



7 November 2024

Christian Conference of Asia supports the call of Armenian church leaders in West Asia for restoration of human rights of the Armenian population in Artsakh

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) joins the heads of Armenian churches and spiritual leaders in West Asia—His Holiness Catholicos Aram I of the Armenian Church, Holy See of Cilicia; His Beatitude Catholicos-Patriarch Raphaël Bedros XXI of the Armenian Catholic Church; and Rev. Dr Paul Haidostian, President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East—in calling for the Armenian people’s right to return to their historical homeland of Artsakh and for the restoration of their human rights. The joint appeal of prominent Armenian church leaders, issued on the occasion of COP29 UN Climate Change Conference, which will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024, is pertinent. CCA shares their concerns about the plight of Armenians of Artsakh impacted by the prolonged suffering caused by war, blockade, and the forced displacement of 120,000 Armenians from their historical homeland.

The Armenian people in Artsakh have faced unimaginable hardship and loss due to the Azerbaijani blockade and military actions in recent years. This enforced mass exodus from their homeland, coupled with the targeted destruction of Armenian cultural, historical, and religious heritage, represents not just an attack on a specific community but also on our shared human legacy. The ongoing crisis in the region, characterised by immense suffering and deprivation, warrants the urgent need for international attention and intervention. CCA calls upon all parties to engage in genuine dialogue and constructive negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, grounded in international law and respect for human rights.

CCA stands with the Armenian church leaders in their call for the international community to address these pressing issues and to ensure the protection and well-being of all those affected by this crisis. CCA also urges political, governmental, and diplomatic circles to heed the calls of the Armenian people and to support efforts for advocacy, justice, and the protection of Armenian cultural, historical, and religious sites in Artsakh. Furthermore, CCA urges fellow Christian and interfaith communities to join in a united voice for justice and peace, demonstrating solidarity in the face of such widespread suffering.

Christian Conference of Asia supports the church leaders’ call for special prayers during church services and encourages member churches and councils to pray for peace and the quick release of all those imprisoned by Azerbaijan, including political leaders, government officials, military personnel, soldiers, and advocates for the cause. CCA urges the international community to take decisive action, especially as world leaders gather for the upcoming COP29 conference in Baku. We call upon the COP29 participants to address the ongoing injustice faced by Armenians in Artsakh and to advocate for a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict that respects the rights of the Armenian people.

Dr Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA