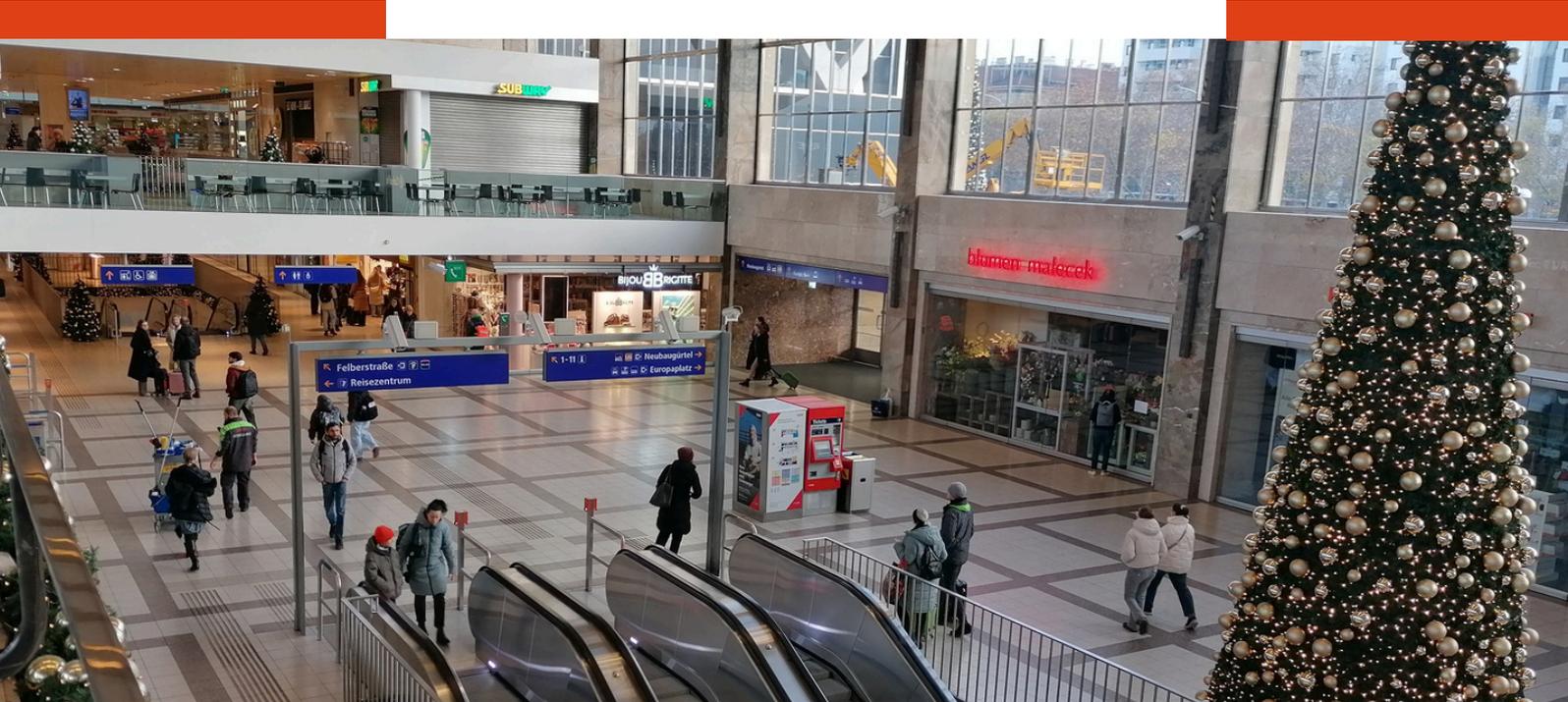


»»» OUR LETTER TO YOU «««

DIALOP NEWS

transversal dialogue project



FROZEN CHRISTMAS



Fotos Standing Together and Embassy



DIALOP keeps *Standing together* with the Palestinians and Israelis who keep struggling together at home and abroad: At the November symposium in Vienna “Common ground destructing walls” with activists from Israel, as well as at the UN for the Solidarity Day and for the National Day of Palestine with the Palestinian Amdassador in Vienna, H.E. Salah Abdel Shafi

↑ The initiators of *Standing Together Vienna* - the artists Osama Zatar and Inbal Volpo, showing the Palestinian passport, a symbolic deed to draw attention on the recognition of the State of Palestine.

editorial

Whether news is true or fake depends in part on its sources' credibility. But Jesus's birth cannot be in the category of fake news because, besides the established historical facts, his life and death have entered our DNA as no myth could. Yet his influence is not automatic. In the Nazi death camps Christmas trees were intentionally set up near the gallows, and executions took place even on December 24 for the crime of stealing a piece of bread. Evil can co-opt anything, even the most hallowed traditions.

Clearly, one of Christianity's core missions is to assert the values of equality, freedom, love, and mercy. But how do we understand this in a pluralist society in which every religion and Weltanschauung has a right to profess its path to salvation? In the end, no one has a free ticket to heaven, nor are there guarantees in the here and now - at least not if the path becomes a frozen formula too cold to fulfil the yearning for a meaningful life. Happiness is not a frozen object; it is the sparkling substance of the soul - its capacity to love.

Dear reader, we wish you and your family a sparkling Christmas and a Happy New Year!
The DIALOP coordination team

DIALOP GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

BRING HOPE IN ROUGH TIMES

The conference of October 17 and 18, 2025 and its results in the cities



ATHENS - despite difficulties

In Athens the group is looking for key individuals who can act as permanent contacts and collaborators of DIALOP from both Christian communities and the left wing. They will organize small, focused discussions on specific topics with local left-wing branches or citizens' initiatives.



BERLIN - courageous proposals

We were grateful to Walter Bayer and Declan O'Byrne - see above - for their inputs. The catchword of the *option for the poor* is important. The poor not as an object of charity, but as an active subject, starting from the reality, with a vision to transcend it. It's a process. An example: take the question of private property, and how to change it by deprivatizing the goods and services of basic needs. (Foto Cornelia Hildebrandt, coordinator of the dialogue group at the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation)



BONN - With Marx and Jesus and the war deserters

Our main goal was the idea of a memorial to deserters from the German Wehrmacht during the Second World War in the city of Bonn. Our motion was approved by a majority vote in the citizens' committee. We link these activities to the struggle for the human right to refuse military service, honouring those who deserted during the Second World War. In this context, we demand that people who refuse to bear arms in Russia, Ukraine or Israel be granted asylum in Germany.



BUENOS AIRES - Nuevos Horizontes

We need to build proposals that put an end to both the fatalism and the spiritual and emotional defeat that afflicts us in this time of multiple crises. We need to build a political project that moves us —beyond the programmatic—to walk and meet with others who are thinking about profound transformations of reality as we are.



LISBON - from the settled to the new

The Lisbon group is broadening to include young people from both Christian and Marxist backgrounds. They also explored themes on how they can resist a populism which exploits rather than waiting for "the madness to pass". The group also discussed and decided to organize spaces for debate and self-education to dismantle false portrayals of taboos.



LOPPIANO/ITALY - complex problems

The workshop focused on geopolitical issues, including the crisis of the multilateral model and the transformation into a multipolar model, the crisis of Western democracy, and the hypocrisy in managing immigration. Participants agreed that while these workshops do not provide solutions to complex problems, they are valuable for fostering dialogue and sharing experiences. The Italian group plans to continue meeting in the coming months



VIENNA - important credits

We had intense discussions, one was that relationship is very important to nourish hope. Then we came to the conclusion that dialogue is really possible, even despite very differing worldviews. And we also realized that if we engage with others, we gain new perspectives. It's not always easy, but it's challenging, and worth while. A further discussion was about how to defend ourselves and we concluded that social defence is an important alternative to arming oneself with weapons.