

## **Caste Based Discrimination in the Church**

Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1869, is with no doubt one the most remarkable dates in India. By establishing the 2<sup>nd</sup> October as the international day of no violence, the United Nations General Assembly honoured that date and concomitant with the day Mahatma Gandhi throughout the world.

By leading India into independence without using violence, Mahatma Gandhi, also called "father of nation" achieved even more than hero status. Anyhow, despite the great achievements of Mahatma Gandhi, India is still facing many issues related to inequality, one of the most famous being the caste system. Notwithstanding social reformer B. R. Ambedkar's attempts to abolish the caste system, with the great achievement of establishing an Indian constitution that forbids discrimination against lower castes by law, the problems accompanying the caste system are not yet hurdled.

The famous and historic confrontation between Gandhi and Ambedkar revealed the different views onto the caste system of these two outstanding freedom fighters in Indian history.

Therefore, the India Peace Centre decided to not only celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday and the international day of no violence on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, but also provided a program about "Caste Based Discrimination in the Church". The program was organized in collaboration with Saint Charles Seminary and Church of North India Social Service Institute. The program was addressed by Dr. Siby Joseph, a professor of Gandhian studies from Wardha, Mr. Sandy Sneddon from Church of Scotland and Mr. Kasta Dip, Director of India Peace Centre. It was attended by seminarians, social workers, educationists, and people associated with the organizers.

