

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Toronto Conference Anti-Racism Task Group and Interchurch Interfaith Committee condemn incidents of racism and anti-Semitism.

In light of the current events in Canada, the Middle East and Afghanistan, we declare;

Our full support of the intent of the two separate statements issued April 15, 2002 by The Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region and Palestine House, affirming peoples' right to demonstrate peacefully, but that it is completely inappropriate to do this at the places of worship and community centres of other religions and nationalities.

That we decry the incidents of racism and anti-Semitism that have occurred across Canada in recent months. Our Christian faith calls on us to love our neighbour even when we disagree with their beliefs and political convictions.

That in Canada we have the opportunity to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. At this critical time it is even more important that people of faith make extra efforts to be in dialogue with those of other faith communities.

This is a time when actions will speak louder than words. As people of faith, we are called to show the world the promises of justice, hope and love. There is an alternative to bombs, hate and death. We call on all religions and community organizations to talk and work together. We have no way of changing the past and all that has happened. But we can help shape the future. By our action or inaction we make a choice. The future can be more of the same, or it can be one of hope.

For further information, please contact:

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