



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Department for Planning
and Operations

lutheranworld.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 29/1/2019

Further information

Rev. Arni Svanur Danielsson
The Lutheran World Federation
Tel. +41 78 929 9686
Email. asd@lutheranworld.org

Statement: LWF condemns stifling of democracy in Venezuela

Joint effort needed to stem escalation of civil unrest

29 January 2019
GENEVA, Switzerland

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) expresses deep concern over the ongoing political and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, the escalation of violence and civil unrest, and the stifling of democracy in the country.

Addressing this crisis requires an effort from all sectors, government, civil society, the people of Venezuela and the international community. Respect for democracy and democratic institutions should be a guiding light on the journey to peacefully rebuilding the country.

The LWF calls upon the government and people of Venezuela to

- open spaces for dialogue, understanding, and agreements that lead to a peaceful transformation of the current situation
- use all democratic mechanisms available to avoid the escalation of conflict and harm, grounding decisions in the rule of law
- refrain from violence and guarantee the human rights of all people, especially those who are most vulnerable

The LWF calls upon its member churches to

- pray for the resilience, strength, and hope of the people of Venezuela, as they make their way towards a peaceful country with strengthened democracy
- continue standing in solidarity with Venezuelan people living in their countries

The LWF calls upon the community of states to:

- refrain from fueling further conflict through external interference, including threat of intervention and military action
- use the existing multilateral UN and Organization of the American States mechanisms to peacefully address the current crisis in the country
- provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Venezuela

“Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another.” (Zechariah 7:9)

The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 148 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 75 million Christians in 99 countries. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication and the various aspects of mission and development.

###

Visit our website: www.lutheranworld.org. Follow the LWF on www.facebook.com/lutheranworld and www.twitter.com/lutheranworld.