

16 August 2012

Statement on Violence, Hatred, Mistreatment of Minorities and Terrorist Attacks

1. We acknowledge that religions are implicated in acts of violence and terrorism, though religion does not justify atrocities
2. We affirm that no religion, in itself, advocates violence or terrorism
3. Equating religion with violence is a distortion, whether done by those opposed to religion or those who hijack religion to support violence
4. Peace with God and our fellow human beings is at the heart of Christianity and Islam
5. We acknowledge that believers do not always make clear that they are for peace and against violence
6. Doctrines of 'just war' and (military) jihad do not provide **any** justification for acts of terrorism
7. We urge Christians and Muslims, and all people, to renounce violence and work for peace
8. We are opposed to religious intolerance, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and marginalisation of minorities and condemn intolerant attitudes
9. We especially condemn any mistreatment and persecution by Christians or Muslims, including in situations of conversion
10. We feel deeply the pain of attacks on all who suffer from hostility and violence and urge those in conflict situations to acknowledge the humanity of the other
11. We stand with those who suffer in our words, prayers and deeds
12. We call on all governments to work for peace, instead of increasing conflict, and to respect all people within their countries

Signed by the Presidents of the Christian Muslim Forum:

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Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham
Rt Revd Paul Hendricks (Co-Chair)
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