



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org

Resolution – Supporting Arab Christians in the Middle East

The LWF Council supports the on-going efforts by the Fellowship of Middle East Council of Churches (FMECC) to sustain the Christian presence in the Middle East as a witness for the gospel of love and the sake of moderation. Being aware that these churches, including our member church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, are witnessing in very difficult circumstances, we pledge our support, financial and otherwise, as they develop an indigenous theology of mission and vision in the Middle East and continue their witness through educational and social programs. We also support them for the role they play in building a modern civil society that respects internationally-recognized human rights, including freedom of religion and freedom of speech, and promotes gender justice.

We support:

- 1) religious speech that respects “the other” and recognizes them as they wish to be understood;
- 2) changes in educational curricula that call on everyone to respect different religious traditions;
- 3) the promotion of an understanding that the Christian presence in the Middle East is integral to those societies and that they are bridge-builders;
- 4) the promotion of an understanding that regional conflicts are at their roots not primarily religious but political, historical and economic, among others.

The LWF Council calls also on the nation states to guarantee equal citizenship -- with equal rights and responsibilities -- grounded in law that respects all ethnicities and religions and embraces diversity. It also reiterates its support for the building of Christian-Muslim-Jewish relations that promote mutual understanding and respect and actively overcome any kind of extremism.