

Statement by the President and the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation

The Lutheran World Federation expresses its shock over the recent attacks in the cities of Beirut and Paris. It condemns in the most firm terms these despicable acts and conveys its condolences to all people suffering with the loss of the many lives that these attacks have caused. The hatred in the minds and hearts of some has found its way into the public again, claiming space and pretending to impose its vicious rationale and logics on societies at large.

The present time calls for robust moderation. The logics of exclusion and total disregard of human life have to be firmly rejected, as well as the totalitarian claim that seeks to impose hatred and fear of the other as the basis for societal interaction.

The present time calls for people of good will and followers of different religions to come together and work together for peace, justice and respect of human life, including love for the neighbor. Attacks like the recent ones should not discourage, but encourage even bolder witness for peace with justice.

This is a time for churches, synagogues and mosques to pray and work even harder for peace within and among their communities, and to do this together wherever possible. There is only one word possible when it comes to justifying violence with religious motives: No!

We hold fast to the vision expressed in Psalm 85:

Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

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President
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