



10 December 2025

## Statement on Human Rights Day-2025

On Human Rights Day 2025, we reaffirm a simple yet profound truth: human rights are the everyday essentials that allow all people to live with dignity. This year's theme, "Our everyday essentials," reminds us that these rights are not distant ideals but are present in our daily lives, shaping the safety, opportunity, joy, and sense of belonging that every person deserves. These essentials also remind us of the need to acknowledge and recognise the importance of standing in solidarity with one another and committing ourselves to the common good, as we are all mutually accountable.

We are reminded that human rights are essential, the shared foundation that unites us across differences and anchors us in times of uncertainty. They bring protection, freedom, and hope into our lives. We also affirm that human rights are attainable, beginning in the choices we make each day to respect one another, challenge injustice, and listen to voices too often silenced. When we act with courage and compassion in solidarity, we help build a world where the dignity and rights of every person are truly valued and recognised.

Yet the reality across Asia reminds us that human rights remain under threat. Millions of Asians live amidst anxiety as political turmoil, repression, and armed conflict continue to deepen suffering across the region. It is often heard how human rights activists and defenders, as well as media persons, face surveillance, arbitrary detention, and persecution. People's movements against human rights violations are met with unlawful force. Violence and discrimination against women, girls, Indigenous peoples, and minorities remain widespread. Armed conflict, rampant militarisation and forced displacements, especially in Myanmar, have intensified human suffering, while authoritarian restrictions in countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh suppress fundamental freedoms.

The climate crisis further endangers human security. In recent weeks, devastating floods and landslides have swept across Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, claiming more than 1,600 lives and displacing over a million people. These disasters reveal how extreme weather, driven by climate change, threatens basic rights to safety, housing, livelihood, and healthcare, particularly for the most vulnerable whose basic necessities are increasingly unattainable. At the same time, far too many people fleeing violence and persecution encounter detention, deportation, or neglect instead of protection.

In this ongoing struggle for attaining human rights and human dignity, the Church has a vital role. CCA calls on its member churches and councils to heed the call to be a voice for the voiceless, a refuge for the vulnerable, and a moral guide for society. "Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:8-9). This biblical verse captures the heart of our human rights responsibility to defend dignity.

On this Human Rights Day, let us renew our commitment to making human rights the everyday essentials of every person, everywhere.

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