



World Council of Churches

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To:
The World Council of Churches
member churches in Great Britain

Dear sisters and brothers in fellowship,

*Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
—Isaiah 41:10*

Upon hearing of the unprovoked attack yesterday in the area of Parliament, and of its tragic consequences, I write to convey our sincere condolences and sympathy to you, your church members, and all the people of Great Britain. We know, too, that this attack, though aimed at the heart of British democracy, has claimed victims from other countries, as well. So I speak for the whole fellowship of Christian churches around the world when I say that we unconditionally condemn this criminal act of terror, whatever the motivation behind it have been, and we stand in solidarity with you in these difficult and trying circumstances..

Please be aware that the victims of this attack and their families are in our thoughts and prayers. We pray, too, for some comfort for their loved ones struggling to come to terms with, if never to understand, these senseless deaths and grave injuries.

We also pray for and with you, our sisters and brothers in ministry, as you struggle to find meaning and direction after these events and to pursue your pastoral care and leadership with all people. We utterly condemn such violence and the terror it engenders; but we know that it will not shake your resolve as Christians. We urge you to stay strong in your faith in God but also in your commitment to God's love, which embraces all, and God's reign, which holds out hope for a just and inclusive society, one of compassion and reconciliation. It is sorely needed now.

We know that, in many ways, these are trying times for the people of Britain and that the aspiration of an inclusive society is tested by such events as this attack. Yet It was St. Bede who summoned a vision not only of individual Christians healing the wounds of their neighbours but also of a whole compassionate community—a cradle of redemptive love—leading the way to reconciliation through practicing the values of the reign of God. At this time we hope and pray that the people of Great Britain may find in you and your ministry such vision, such love, and such hope.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary