



Neighbourhood at crossroads ...

*Shaping identity, minorities and politicised religions.
Religious/ethnic groups and minorities at risk in past and present.
Studies from India, East Africa and Germany*

From March 2-6, 2024, an international symposium took place at the University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology Hermannsburg (FIT). Researchers from the United Theological College in Bangalore (India), Tumaini University in Makumira (Tanzania) and FIT, including the Director of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony (ELM), took part. The event was organized and chaired by Professor Dr. Kaholi Zhimomi (Bangalore) and Professor Dr. Andreas Kunz-Lübcke (FIT).



The main theme of the symposium was to reflect theologically on the situation of minorities and ethnic and social groups and to examine the challenges they face. The spectrum of the 17 presentations was broad and included ethnicities and their perception in biblical literature, the political situation in northern India and the specific situation of Roma groups in the Netherlands and indigenous people in Guatemala. The exclusion and discrimination of women in (church) offices was also addressed. Dr. Emmanuel Kileo,

Director of the ELM, gave the opening lecture on (hidden) disadvantaging structures in Tanzania, particularly with regard to the Lutheran church there.

However, the conclusion of the event in Hermannsburg is not the end of the project: The participants of the symposium will continue their research work on the topics presented and will later publish the results in a joint volume. In addition, the symposium - which, in the opinion of all participants, was very fruitful and insightful - is intended to mark the start of networking and academic cooperation between the participating institutions even after the closure of the FIT Campus next year.