



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org

Open letter – To Member Churches and related partners in Latin America and the Caribbean on Threats to Democracy

The LWF Council expresses its deep concern for the difficult situations that some Latin American countries are going through in their democratic processes, particularly in Brazil and Venezuela. This concern has been shared through communications amongst the LWF member churches in the region, communications that speak of the concern for the uncertainty and vulnerability of the democratic and legal processes of the countries in the region.

We believe that as a communion it is necessary to express our deep concern, not only for Brazil and Venezuela, but also for all the countries that wish to uphold democracy.

- In Brazil, mobilizations and demonstrations have shown disapproval of the current situation, which is for many men and women a coup d'état justified through an investigation for “fiscal responsibility crimes” allegedly carried out by the democratically elected first woman president of Brazil.
- In Venezuela, the situation has become difficult and unbearable due to both internal and external pressures. The lack of food, electricity and medicines affect mainly those most in need. There is uncertainty and lack of trust in the proper application of the constitutional tools that allow the voice of the people to be heard.

Bearing in mind the dramatic situation suffered by Latin American countries in the 1970s and 1980s, during which constitutional laws were violated and coups d'état perpetrated, we call upon you to be attentive (Mark 13:33) and to call upon your governments to ensure respect for democratic processes and the rule of law.

In the name of the communion of the Lutheran World Federation we urge the churches of Latin America and the Caribbean to never stop defending peace and justice, in particular by:

- Continuing to proclaim the love and mercy of God, especially calling for respect among persons who think differently in a context of polarization;

- Inviting the churches of the region to renew their engagement with love, justice and peace, reconciliation and the vision of building a better world; and
- Promoting fundamental respect for human rights in order to foster the democratic process.

You will be in our prayers as you witness for justice, peace and reconciliation. We trust our Lord will give you the strength and hope for a renewed and better future for all.