

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CHURCHES
Gathered in Annual Conference
July, 2015

A RESOLUTION

The churches and ministry centers of the International Council of Community Churches decry the inter-religious, inter-ethnic and inter-tribal violence that afflicts so many nations of the world.

In some cases this violence issues from simple bigotry and ignorance. In other cases terror is being fomented by those in positions of power. Driven by fears that changing demographics and emerging technologies will threaten their control over their constituencies, those who should be showing the way into a bright future of mutual respect are instead encouraging violence and hatred in order to retrain their status.

The strategy is transparent. Religious, ethnic and tribal groups are identified as “the enemy” and are made the targets of discrimination, oppression and warfare. The results are equally well known. Places of worship are violated. Children are kidnapped. Mothers and fathers are murdered. We weep with those of our own faith whose lives have been violated by violence. We weep equally with those of other faiths whose lives have been torn asunder.

In the face of this, the churches and ministry centers of the International Council of Community Churches dare to proclaim the truth that all human beings are children of God; that violence against any part of humanity is violence against all; that rhetoric encouraging inter-religious, inter-ethnic or inter-tribal discrimination and violence is a sin against God, and that as sisters and brothers within the human family, we are all called by our various religious faiths to live in peace. As it is written “you shall love the alien as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:34)

We honor those national, religious and ethnic leaders worldwide who are seeking reconciliation and justice. We pray for greater wisdom and greater understanding among all of God’s children.

Done this 16th day of July, 2015