



# Statements of Support

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## Statement on Anglican Church of Congo

### Sponsor: Archbishop Titre Ande Georges

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, reaffirm our commitment to peace, security and democracy in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the East African community at large.

Rooted in our belief that each person is made in the image of God, loved and precious in the eyes of our Creator, we reiterate the common good of all that is enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, 1948. We are deeply troubled by the conflict in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and the resultant loss of life and property, refugee crisis, economic downturn, and the deepening of inter-ethnic division.

As Jesus Christ calls his followers to be peacemakers, we therefore urge all those who are caught up in the conflict to embrace dialogue as a means of resolving grievances, and stand in solidarity with the vulnerable who are suffering at this time.

Our prayer for the nation of Congo, and for the region, is for a sustainable and just peace, to the glory of Jesus Christ, our hope and salvation.



## Statement of Support for Nigeria

### Sponsor: Archbishop Justin Welby

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, from the provinces of the Anglican Communion, send our warm greetings and message of encouragement and support to the church and people of Nigeria.

We very much regret that the Province of the Church of Nigeria will not be with us. We pray that our Lord will make it possible for the differences that have prevented the Province of the Church of Nigeria in joining the rest of the Communion will be healed in His good time.

Nigeria is a country that is richly endowed with highly skilled human, natural, and mineral resources, a country with a huge contribution to make on the world stage.

The bishops are particularly grieved by the security, economic, religious and political challenges faced by Nigeria and Nigerians. Nigeria remains a regular prayer point for the prayers of bishops across the Communion.

Our Lord calls us to seek peace and pursue it. We humbly commit to continue to use our calling to do so in support for Nigeria and Nigerians. We firmly believe that Nigeria has the capacity to come out of the current challenges. Our hope, and the hope of all Nigerian Christians is in Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected.



## Statement from The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East

### Sponsor: Archbishop Hosam Naoum

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, affirm the vital historic presence of Christians in the Holy Land, the “Living Stones”, where our Saviour Jesus Christ lived, died and was resurrected. In our commitment to the common good of all ethnic and religious communities in Israel, and to those in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, we reiterate our conviction that a two-state solution offers the best hope for a sustainable future for all, where both states live side by side in security peace and dignity of all their citizens.

Jerusalem remains a historic part of that future hope, and the existence and indeed flourishing of the Christian presence within Jerusalem should be respected and guarded. We therefore affirm that:

- Israel is a state that deserves the security and protections of a free state, but is also subject to the demands of international law just like any other state.
- A two-state solution to the aspirations for self-determination of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza, and the end of the occupation, remains the best hope for a just and peaceful resolution to all peoples in the region.
- Jerusalem is a city that is precious to Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities. Therefore, in accordance with the United Nations, we regard Jerusalem as an intrinsic issue with respect to any future political settlement for Israel and the Palestinian Occupied Territories.



## Statement of Support welcoming the Province of Alexandria in Egypt

### Sponsor: Archbishop Sami Fawzi

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, from the provinces of the Anglican Communion, give thanks to Almighty God for the churches (Provinces) of the Communion that have been established since we last met in 2008, amongst them the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria.

We welcome the Province of Alexandria as a full member of the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa, of the Middle East Council of Churches, of the All Africa Conference of Churches and of the World Council of Churches. We rejoice in the commitment shown by the Province, and the Diocese of Egypt in particular, to ecumenical relations – within Egypt as a founding member of the Egyptian Council of Churches. Similarly, we are grateful for the leading role the Diocese plays in inter-religious relations, particularly with Islam, building on the unique role of Al Azhar Al Sharif within the Muslim World. We extend our encouragement to the newly established Centre of Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership and the programmes flowing from the Diocese's membership of Egypt's Bait al 'Aila.

Despite conflicts on all her borders, the adverse impact on the economy of COVID and the international instability, Egypt strives for the mutual flourishing of both her people and those welcomed in a long-established tradition of hospitality (including, as our Scriptures relate, providing refuge for the Holy Family). Alongside the many who are grateful for this tradition and Egypt's contribution to civilisation, we offer our prayers for the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

We are troubled, and express our concern, that the positive contributions to Egyptian society and our world-wide Communion made by the Diocese of Egypt are put at risk by attempts to constrain its independence and autonomy. We reiterate our support for the Diocese as it resists such attempts and call on sister churches, inter-religious partners and all people of good-will to work with us. We appeal President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to affirm the positive role played by the Anglican Diocese in Egypt and the wider region by exercising his constitutional authority to recognise the creation of the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria. We also seek a speedy resolution to the discussions that have recently been instigated to restore practical authorisation of its functioning as an autonomous Church within the Arab Republic of Egypt.



