



World Council of Churches

General Secretariat

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Geneva, July 22, 2017

Dear Heads of Churches in Jerusalem

My heart and my prayers are with you and your churches these days, and with all the peoples of faith in Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

We are calling for churches around the world to pray for you these days and for a just peace for Jerusalem. We are sure that churches around the world are following you with great sympathy and with great determination that, together, we will change this situation.

Your journey in your homeland on this pilgrimage of justice and peace has been long and arduous, but you are not alone. We have been monitoring the situation in Jerusalem with deep sorrow and grave concern recognizing that violence is spiriting conflict on a contentious site for both Jews and Muslims. As a worldwide fellowship of churches, we are urging the world church body and all people of good will to unite in prayer for a just and peaceful solution in Jerusalem.

We pray and plead for both sides in this precarious situation to talk with one another and arrive at a bone fide solution for access to the Holy Site so that people of faith may worship peacefully. This is the only way forward to coexistence and the violence to cease.

Through this letter, we reaffirm our commitment to walk together with you, by endorsing your statement from 19 July, and reiterating an urgent plea for peace and dialogue between Israeli authorities and Palestinians.

The WCC is working closely with you in Jerusalem and in the wider area of the Holy Land.

Let us all be inspired and guided by the words of Saint Paul in the Epistle to the Romans, where we learn the essentiality to “make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification” (Romans 14:19).

We are in solidarity with you as you continue to plea for dialogue and open access to areas free from electronic gates infringing on the rights to worship at Holy Sites.

We stand in solidarity with Muslims, Jews and Christians, and we pray that justice and peace will prevail, not only this week but in the weeks, months and years to come.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Olav Fykse Tveit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary
World Council of
Churches