

*Powers, Inequalities, and Vulnerabilities: Mission in a Wounded World*  
Sydney, Australia  
July 9-14, 2020

**The consequences of immorality and the possibilities of ecumenics – How Swedish arms export cause ecumenical flourishing in Sweden**

Sweden tends to be considered a peaceful country, and the Swedish self-image often gives prominence to a neutral position in relation to conflicts and wars around the globe. At least this is what people in general thinks, however it is not that simple. This paper wants to discuss how Swedish arms export, to countries such as Afghanistan, lead to major social upheaval in Swedish society which raises the question of religious freedom in general, and the question of Christian converts and other minorities in particular. Furthermore how the Swedish Christian Council, despite its various theological traditions and positions, is able to gather a new ecumenical movement characterized by prophetic *diakonia*, social responsibility and an active political lobbying for human rights. Human value is jeopardized when laws passed in immorality and ignorance result in people fleeing to Sweden, partly because of Swedish arms export, converts to Christianity and then are expelled to what in many cases means a sure death. This paper will also address questions about what happens to a church in rapid cultural transformation, what difficulties congregations face and how the issue of religious freedom has become a day-to-day reality for the overall Swedish Christianity. All three parts of the conference theme – power, inequality and vulnerability – will be discussed.

Abstract submission to study group 8 – Religious Freedom