



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
RESPONSE TO TERRORISM 187/01S

Resolved

That the Synod

- (i) affirm that in the present crisis the Christian Gospel offers comfort, guidance and challenge, and in particular:
 - (a) affirm that God passionately cares for all those who are the victims of terrorism, violence, and injustice
 - (b) affirm that Jesus Christ works always and everywhere for peace with justice, and calls not only the church but all humankind to share in that work:
 - (ii) recognise that the hijacking of a aircraft and attacks on New York, Washington and the Fields of Pennsylvania on 11 September 2001 were acts of terrorism and were criminal acts that defied both basic human values and international law, and that these acts were perpetrated not only against citizens of the USA but against citizens of some 80 nations and members of many different religions;
 - (iii) condemn these terrorist acts and express its condolences to all who were harmed by them;
 - (iv) note that the terrorism of 11 September is an act of aggression which is covered by Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and that the United Nations Security Council has adopted a series of measures, set out in Resolution 1373 (2001) which require action by all member states individually and collectively to stop further terrorism and bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice according to international law; including action to stop the funding of terrorist groups, refraining from offering any support to terrorist acts, undertaking criminal investigation and prosecution of those who are involved in terrorism, cooperating with other nations in these actions and reporting to the United Nations on steps taken to implement the resolution;
 - (v) note that terrorism, that is, acts of aggression against civilians, contrary to international law, have in the past been perpetrated by national governments as well as by groups acting without government authority (as is acknowledged in Resolution 1373 and other UN documents);
 - (vi) call for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 in a way that is consistent with human rights and the rule of law, and that ends both state and non-state terrorism;
 - (vii) call on the Australian Government to co-operate in international efforts to bring terrorists to justice, rejecting all forms of retaliation and vengeance.
 - (viii) inform the Australian Government of this resolution and ask UnitingCare NSW.ACT to monitor the situation and engage in further advocacy as required;
 - (ix) call on all members of the Uniting Church to pray for peace with justice throughout the world, and for wisdom for national and world leaders as they seek an end to terrorism.
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