

USE OF POLICE VIOLENCE IN HONG KONG

STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Council for World Mission, meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, expresses its deep concern for the citizens of Hong Kong in the violence they face at this particular time. The Board is particularly concerned about the police actions against citizens and students in the university campuses on the 11 and 12 November 2019.

The meeting heard, with dismay, of the excessive use of violence against protesters by the Hong Kong Police. The disproportionate use of tear gas and violent intimidation in the Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, Polytechnic University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong is not befitting a society committed to peace and democracy. We urge the Hong Kong Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, to moderate the Police actions and to set up an independent inquiry into the use of force in the protests chaired by an impartial judge.

The CWM Board meets in South Africa, where students played a vital part in bringing democracy to the nation and challenging the state to ensure peace and stability for its people. We urge the Hong Kong government to heed the many voices that call for a peaceful resolution to this crisis and the future peace and prosperity of all Hong Kong citizens.

We see in Our Lord Jesus Christ one who was a victim of state brutality, and consequently, we stand in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong, in calling and praying for an end to violence.

Date: 13 November 2019