



# Christian Council of Norway

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Sisters and Brothers in Christ

After the tragic events in Oslo and Utøya July 22nd we have received messages from so many Sisters and Brothers conveying condolences, expressing that you are with us in prayers, comforting us, being in solidarity and supporting us in what we have been going through these days. We will express our heartfelt and deep appreciation and thanks for the way you have been and still are with us, the whole nation of Norway, the Churches and in particular those who are directly affected, suffering and mourning because of one man's horrific acts. Your greetings have been a powerful demonstration to us of what the global Church fellowship can mean to us all. We have passed on your greetings to all the Member Churches of Christian Council of Norway.

We thank God for our highest authorities for the way they have been and are leading us through these days of shock, sorrow and grief. The King and his Family have been close to the people. The same is the case for the Prime Minister. Together they have from the very first moment set the tone for our reaction as Nation and for individuals. They have in fact been comforting the whole nation; particularly the affected ones, and they have expressed a strong commitment to strengthen Norway as an open society, defending democracy and our basic values. Hate and revenge has not been part of their vocabulary, very much on the contrary that love, compassion and commitment to our tradition should be carrying elements of our reaction. Political leaders of all parties have been standing together. This kind of leadership is of great value for our Nation.

People have been killed both by the bomb in Oslo and through the mass murdering at Utøya. The bomb in Oslo was in a concrete way an attack on the heart of our ruling system. Civil servants and people passing by the governmental buildings were killed. What happened has also in a special way been very demanding to the leadership and the members of the Labor Party Youth Movement (AUF). It is particularly tragic that young political leaders, not only future leaders but the leaders of today, with an influential voice, with commitment to justice, peace, democracy and an open society, are affected and even killed. Also the AUF leaders are representing a remarkable way of tackling this catastrophe.

The perpetrator has in some of his documentation referred to Christian faith and Christian culture and to fighting Islam in Europe. To us it is clear that his acts can in no way be associated with Christian faith and values and his view on Islam as a threat is not shared by us. For all people of faith – whatever tradition – we have to stand together against this kind of world view and the kinds of acts that he has committed.

As Churches together in Norway we send you our deepest appreciation and thanks.

Yours in Christ

Sr Else Britt Nilsen OP (sign)  
Moderator of the Board

Ørnulf Steen  
General Secretary