## Statement of Support regarding the situation in the Ukraine

### Sponsor: Bishop Robert Innes

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, from the provinces of the Anglican Communion offer a statement of support regarding the situation in the Ukraine.

Since the Russian Federation invasion launched on 24 February 2022, thousands of Ukrainian civilians have been killed, cities such as Mariupol have been laid in ruins and civilian infrastructure devastated. As of the 1st of June, nearly 7 million refugees had fled Ukraine, and a further 7 million people have been displaced internally. More than a quarter of the entire Ukrainian population have had to flee their homes. The Anglican Church has played a significant role in the huge humanitarian aid effort that has been launched.

The plummeting of Ukrainian agricultural exports since the start of the war now threatens disastrous consequences for countries in the global south, with the possibility of famine and further widespread forced migration.

Within European frontline states there is fear about the war spreading. NATO is greatly increasing the level of munitions in Eastern Europe. Within Russia, opposition to the war is suppressed but economic hardship and grief is likely to be experienced by many.

The war in Ukraine has been widely condemned as illegal and unjustifiable. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have described Russia's invasion of Ukraine as 'an act of great evil'. The World Council of Churches along with the leaders of many individual churches have called for an immediate end to the fighting. We express our solidarity with all who suffer in this conflict.

We recognise Ukraine's endeavours to defend itself against armed aggression and its requests to the international community for military assistance. At the same time, we echo the WCC call for a much greater investment by the international community in searching for and promoting peace and commend all attempts to maintain dialogue and peacebuilding. Notably, we support the WCC proposal for a 'Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace' led by its Secretary General which will send a delegation to Kyiv and Moscow to meet with the leadership of the churches in both places with a view to promoting a negotiated peace. In a world which is now more dangerous and unstable, we are challenged as a church to fulfil our mission as peacemakers, ultimately seeking the reconciliation of people in Christ Jesus.



## Statement of Support for Sudan

### Sponsor: Archbishop Ezekiel Guti

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, from the provinces of the Anglican Communion support the Episcopal Church in Sudan in their desire to participate in a dialogue for a durable peace for the good of the nation and for a democratic government. We affirm our commitment to:

1. Continue to pray for a durable peace in Sudan.
2. Encourage the government of Sudan finds solution to the security and economic situations and provisions of basic services to the common person
3. Encourage the government of Sudan to improve the security situations in Darfur, South Kordofan, South Blue Nile and Eastern Sudan for the protection of all citizens
4. Encourage the government of Sudan to give approvals to new Church buildings in Sudan and that Church partners are given entry visas without hindrances
5. Encourage the government of Sudan and Ethiopia to find and resolve the recent conflicts between Sudan and Ethiopia that have claimed innocent lives
6. Support the cessation of killings and demonstrations so that dialogue for a just and sustainable peace can be worked upon
7. A democratic future for Sudan that gives freedom of religion or belief to all its citizens and respect for the equal rights of all citizens, including all minority communities



## Statement of Support for Pakistan

### Sponsor: Bishop Azad Marshall

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, from the provinces of the Anglican Communion express our solidarity with the Church of Pakistan.

### We support their call for:

1. An end to forced and under-age marriage and proper legal protection for all girls and particularly those from minority communities so that their physical and religious freedoms are not violated
2. An end to the abuses enabled by the blasphemy law that gives license to unscrupulous accusations against Christians and other religious minorities, and recourse in statute against such false accusations
3. Freedom from imprisonment for all those currently detained by false accusations of blasphemy
4. Western aid to be accessed by minority religious communities in Pakistan so that they have equal opportunity to access funding for education and development.

We pray for strength and courage for the Church of Pakistan, for comfort for the oppressed and for the joy of salvation that they may be a witness to the Church and to the world of the glorious grace of God in Christ.





## Statement on Anglican Church of South Sudan

### Sponsor: Archbishop Justin Badi

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, reaffirm our commitment to peace, security and stability in the South Sudan.

We acknowledge the impact of climate change on the nation of South Sudan and how the rising frequency of floods has undermined the already precarious lives of so many. Poverty and unemployment have deepened the sense of crisis and meant that many young people are leaving the country, devoid of hope.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, and we seek the Kingdom of God, where the first shall be last and the last shall be first. We pray for peace and justice in South Sudan, for the flourishing of all people, and a future where we all realise the Shalom, the wholeness, of lives reconciled to God in Christ, to each other, and to his creation.



## Church of Ceylon, the Anglican Church in Sri Lanka, Statement

### Sponsor: The Right Reverend Keerthisiri Fernando

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022:

1. Affirm the peaceful campaigns of the protest movements, civil society and the national churches in Sri Lanka in recent months for radical change in the constitutional and political structures of the country to promote the Rule of Law, public accountability and governance that is free of corruption, nepotism and mismanagement
2. Call upon the new president and government of Sri Lanka to unite with all political parties and the peaceful protest movements to agree on a programme of political and economic reform to address the serious economic challenges facing the country and ensure that the poorer sections of the community do not have to bear the burden of such remedial action
3. Acknowledge the serious hardships faced by the people due to the scarcity of essential supplies, the disruptions in their daily lives, the serious shortages of medicines in hospitals, the disruptions in schools and universities, and the suffering and dislocations in the agricultural, plantation and fishing communities
4. Note that these immediate challenges must be addressed without overlooking the important and unfinished tasks of national reconciliation and transitional justice following the island's long and tragic civil war
5. Call upon the international community to extend its support and assistance to the people of Sri Lanka to ensure that the government of Sri Lanka obtains urgent humanitarian and economic assistance to mitigate the hardships experienced by ordinary people, and to be able to restore the national economy and pursue policies that are in the best interests of the people of the country
6. Noting with concern that the new government, rather than reaching out to opposition political parties and civil society to reach consensus through dialogue and cooperation, has in recent days sought to crackdown on criticism, dissent and the freedoms of speech and peaceful protest, calls upon the new president and government to address the enormous responsibilities it faces in a manner that upholds the Rule of Law and basic human rights
7. Expresses solidarity with the bishops and dioceses of the Church of Ceylon and the Sri Lankan people of all faiths and beliefs, as they face the challenges ahead, and commits to closely monitor, cooperate with, and accompany in prayer, the bishops and dioceses of the Church of Ceylon, in the crucial months ahead

Our prayer for the nation of Sri Lanka is for a sustainable and just peace, to the glory of Jesus Christ, our hope and salvation, and for the common good of all people.



## Statement of Support for the people of Myanmar/Burma

### Sponsor: Bishops of Myanmar at Lambeth Conference

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, from the provinces of the Anglican Communion, send a statement of support to the people of Myanmar/Burma.

The Lambeth Conference notes with deep concern the on-going conflicts in Myanmar/Burma and the resulting disruption to peace and security, and the consequent displacement of people and loss of human life.

Both the situation of the Rohingya community, which has been brought before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, and that of internal law and order, have given rise to grave reservations both regionally and internationally about respect for human dignity, democratic plurality and fundamental liberty. This includes the freedom of religion or belief, and honouring the sanctity and inviolability of places of worship.

We continue to pray for justice and reconciliation in Myanmar/Burma. We continue to encourage and support the Christian community within and without the country as they intercede wherever and whenever possible and in their efforts to bring about a durable solution that would protect and ensure the safety and well-being of all.



## Statement of Support for Tanzania

### Sponsor: Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, reaffirm our commitment to human dignity in Tanzania, East Africa and the entire Great Lakes Region.

We acknowledge the impact of political instability in Congo DRC and Northern Mozambique, climate change, and unemployment which have led young people into migration and many cases have exposed them to modern day slavery.

The church is called by God to protect the dignity of each human (Jn.3:16; Col.1:15-20). We therefore call upon all religious leaders to sensitize their communities against this evil and to work together with governments and non-governmental organisations to ensure measures that will protect people from being trafficked, and to build structures in society that work for the common good of all.



## Statement of Support regarding Indigenous Peoples in Canada and around the world

### Sponsor: Archbishop Linda Nicholls

We, the bishops of the worldwide communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth conference in 2022 affirm our commitment to the rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world in accordance with the United Nations Declaration of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We deeply regret the impacts of colonization that stripped Indigenous peoples of their agency, identity, languages, cultures and governance; colluded with the Doctrine of Discovery, including implementing corrosive government policies; denigrated their spiritual heritages; prohibited ceremonies and stole their land.

The Anglican Church of Canada shares in the painful legacy that separated children from their families. The Colonial law required that children be sent to residential schools where spiritual, emotional, physical and sexual abuse traumatized generations. In the words of Archbishop Michael Peers in his 1993 Apology, 'We tried to remake you in our image'. The Province of Canada has begun the long journey of acknowledgment, repentance, justice-seeking and healing that is needed to live into the reconciliation that is central to the call of the Gospel and the human dignity of all God's children.

The framework for a self-determining Indigenous Church within the Anglican Church of Canada is on the cusp of affirmation by Indigenous peoples of the Sacred Circle in 2023. We commit to pray with the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and Sacred Circle as they discern the shape of a Gospel-centred church that will walk together with the whole Church in new ways that reflect Indigenous values and spiritual commitments.

We commit to pray for non-Indigenous people across Canadians as they learn to recognize the full story of colonization and the continuing impacts that contribute to poverty; inadequate housing; missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls; generational trauma, underfunded education and inadequate healthcare for Indigenous people.

We commit to pray with Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people as we learn together how the devastating effects of inter generational trauma have shaped our relationships. We know that the liberating power of the gospel is needed to bring freedom and fullness of life for all God's people.

We commit to the work of decolonizing for the purpose of rehumanizing.

We commit to walk-with and support Indigenous peoples around the world who long for that same freedom.



## Statement of Support in response to the shootings in the USA

### Sponsor: Bishop Michael Curry

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, from the provinces of the Anglican Communion are deeply grieved by the continued news of mass shootings in the United States.

Remembering the Apostle Paul's reminder to the Corinthian Christians that "if one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it," we bishops are deeply grieved by continued news of mass shootings in the United States and the deaths that result from these awful events...in schools, in stores, in public places of all kinds, and even, a short time ago, in an Episcopal parish in Alabama. We pray for the victims and their loved ones, and for all those who find themselves fearful in the face of gun violence. We applaud the work of groups such as Bishops United Against Gun Violence (<https://bishopsagainstgunviolence.org>), and beseech God to honour the efforts of all people of good will in advocating for legislation that could decrease the number of people in the United States who are killed or wounded by gunfire.

We likewise are distressed by news of the ongoing turmoil and pernicious divisions that exist in various ways throughout the country, and contribute to the anxiety experienced by many, both individually and communally. It is our fervent hope that the Way of Love which we see most clearly in Jesus of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, may find its way into the hearts of those who find themselves in opposition to one another, breaking down barriers and providing hope in dark times.



## Refugee and Migration Crisis Statement

### Sponsor: Archbishop Justin Welby

We, the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called together by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference in 2022, reaffirm our commitment to the treatment of refugees and migrants as made in the image of God and therefore deserving of equal dignity and respect.

The statements from individual Provinces within the Anglican Communion that have already been presented to this Lambeth Conference highlight the growing impact of conflict, climate change and food shortages on the already massive movement of peoples within and across nations. As Anglicans, we are called in our Marks of Mission to “respond to human need by loving service” and to “transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.” Meeting the immediate needs of those who have been displaced or trafficked in any way, and doing what we can to build better structures to help all people flourish, is at the heart of our mission.

### We therefore affirm our support for:

1. The UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) Welcoming the Stranger (2013) initiative, which includes a set of affirmations signed by global religious leaders. The affirmations aim to inspire leaders of all faiths to ‘Welcome the Stranger’ with dignity, respect and loving support and are a resource and a practical tool to foster support for refugees and other displaced people in their communities <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/protection/hcdialogue%20/51b6de419/welcoming-stranger-affirmations-faith-leaders.html>
2. The work of Anglican provinces, dioceses and agencies on the ground. Churches and other faith communities are on the front line of many displacement situations – whether in identifying early warning signs of potential displacement, meeting the physical and spiritual needs of displaced populations, or dealing with their own displacement, within countries and across borders
3. The Global Compacts on Refugees and Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and welcome the widespread adoption of both Compacts by states in 2018. We urge all countries to fully implement their commitments under the Compacts, and integrate the principles of the Compacts into national policy. We celebrate those provinces and dioceses of the Anglican Communion who have already pledged to support the aims of the Global Compact on Refugees and encourage others ministering and working with displaced populations to work with the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations to make submissions ahead of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.
4. A response to the increased understanding at the global level of climate change and other environmental changes as drivers of displacement, recognising that the vast majority of displacement in the context of disasters and climate change happens within countries, rather than across national borders. We call for more political will to integrate just, generous and universal efforts at the global level, with the richest bearing the greatest burdens, including across UNFCCC, IOM and other international agencies and fora.