

### **Statement of Signis India National Assembly 2019**

SIGNIS India National Assembly (SINA)-2019 was held at Prerana Sadan Indore, from 19 to 22 February 2019 with the theme “Media for Promotion of Truth and Peace”. 104 members from different parts of the country participated in the assembly. The input sessions as well as the group discussions highlighted the need for networking among the members and the media professionals, which will eventually promote Truth and Peace in our society.

The assembly felt the need for networking as there have been great developments in technology and emphasised the need for a proper platform to respond to the evil forces by utilising our resources which otherwise are getting scattered. An effective evangelization aimed at the promotion of truth and peace in our society is possible only if we network as we pass on information and ideas to all involved, and make united efforts. With networking, communication is faster and the message can make better impact from a bigger group who are sharing resources and look up to each other for mutual support. Networking can avoid unnecessary repetitions of productions and can also save manpower and economic resources, affirmed the assembly.

However, the assembly is also aware of the blocks and hindrances to the same. Frequent transfer of personnel and the non-continuity in the particular office or work, decreases the effectiveness, pointed out the assembly. The lack of connectivity between communications’ institutions in the same region or across churches of different Rites and the vast cultural diversity of the country seem to be the other factors that blocks networking. It is also opined that, institutions at times, focus on their own work, and prefer not to network with other institutions. This often results in growing individualism, selfishness and consumerism. The lack of financial stability, generosity, creativity, research and confidence; fear of losses, church hierarchy, government action or complacent attitudes to the reality are also hindrances to networking. Today, media has a connotation of glamour more than ever, and so, receptivity is affected when it comes to religion or spirituality,

The SINA 2019 suggested solutions towards better networking. According to these, regions are to plan with focus and prioritise their works, and facilitate this through awareness and training programmes on ecclesiastical platforms at both regional and national level. These could be available on all websites, considering that every diocese or communications institution could have a website/ blog for this. We need to train spokespersons at regional and national level and launch mainstream media ministry or have our own news channels. With regard to media productions, networked SIGNIS members must find distribution agents for them, before bringing out the productions. This could be done from a common platform by breaking the barriers with regard to finance, or selfish attitudes, by promoting face-to-face meetings as much as possible, rather than telecommunication. It is also affirmed that, as media persons, we need to give what people need and not what we want. This could be achieved promoting combined productions under the banner of SIGNIS.

To conclude, we the members of SINA 2019, affirm the role of media in the promotion of peace and truth, and believe that by networking with regions, dioceses and institutions, SIGNIS India can play a pivotal role in this great country of India.

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