



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Office of the
General Secretary

lutheranworld.org

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Dear Dr Mukwege,

With great joy we received the news today that you will be the recipient of the 2018 Nobel peace prize together with Ms. Nadia Murad, for your meaningful work to address the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

We congratulate you wholeheartedly for this well-deserved recognition. We remember with deep gratitude your contribution at the Twelfth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Windhoek, Namibia. There you spoke wisely and forcefully against gender-based violence and your urgent plea for us to continue to deepen our commitment as a Lutheran Communion to insist on a resounding "No" to violence against women.

Your words at the Assembly triggered a more open and balanced discussion between women and men on violence against women within the church.

Your words: "If we are Christ's, we have no choice but to be alongside the weak, the wounded, the refugees and women suffering discrimination. If we are Christ's, we must speak out, we must condemn evil," resonate ever more clearly today, and represent a great encouragement to continue working toward a reality where women and men can flourish as they live in just relationships that strive to overcome violence.

We look forward to strengthening our relationship and to reaffirm and deepen our joint commitment to translate our faith and belief in the dignity of all human beings into concrete steps to end gender-based violence.

Praising God for this good news we remember the words of Jesus, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." (Matthew 5:6)

Sincerely,

Archbishop Panti Filibus Musa
President
The Lutheran World Federation

Rev. Dr Martin Junge
General Secretary
The Lutheran World Federation