



## **RESOLUTION ON THE DEFENSE OF THE VALUES OF FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION**

We hold that the defense of the value of freedom of conscience and religion should always be preserved as a major pillar of the fundamental principles of free societies. Under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, every person is endowed with the right to freedom of thought, of conscience and religion. In our time, more than ever, we must keep in mind the importance of protecting these rights as one of our main principles and values, in the face of daily attempts against the right to life in the name of religion.

IDC-CDI therefore:

- Explicitly condemns and denounces all forms of persecution suffered by Christian believers in the Middle East as they become victims of fanaticism and intolerance;
- Underlines the importance of awareness of this problem, against which we must all stand together;
- Emphasizes that we should never allow freedom of religion to be converted into an act of constant bravery. No one should feel obliged to renounce his or her beliefs based on fear. Many Christians have been obliged to choose whether or not to renounce their faith, sometimes such that abject poverty is the result of choosing to maintain the right to life and the right to profess their faith;
- Calls upon states to guarantee a rigorous defense of these rights as they constitute fundamental principles of individual freedom and especially the freedom of conscience;
- Calls on public institutions to take a stand for these freedoms so that they remain unconstrained;
- Urges the forging of an efficient system to condemn violations of this type and to carry out a firm struggle against such breaches at all levels: legislative, law enforcement and judicial.

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