



Christian Conference of Asia

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

For more than a year now, we have been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19; and the impact of the outbreak poses enormous challenges to the entire human population.

It is with great concern that we follow the situation of the uncontrolled spread of fierce new Covid-19 waves and significant surges in infections in the past few weeks in several South Asian countries, especially in India. We stand with you in solidarity and prayer in the midst of the suffering and loss of thousands of lives in India.

We grieve with you before God, for loss of so many family members, friends, pastors, teachers and health care workers who have been taken by this pandemic. We also share the pain of those who are sick and suffering. It is our hope and prayer that during this period of crisis, God Almighty will continue to accompany you, and uphold each other as they struggle for healing and recovery.

We thank God and are grateful for the churches in India as well as various institutions and their leadership for being a beacon of hope amidst when the corona virus affected people are fraught without effective ways to break the chain of transmission. The witness of Indian churches and the unconditional service of congregations to people, without discrimination are greatly valued. We particularly lift up and pray for the health care personnel, hospitals, clinics and community health initiatives of the churches which are being overwhelmed and stretched to their limits, serving and caring for the flood of sick and suffering people. Your accompaniment of affected people and communities, and support to vulnerable people to sustain their livelihoods and resource mobilisation efforts during this unprecedented crisis are highly appreciated.

Your Christian sisters and brothers throughout the global ecumenical fellowship will join you in observing and promoting Friday 7 May 2021, as a Day of Praying and Fasting for the healing of India, called for by the three leading church bodies in India - the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, the National Council of Churches in India, and the Evangelical Fellowship of India.

We are also encouraging the members of the global ecumenical fellowship - individuals, communities and institutions - to mobilise resources and to extend support for the work of the churches in India in accompanying and healing the coronavirus affected people and communities in India. We hope the resources and prayer we offer will assist you in your journey.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/covid-19-resources>

As Prophet Hosea expresses an emotion attributed to God, “My heart is overwhelmed, my pity is stirred” (Hosea 11:8), we also experience a feeling now as we are surrounded by so many brothers and sisters who are suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a situation like this, where we all live amidst fear, anxiety, and uncertainty, may our faith and spiritual values sustain us to live with hope in God’s abundant mercies, love, care and protection.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă
Acting General Secretary

World Council of Churches



Dr Matthews George Chunakara
General Secretary

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