



Network of **Christian Peace** Organisations

21st January 2020

STATEMENT REGARDING RELATIONS WITH IRAN

The Network of Christian Peace Organisations is deeply concerned about the current level of tensions between Iran and the United States following the recent extra-judicial killing of Qasem Soleimani and nine other people and the retaliatory rocket attacks on two US bases in Iraq.

We believe that all humans are created in the image of God and that all life is precious. The Bible teaches us that no person is beyond redemption and beyond the Grace and Love of Jesus Christ.

As Christians we are called to follow Jesus and His teachings of peace, not the short-term foreign policy objectives of our own government. We have a duty to speak truth to power, whatever the consequences may be.

Jesus has called us to be peacemakers. The successful negotiation of the Iran Nuclear Deal was a great example of peace-making in action, stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons and easing the suffering of the Iranian people through sanctions. The decisions of first the United States and now Iran to violate the terms of the Deal are disappointing and represent a backward step for the world. We believe that the deal can be saved if there is sufficient political will to do so. At a time when the United Kingdom is realigning global relationships this is a chance to speak for peace and cooperation. We urge the UK government to remain committed to the Iran Nuclear Deal.

We pray for all leaders involved in this situation. We pray that they will have the courage to seek dialogue and relationships that can forge a meaningful and lasting peace. We pray for those living under the threat of conflict in the Middle East and we look forward to the fulfilment of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.*