



# THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

A COMMUNION OF CHURCHES – EINE KIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT – UNA COMUNIÓN DE IGLESIAS – UNE COMMUNION D'ÉGLISES  
LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND – FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL – FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

---

*Office of the General Secretary*

**LWF Council, 31 August-6 September 2005, Jerusalem/Bethlehem**

## **Dalit Liberation and Caste-based Discrimination**

The Council VOTED:

to express strong support for the current initiatives of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India and the ecumenical church for Dalit liberation;

to call on LWF member churches and related agencies to accompany and provide material support for the work of the LWF member churches in India and the field programs in India and Nepal for the welfare and empowerment of Dalit individuals and communities;

to commend the Kathmandu Dalit Declaration of 2004 to the LWF member churches for study and action as appropriate;

to acknowledge and express appreciation for the decision by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (2005/109) to authorize its Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to undertake a study process on 'discrimination based on work and descent', with a view to the drafting of a set of principles and guidelines for the elimination of this form of discrimination;

to express our appreciation to the LWF General Secretary and to Mr Peter Prove and all his colleagues for this significant and historic breakthrough; and

to commend this study process to all LWF member churches, field programs and related agencies with relevant expertise on the situation of Dalits and other communities affected by discrimination based on descent and occupation (e.g. the Burakumin of Japan, the occupational caste groups of West Africa, and others), and to invite them to contribute their insights and recommendations to the LWF secretariat to be conveyed to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

*The LWF is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF currently has 140 member churches in 78 countries all over the world, with a total membership of nearly 66 million.*

