



# World Council of Churches

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with deep and shared concern that we hear of the Ebola crisis and its devastating impact on the lives of men, women and children living in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Nigeria.

We are also concerned about the risks to the many caring local and international health service providers who are giving medical care and support for those at risk or already infected by Ebola.

We understand the fear that has gripped these countries and the difficulty of extending pastoral care to the patients of Ebola. We appreciate the need for isolating patients in order to control the spread of the disease. We also understand the troubling sense of isolation felt by the patients, as it goes against the African culture to suffer or to die alone. Cultural understanding also leads us to call for the dignified burial of deceased victims of Ebola.

We call on the governments of the affected countries to do all they can to facilitate the accurate sharing of information about the disease so that people can identify the symptoms quickly and seek medical help.

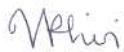
We call on the international medical community to work as a team to find humane solutions to curb the spread of this deadly disease. We call on the medical fraternity to increase efforts to find an effective prevention to Ebola and curative treatment therapies for affected patients. Ebola reminds us that it is the poor and the weak of our societies who are the first to be impacted by such deadly diseases.

We call on our member churches and congregations to seek out appropriate ways of supporting our affected brothers and sisters, particularly through our Christian health services in the affected countries, who are over-stretched and lacking many of the basic necessities and resources to deal effectively and compassionately with this crisis. As St.

Paul said, "If one member suffers, all suffer together" (1 Cor. 12: 26). What affects one, affects us all.

Our prayers are with those who have lost their loved ones and those who are currently sick and aware that there is limited hope of recovery. We pray for protection of the teams of international and local doctors and support staff, who are risking their own lives in order to bring hope and healing to the victims of Ebola. We pray for the healing ministry of the churches to bring compassion and the sustaining love of Christ to the families of the victims.

We hold you close, in our thoughts and prayers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'I. Phiri'.

Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri  
Associate and Acting General Secretary  
World Council of Churches