

Dear Dr. David Bennett and Lausanne Leaders,

We, some of the delegates from India, write to express our collective disappointment and concern regarding the recent apology issued by the Lausanne leadership with the subject 'An Apology from the Congress Director' dated 25 September 2024.

We strongly believe this apology was unnecessary, biased, and divisive, particularly against the Global South where injustice and suffering are constant realities. As we navigate the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we acknowledge the atrocities suffered by Israelis and empathize with their pain and condemn the acts and the perpetrators. However, we must ensure that this empathy does not minimize or overshadow the disproportionate violence, atrocities, and injustice inflicted upon the Palestinians. It is crucial to consider the whole context, including the situation of the Palestinians, to truly understand the issue.

We are well aware of the complexities of the issue and the diverse perspectives within our Lausanne community as was referred to in the apology letter. Therefore, making space for all perspectives would be well within the inclusive framework of the Lausanne community, and justice and righteousness of the God we worship.

In light of all this, we, the concerned Indian delegates, write to express our support for Dr. Ruth Padilla DeBorst. Ruth's message highlighted the need for Christians to critically examine their theologies and actions, ensuring they align with God's heart for justice. We affirm her call to recognize the suffering of Palestinians and to seek a just peace.

We understand that dispensational eschatology has been misused to justify violence and oppression. As Indians, we have witnessed similar misapplications of various popular theologies to be silent, ignore or justify injustices in our context like casteism, regionalism, nationalism, patriarchy and other forms of oppression. As followers of Jesus from India, we recognize the importance of seeking justice and standing with the oppressed and marginalized. Our biblical and theological foundation compels us to mourn with those who suffer and to speak truth to power.

In our context, we have learned to navigate complex religious and cultural dynamics. We urge Lausanne leaders to facilitate respectful conversations, acknowledging diverse perspectives while upholding our shared commitment to biblical justice.

We stand with Dr. Ruth as well as with all who suffer from Israel-Palestine conflict. We stand to advocate:

1. An end to all violence and oppression;
2. Recognition of Palestinians' right to self-determination, right to their land, and human rights;
3. Peaceful coexistence for everyone in the region;
4. Critical examination of theologies that justify injustice.

We pray for wisdom and courage to address these issues, grounded in our shared Lausanne Covenant and biblical values.

**Prayerfully,
Concerned Indian Delegates, Lausanne 4th Congress**

Mr. Billy Sam Varghese, Dr. Bonnie Miriam Jacob, Dr. Jesudas Athyal, Ms. Lalbiakhlui Rokhum, Dr. Jacob Puliyeel, Dr. Sara Varughese, Ms. Shobana Vetrivel, Mr. Allan Varghese and Mr. Abhijeet Tivade.

Incheon
27 September 2024