



# Christian Conference of Asia

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## **CCA Statement on World Refugee Day "Solidarity with Refugees"**

On World Refugee Day 2025, the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) stands in deep solidarity with refugees, forcibly displaced persons, and stateless communities across the world, especially within our own region.

Asia and the Pacific are home to over 17.2 million people who have been displaced or rendered stateless due to conflict, military occupation, persecution, political instability, and the growing impacts of climate change. From the long-standing displacement of the Rohingya to ongoing crises in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Palestine, the region bears a complex and urgent humanitarian burden.

Increasing numbers of climate-displaced persons live in low-lying and vulnerable areas of South and Southeast Asia, particularly in Bangladesh's coastal districts, the Sundarbans delta, the Maldives, and coastal regions of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, where rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, typhoons, and flooding are already displacing communities and threatening livelihoods.

In countries such as Sri Lanka and Pakistan, minority communities face systemic threats that uproot lives. In Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, asylum seekers live in legal limbo, frequently without recognition or rights. Meanwhile, Indigenous peoples and rural communities across South and Southeast Asia are displaced by extractive industries, militarisation, and environmental degradation.

As people of faith, we recognise these crises not only as urgent calls for humanitarian response but also as a solemn responsibility to care for God's creation and uphold the dignity of every human being. The Church in Asia is called to stand in unwavering solidarity with those forced to flee their homes due to environmental devastation, conflict, and exclusion. We must be sanctuaries of welcome and agents of advocacy—challenging the systems that perpetuate displacement while accompanying affected communities with compassion, hope, and resilience.

On this World Refugee Day, the Christian Conference of Asia urges its member churches and councils to embody this solidarity through sustained accompaniment, prophetic witness, and faithful advocacy. Let us walk alongside the displaced with unwavering commitment, bearing witness to their struggles, defending their dignity, and working together toward a future where no one is forced to flee.

Dr Mathews George Chunakara  
General Secretary, CCA