



10 December 2024

Christian Conference of Asia's Statement on Human Rights Day 2024

On Human Rights Day 2024, the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to upholding and advancing human rights for all. This year's theme, "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now", serves as a call to action, reminding us that the future we aspire to begins with the choices we make today. It compels us to stand in defense of the silenced, to shield the vulnerable from harm, and to dismantle the systems that sustain inequality and suffering. At the heart of this mission are children, the stewards of tomorrow, whose rights we must protect to ensure they inherit a world grounded in justice, peace, and dignity.

We cannot ignore the stark reality of ongoing human rights violations across Asia. Religious minorities face persecution, suppression of religious freedom, and even death. Migrant workers endure exploitative conditions, often deprived of their basic rights and dignity. In some countries, authoritarian regimes silence dissent, stifling free expression and oppressing those who seek justice and reform. Meanwhile, the alarming rise in child labour and trafficking robs countless children of their futures, perpetuating cycles of poverty and exploitation. These violations strike at the core of human dignity and demand urgent, collective action.

The CCA unequivocally condemns these violations and calls on governments, civil society, and faith communities to take decisive action in upholding the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Church in Asia bears a significant responsibility as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for positive change. Rooted in Christ's teachings, the Church is called to protect human dignity by standing in support of those whose rights are under threat, ensuring that no one is left unheard or unseen. The Church also plays a vital role in preventing harm by addressing the root causes of injustice, such as poverty, discrimination, and systemic marginalisation. This includes supporting initiatives that tackle inequality, providing access to education, and advocating for fairer policies. By working with local organisations, governments, and other faith communities, the Church can empower vulnerable communities, especially children, to realise their God-given potential. Through these efforts, the Church helps lay the foundation for a society where all people can live in freedom and dignity.

This mission is not merely a duty but a sacred calling, one that invites the Church to embody the love of Christ in tangible ways, working alongside others to bring light and hope to a world in need of healing and transformation.

The CCA stands steadfast in its commitment to advocating for human rights for all, drawing strength from the teachings of Christ, who ministered to the marginalised and embodied compassion for those in need. Human rights are not just a legal or political concept; they reflect the divine image in every person and offer a pathway to peace, equality, and sustainability.

On this Human Rights Day, let us renew our resolve to defend the dignity of all people, confront injustice wherever it is found, and work towards a world where every individual can live in freedom and dignity. Together, we can ensure that the vision of justice, equality, and peace becomes a reality for all.

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