



# Christian Conference of Asia

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## CCA General Secretary's Message on 'Korea Peace Action Day' - 27 July

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) stands in solidarity with the Korean people on the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and the observance of Korea Peace Action Day scheduled for 27 July 2024. As the voice of the churches and the ecumenical movement in Asia, CCA reiterates its support for the people of the Korean peninsula and their aspirations for peace with justice, reconciliation, and reunification of the divided Korea.

The division of Korea into "North" and "South" more than seven decades ago symbolizes one of the most painful political and ideological tribulations of the Cold War era. Although the Korean War was said to have "technically" ended on 27 July 1953, with the signing of an armistice, the country remains divided. For 71 years, the region has been in a stalemate that has caused much suffering to the people living in both North and South Korea, the stakes being raised higher than ever with the growing nuclear weapon capacity in the region.

While CCA appeals for the immediate cessation of all hostilities, we believe that every effort toward preventive diplomacy through meaningful dialogue will defuse military tensions and reduce nuclear risks. It is also imperative that communication channels among people and communities be opened in the divided Korean peninsula. The CCA reiterates its support for Korean churches in their repeated calls for a permanent peace treaty to replace the 1953 armistice.

The CCA also commends the enduring efforts of the Korean churches, especially the organisers of the peace rally, for sustaining attention on the dire need to promote peace and reconciliation. We stand steadfastly with the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) in their earnest efforts to campaign for a peace agreement to replace the armistice that will lead to ending the state of war on the Korean peninsula.

We are reminded of St. Paul's words again: "Christ is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has broken down the wall of hostility, creating in himself one new people" (Ephesians 2: 14). We are also called to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). We firmly believe that fostering bonds of peace can achieve unity, and through unity, sustain peace on the Korean peninsula.

On this occasion, CCA urges all Christians across Asia to continue to pray for peace, reconciliation, and reunification of the divided Korean peninsula. Let us pray for the leaders and citizens of both nations that they may be guided by wisdom and compassion in their pursuit of lasting peace. May God Almighty bring unity and peace in the Korean peninsula.

Yours along the journey,

Dr. Mathews George Chunakara  
General Secretary, CCA