



**VID**

## – Diaconia as Gamechanger? –

**ReDi**

*The International Society  
for the Research and  
Study of Diaconia and  
Christian Social Practice*

### Leadership of Service in Times of Crisis, Complexity and Transformation

The International Society for Research and Study of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi) and VID Specialized University wish to welcome you to the 8th ReDi Conference “Diaconia as Gamechanger”. Time and place for the conference is September 16th to 18th 2020 in Oslo Norway.

The development of society on both global and local level is increasingly described in terms of crisis. Climate change is becoming more perceptible, and poses new problems and challenges for humanity. Neoliberal globalisation and economic policies have contributed to increased social inequalities and injustice, and a growth in unemployment and in precarity of income from employment. Furthermore, demographic developments and forced migration undermine solidarity and lead to tension between generations. The extent and speed of the changes has created fears that materialise socially and politically, such as radicalisation and right-wing popularism.

**The agents of Diaconia observe these developments and are part of them themselves.**

How can diaconal organisations and churches meet these challenges?  
Do they contribute to finding new answers or are they afraid of losing what they used to have?  
What does diaconal leadership look like in times of crises and change?  
How can diaconal leadership based on faith, hope and love be re-imagined?  
How can research contribute to innovate diaconal practices?  
How can learning from each other across the continents be stimulated in order for diaconal agents to become vital gamechangers?  
How can prophetic Diaconia contribute in advocacy efforts in order to prevent urgent needs in today's world?

**In addition to lectures, paper sessions, panels, workshops, bible studies and excursions, the conference will provide specific spaces of encounter for PhD students in the field of Diaconia. Researchers, and in particular PhD students, are invited to submit abstracts of maximum 200 words for papers sessions, panels or workshops until 20 February 2020 to [conference@diaconiaresearch.org](mailto:conference@diaconiaresearch.org).**

**Information about the application for travel bursaries will be published in early spring 2020.**

Your contribution should relate to one of the following main themes of the conference:

- Youth, the Ecological Crisis and Environmental Justice – How can Diaconia make a Difference?
- Drifting Apart? Diaconal Responses to the Demographic Developments, Forced Migration, and Crisis of Solidarity and Democracy
- Innovations and Leadership in Diaconal Studies as Practice-Based Research Area
- Biblical and Theological Paradigms for a Game-changing Diaconia
- Towards a Transforming Diaconal Leadership and Spirituality

**You will be informed if your paper is accepted by April 3rd 2020.**

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the organisers at [conference@diaconiaresearch.org](mailto:conference@diaconiaresearch.org).  
Best regards on behalf of ReDi and the preparation team.

Ninna Edgardh  
Chair of The International Society  
for the Study and Research Diaconia and  
Christian Social Practice

Annette Leis-Peters  
Coordinator of the Conference Preparation  
VID Specialized University