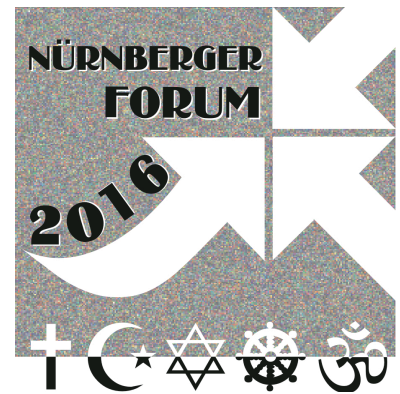


Heinrich Bedford-Strohm

**Public Theology and Interreligious Dialogue.
Fundamental Perspectives**



ABSTRACT

Public Theology is a new paradigm in theology which has received increasing attention in the last years. In transformation societies which move from dictatorial or authoritarian regimes to democratic states with vital civil societies public theology must further develop liberation theology into a theology which is able to critically accompany democratically legitimized power. In societies which used to be religiously homogeneous public theology must take account of the changing religious landscape and give a well reflected response to the new religious pluralism. How can Christian theology acknowledge and respect differing religious world views without avoiding any truth claims of its own? What model of relationship between church and state can be an appropriate frame work for reconciling passionate religious expressions in the public square and a common order characterized by mutual respect and tolerance? The lecture will explore different approaches to these questions and seek to show that freedom of religion does not prevent strong public expressions of religion but encourage them.