

ourvoices.net

bringing faith to the climate talks

2nd September 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Worldwide Solidarity Prayers for people vulnerable to sea-level rise



Figure 1 Led by Deacon Daniel of St. Andrew's the Apostle Roman Catholic Church of Grenville, St. Andrew's, residents join Dessima Williams, Former Ambassador to the UN, and Former Prime Minister Tillman J Thomas in solidarity prayers at Telescope Beach, Granada

This week, World leaders gathering in Samoa for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Summit received an unexpected message – a collection of photographs of people from around the world who have stood together in the sea, in prayerful solidarity for those vulnerable to sea-level rise and extreme weather events.

The photos were sent from ourvoices.net, an international campaign of peoples from diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds who are urging

world leaders to agree to a strong climate treaty by the time of the UN climate talks in Paris in December 2015.

The poignance of this act was made more acute with the recent news of Choiseul in the Pacific Solomon Islands being the first town having to evacuate because of its vulnerability to extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

Commenting on this global community action Dessima Williams, Former Ambassador to the UN said:

“We are sharing these photos with leaders coming to the Summit here in Samoa to remind them that people around the world care deeply about those impacted by climate change. We invite others to offer Solidarity SeaPrayers. Send your pictures to info@ourvoices.net for sharing with our leaders”.

“We who live here in Samoa and other small island states are calling out for world leaders to protect our families and communities by stopping manmade climate change”, said Nana Firman, a Muslim leader affiliated with the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences, “please encourage ten of your friends to sign ourvoices.net to help show that millions of us from different spiritual and religious backgrounds share deep concern about climate change and want a strong climate treaty”.



Figure 2 Sister Pat Daly reflecting on all the lives vulnerable to sea-level rise, Findhorn Community Beach, Scotland

Sister Pat Daly from the US, added: “We want our leaders to know they are in our prayers too, for them to have the courage and generosity to make provision for those communities worst affected, and to take measures to stop manmade carbon emissions which can only result in many, many more people losing their homes and livelihoods”.

Ends./..

Notes to Editors:

1. ourvoices.net is a call to people of faith and moral belief, across the world, to register their concern about climate change. Everyone is invited to sign up, pray and meditate for politicians to act boldly to reach a meaningful global climate agreement in Paris in December 2015.

ourvoices.net is a response to the UN climate leader Christiana Figueres's request for a much stronger message from the faiths of the world, regarding the **moral imperative** for a deal. In her view, without this

strong signal to the world's politicians it will be very difficult to get a meaningful deal.

our**voices**.net is a multi-faith project and has three objectives:

- * To build the biggest multi-faith movement ever, calling for action on climate change.
- * To focus on the power of prayer and meditation as an essential contribution to change, giving support to the negotiators to have the courage, generosity and imagination to reach a meaningful deal.
- * To highlight all the brilliant things already being done by faith groups, from rescue and relief at climate disasters, to resilience projects, to community support and education on clean energy living.



Figure 3 ourvoicers on Brighton Beach, England



Figure 4 Solidarity Prayer by the Tin Hau Temple, Hong Kong

SEE MORE ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK

2. People are posting their Solidarity SeaPrayers on Twitter @ourvoices2015 with #solidarityprayers and on Facebook with #solidarityprayers and tagging @our voices

3. Contacts:

UK: Tessa Tennant - tessa.tennant@ourvoices.net +44 1896 830210

USA: The Rev Fletcher Harper - fletcher.harper@ourvoices.net +[1201-390-0094](tel:12013900094)

Rest of World: media@ourvoices.net

4. The UN SIDS Summit <http://www.sids2014.org>