



Yerevan, Armenia
20th – 23rd September 2017

EBF Yerevan RESOLUTION on Anti-Terror Legislation and Religious Freedom

The European Baptist Federation Council meeting in Yerevan, Armenia, 20th – 23rd September 2017

Deplores and condemns the rise in terrorism where religious belief is offered as justification for violence.

Expresses sympathy and solidarity with communities and individuals who have been devastated by acts of terrorism.

Believes that those who engage in acts of terror are also men and women made in the image of God and loved by God but motivated by reasoning that is not in line with God's loving intentions for humanity.

Respects and supports the need for governments to protect their citizens by developing strategies to combat terrorism.

Recognises and respects religious diversity in our societies and reaffirms the foundational Baptist belief in the need for freedom of religion or belief for all.

Expresses concern on behalf of our unions that recent anti-terror legislation in various countries has had unintended but negative consequences for minority religious groups, including some long-established churches, resulting in significant discrimination.

Urges governments to safeguard the principles of freedom of religion or belief when creating anti-terror strategies which obstruct the well-established practices of various faith groups who seek only to be a positive influence in their societies.

Continues to encourage our member unions and partners to be men and women of God who Work and pray for the peace of their communities and the well-being and wisdom of their leaders, in line with the challenge of Jeremiah:

*“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you...”
Jeremiah 29: 7*