



Uniting Church in Australia Assembly

Pacific Conference of Churches calls for action on West Papua

The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) has called for a boycott of all Indonesian products and programmes by the Indonesian Government until Indonesia facilitates a visit by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to investigate reports of [ongoing human rights abuses](#) in the Papuan provinces (West Papua).

The call comes four years after the Indonesian Government invited the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein to [visit the Papuan provinces](#), following a positive visit to many other provinces of Indonesia. That commitment has not been honoured.

Since 2018, the conflict between the Indonesian Government and the West Papua National Liberation Army has been escalating in the interior of Papua, and [as many as 100,000 people have been displaced fleeing the fighting](#), mostly in the Nduga regency.

West Papua has the highest concentration of Christians in Indonesia, and churches there have for decades called for greater scrutiny, demilitarisation and a commitment to peaceful dialogue, [most recently detailed in a statement by the West Papua Council of Churches \(WPCC\)](#).

The Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) echoes this call for dialogue and justice.

The UCA has a partnership with the Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua (GKI-TP) and is a member of the Pacific Conference of Churches.

“We join with our partner church GKI-TP and the Body of Christ across our region in longing for peace and justice in West Papua,” said UCA President Rev Sharon Hollis.

“I invite members of the Uniting Church to pray for the people of West Papua and to consider this call from the Pacific Conference of Churches.”

The Uniting Church Assembly and UnitingWorld will continue to advocate for West Papua to the Australian Government.

“We urge the Indonesian Government to choose dialogue and seek peaceful solutions over military interventions and make good on their commitment to allow access to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,” said Rev Hollis.

The UCA holds partnerships with several churches in Indonesia and through UnitingWorld supports some of them to carry out [community development projects](#) in poverty alleviation, gender equality, health and education.



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“Through our relationships and shared work with churches and ecumenical organisations across Indonesia and the Pacific, including West Papua, we have seen the fruits that can come from open conversations about cultural difference, sovereignty and self-determination,” said Rev Hollis.

“We believe dialogue is an essential first step to building peace and is urgently needed to uphold human life and dignity for our close neighbours in West Papua.”

The Uniting Church in Australia has a partnership with the Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua (GKI-TP), managed by UnitingWorld. We work together on [a livelihoods project to reduce poverty and improve health and nutrition](#).

The UCA is a member of the [International Coalition for Papua \(ICP\)](#), a coalition of faith-based and civil society organisations that are concerned about human rights violations in West Papua and seek greater transparency and peaceful solutions to conflict.

The Uniting Church in Australia is a member of the Pacific Conference of Churches.

Uniting Church Assembly National Consultant Rev Dr Apwee Ting has shared this prayer in Indonesian and English

Doa buat Papua

Disatukan oleh kasih dan kebaikan

Tuhan semesta alam
empunya
laut, sungai, gunung dan hutan
kasih Mu tidak membedakan
mereka yang tinggal
di perkotaan
di pegunungan
di perhutanan
di pedalaman

Ajarkan kami ya Tuhan
untuk hidup bersama
saling mengasihi
karena
setiap tetes air mata
berharga dihadapan Mu
setiap tindakan kekerasan



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menjadi duka terdalam buat Mu
setiap tetesan darah
merobek hati Mu

Tuhan Sang Pengasih
Engkau ada bersama
setiap komunitas
dari barat sampai timur
dari utara sampai selatan
dari beragam ribuan pulau yang ada
baik dikota, didesa maupun di lautan

Ajarkan kami ya Tuhan Sang Pengasih
untuk membawa
perdamaian daripada pertikaian
persatuan daripada perpecahan
kebaikan daripada kebencian
keadilan daripada kerusakan

Tuhan Sang Gembala Agung
Engkau berjalan bersama
kami semua
yang berbeda bahasa, budaya,
kepercayaan, tradisi dan suku

Ajarkan kami ya Tuhan
untuk menerima dan
memperlakukan setiap anak bangsa
dari Papua hingga Sumatra
secara adil dan setara
membangun bersama
menuju masyarakat
adil damai sejahtera
di setiap jengkal tanah air Indonesia

Prayer for Papua **Uniting in love and kindness**

God of the universe
Creator of
sea, river, mountain and forest
Your love does not discriminate
those who live
in urban areas
on the mountains
in forests



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in rural

Teach us O Lord
to live together
and to love one another
because
every tear drops
precious before you
any act of violence
be the deepest sorrow for you
every drop of blood
tore your heart

Loving God
You are with
every community
from west to east
from north to south
of the various thousands of islands
and
for those who live
in the city, in the village and remote areas

Teach us O Lord of Love
to bring peace rather than violence
unity rather than division
kindness rather than hatred
justice rather than cruelty

Lord the Good Shepherd
You walk together with us
in our differences: languages, cultures, beliefs, traditions and tribes

Teach us O Lord
to accept and respect
children of the nation
from Papua to Sumatra
justly and equally
building together
towards a just society and
peaceful community
in every inch of land in Indonesia

Amen

- *Rev Dr Apwee Ting*