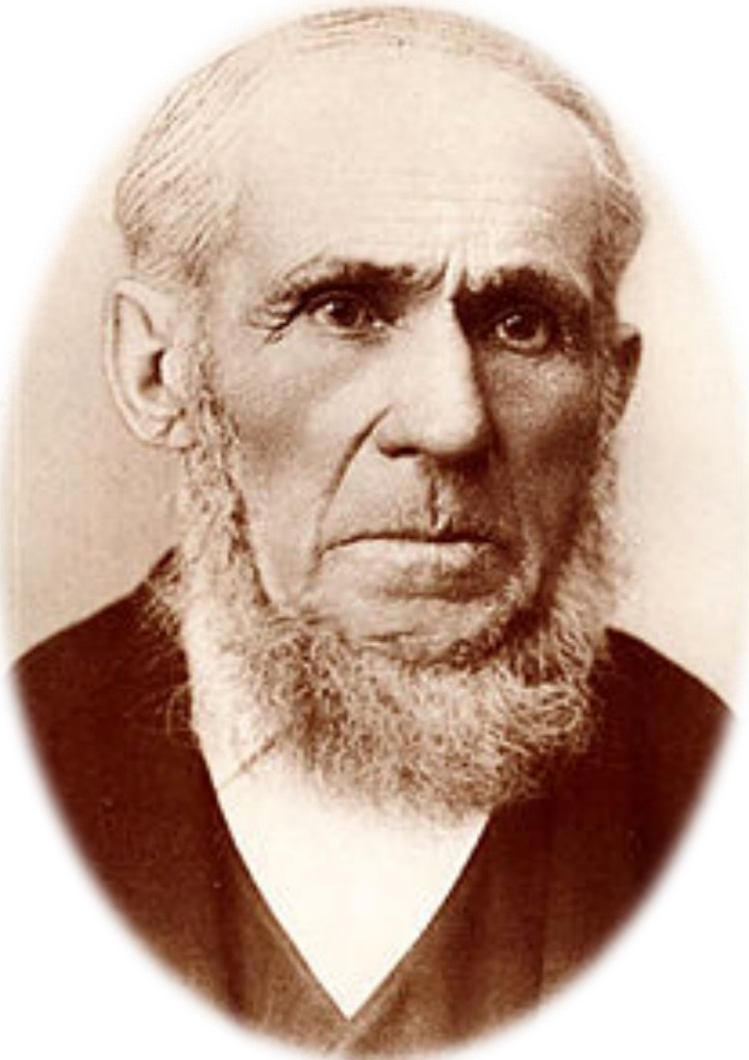


Examples of church Advocacy

- Abolition of slavery;
- Exploitation by Alcohol and Tobacco Industry;
- Religious Freedom;
- End it Now;
- Rallies and campaigns by local churches.



Abolition of Slavery



John Byington – was not only the first General Conference President, but he was an outspoken abolitionist, who was an agent of the “Underground Railroad” smuggling slaves to freedom.



End it Now



#HearMeToo
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS



enditnow®

Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women



ADRA/WM
Partnership



What values to defend?



What values to defend?

- Human Dignity;
- Human Rights;
- Social Inclusion;
- Environment sustainability;
- Peace and safety;
- Generosity and compassion;
- Justice and accountability;
- Transparency and integrity.



Fight Against Poverty



Fight Against Poverty



“The richest 1 percent grabbed nearly two-thirds of all new wealth worth \$42 trillion created since 2020, almost twice as much money as the bottom 99 percent of the world’s population.”

Oxfam Jan/2023



Fight Against Poverty

Working to reduce poverty and hunger means more than showing sympathy for the poor.

It means advocating for public policy that offers justice and fairness to the poor, for their empowerment and human rights. It means sponsoring and participating in programs that address the causes of poverty and hunger, helping people to build sustainable lives.

This commitment to justice is an act of love (Micah 6:8).

Seventh-day Adventists believe it is also a call to live lives of simplicity and modesty that witness against materialism and a culture of affluence.



Education



Education

- 1,3 M signatures
- Seminars
- Political influence
- Social Media
- Learning Labs
- Art Contest
- Postcards campaign


EVERY CHILD.
EVERYWHERE.
IN SCHOOL.





meu senhor Pedro Silva Pereira.

Meu nome é Gabriel e tenho 77 anos.
Sou de Portugal, mas vivo na Bélgica.

Eu posso ir à escola quando quiser.

As milhões de crianças não podem.

Por isso quero pedir - para Financiar

uma Educação de qualidade a todas

as crianças do mundo pelo menos até

aos 78 anos. Muito obrigado por usarem

a vossa influência e poder proporcionar
um futuro melhor às crianças. Com a melhores cumprimentos,

Gabriel Martins

Daria Bashkirova, Portugal: War can't take love away

Words are worth a thousand words. ADRA's Art Contest "Hear me. See me. Walk with me." encourages children and young people to use their creativity to understand, and support people forced to flee their country.



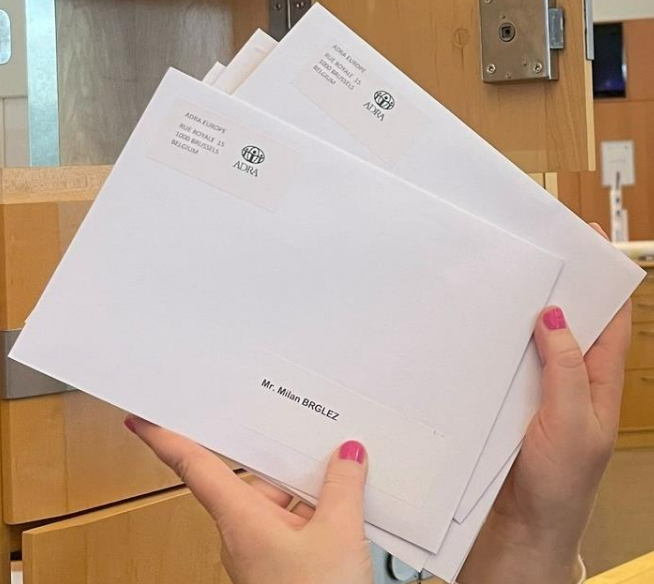
ADRA

Pedro Silva Pereira

Slovenija

BOGOVIČ

JOVEVA



Education



How to engage?



Choose the Topic

- Needs Assessment;
- Know your community;
- What can you do?



Target groups

- Government actors;
- Traditional/Community Leaders;
- Private sector actors;
- Media;



Possible actions

- Campaigns;
- Political influence;
- Raising the awareness with children;
- Pleas;
- Influencing the media;
- Social Media;
- Public interventions.



Risks

- No confrontational, but cooperative;
- Coherence with biblical principles;
- Image of the church;
- Acceptance by the targets;
- Support from the community.



“Every false religion teaches its adherents to be careless of human needs, sufferings, and rights. The gospel places a high value upon humanity as the purchase of the blood of Christ, and it teaches a tender regard for the wants and woes of man.”

E.G. White. *Desire of Ages*. P. 286.





Questions time?

João Martins
Executive Director ADRA Europe
joao.martins@adra.eu

