The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

9 November 2026

Dear Foreign Secretary,

We write to you as Christian leaders from across the United Kingdom to ask you to show vital moral leadership on the global stage by supporting the international regulation of autonomous weapons.

Christian and other faith communities have long expressed concern about weapons that cause indiscriminate violence and civilian casualties. We now see these threats from the implementation of autonomous weapons systems.

Autonomous weapons technology is developing at extraordinary speed, while the international rules governing its use remain anchored in a pre-digital age. As states prepare to meet in November to discuss autonomous weapons, **we urge you to support negotiations towards a legally binding treaty to regulate the use of AI on the battlefield.**

The UK has a proud history of showing leadership in international initiatives to protect human life, including prohibitions on landmines and cluster munitions.

Reports of the use of autonomous weapons in current conflicts, from autonomous anti-personnel drones to airstrikes targeted by AI systems, have revealed the grave risk the technology poses and highlight the urgency of action. Machines, regardless of their level of intelligence, must never be trusted with moral judgements like the decision to take a life.

Pope Leo's recent encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* argued cogently that the development of AI in warfare must be subject to rigorous ethical constraints, to guarantee respect for human dignity and the sanctity of life, and to avoid a race to develop such arms. **For all who believe in the inalienable dignity of the human person and the inestimable worth of human life, the delegation to computer code of decisions to injure or kill is an abhorrent prospect.** We are also concerned that the rapid and unregulated development of autonomous weapons technology will remove accountability and fuel instability. The international community must not let increasing global conflict prevent it from speaking out against systems that disregard the value of human life.

At the Seventh CCW Review Conference at the UN in Geneva this November, international leaders face a decisive moment to establish binding limits on autonomous weapons systems. 130 states have now expressed their support for an international, legally binding treaty to regulate autonomous weapons systems. For these negotiations to have the best chance of success, the UK must commit to doing everything within its power to open negotiations.

There is a closing window of opportunity to act. We urge you to support the launch of negotiations, and then show clear leadership to work towards international controls on autonomous weapons.

Yours sincerely,

Revd. Lynn Green, General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain
Rt Revd Dr Rowan Williams, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Llandaff, Church in Wales (retired Archbishop of Canterbury)
The Right Reverend Richard Jackson, Bishop of Hereford, Church of England
Andrew Fellows, Peace and Justice Lead, Community of Christ British Isles
Ruth Harvey, Leader, Iona Community
Revd Mark Slaney, President of the Methodist Conference
Caroline Stead, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference
The Right Revd Ian Paton, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, Scottish Episcopal Church
Most Reverend Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and Primus, Scottish Episcopal Church
The Right Reverend David Railton, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, Scottish Episcopal Church
The Rev Sarah Brown, Convener, Public Life and Social Justice Programme Group, The Church of Scotland
Revd Neil Thorogood, General Assembly Moderator, United Reformed Church
Sue Claydon, Chair, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship
Paul Cook, Director, Arise
Revd Richard Wise, Co-Chair, Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Kelvin Gascoyne, Executive Committee Member, Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Revd. Jane Robson, Executive Committee Member, Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
Andrew Bolton, Community of Christ, Leicester Congregation
Suzanne Eade Roberts, General Secretary, Church and Peace
Martin Tiller, Board Member for the British Isles, Church and Peace, and Co-Chair, Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
John Cooper, Director, Fellowship of Reconciliation
Jill Kent, Chair, Justice and Peace Scotland
Rev Joe Ryan, Acting Chair, Pax Christi England and Wales
Arn Dekker, Vice Chair, Pax Christi England & Wales
Ann Farr, Vice President, Pax Christi England and Wales
Dr Valerie Flessati, Vice President, Pax Christi England and Wales
Pat Gaffney, Vice President, Pax Christi England and Wales
Colin Kerr, Treasurer, Pax Christi England and Wales
Sister Katrina Alton, National Chaplain, Pax Christi England and Wales
Cath Attlee, Executive Committee Member, Pax Christi England and Wales
Marian Pallister, Chair, Pax Christi Scotland
Grace Buckley, Executive Committee Member, Pax Christi Scotland
Rosalyn Mauchline, Executive Committee Member, Pax Christi Scotland
Lorraine Currie, CEO, Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund