



World Council of Churches

General Secretariat

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Geneva, July 6, 2016

Eid Al Fitr Greetings

I am pleased to have this opportunity once again of sending the greetings of the World Council of Churches to the worldwide Muslim community as they celebrate Eid Al Fitr after keeping the fast of Ramadan for the past month.

I want to express my appreciation for the Declaration that was issued by the meeting called by King Mohammed VI of Morocco, and held in Marrakesh in January 2016. I welcome warmly, both for myself and on behalf of the World Council of Churches, the words and sentiments expressed in this Declaration, and in particular its vision for, and commitment to work towards, the framework of a common citizenship which would be inclusive of all citizens in lands which are predominantly Muslim, regardless of their individual religious allegiance.

I am writing this letter just after the end of the World Council of Churches Central Committee meeting, which has been taking place in the city of Trondheim, in my own home country of Norway, between June 22-29. At this Central Committee meeting our focus was on the pilgrimage of justice and peace, and we explored what it might mean for the World Council of Churches, and its member churches, to walk with other people of faith to respond to some of the most challenging and intractable issues of our time.

Among the topics to which we gave particular attention last year was that of climate change – and its implications especially for some of the most vulnerable people in our world. This is surely an area of concern for which as Christians and Muslims, with our mutual understanding of the role of human beings as gifted by God with the responsibility for the care of creation, we can – and must – work together. We raised up the issue of racism in our meeting in Trondheim, that pernicious evil which continues to infect many parts of our world. We spent significant time reflecting on how the World Council of Churches and the ecumenical constituency can respond constructively to the extraordinarily difficult challenges currently faced in several parts of the Middle East. We explored together the interface between violence and religion itself, and were greatly privileged to have a Muslim speaker helping us to do so. These are certainly areas where, as Christians and Muslims, we have wisdom to share with each other.

I look forward to working with Muslim friends and colleagues over the coming year, helping to give substance to the noble words of this Declaration.

I wish you, and those whom you speak for, a holy and happy time of Eid.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Olav Fykse Tveit". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'O'.

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary