



World Alliance of Reformed Churches

Semper reformanda

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Dr. Rowan Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury
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Your Grace,

The World Alliance of Reformed Churches welcomes your response to the letter from 138 Muslim scholars, "A Common Word Between Us and You" with much appreciation. We appreciate your leadership in calling together an ecumenical consultation which thought through a meaningful response. We are grateful that Professor Iain Torrance represented us in that consultation.

Thank you very much for this response. We were especially impressed by the five points it highlighted and identified with integrity from our Biblical tradition and also with relevant quotations from the Qur'an.

Your letter articulated very well all the five points including the way humanity responds to the love of God bringing out points from the Bible and the Qur'an. It is a good instrument for seeking a way of common devotion and praising God, even in dark circumstances. Like you, we see the importance of the Psalms as part also of the Christian tradition that helps us have a basis for dialogue and a level of common ground with Muslims.

You are aware that in Reformed tradition and self-understanding the Sovereignty of God is important for faith and life. Therefore we are so impressed by the way you work out God's Sovereignty in combination with our Christian understanding of Trinity. We think this has to set the path for further discussion between Muslims and Christians. Your quoting Augustine is helpful, that "all the actions of Trinity outside itself are indivisible". We notice with appreciation, that you stay firm on the basis of Christian tradition on Trinity but also seek ways to come closer to Muslim understanding. We hope that speaking out like you do may help Muslims to understand more and more that also for us God is one.

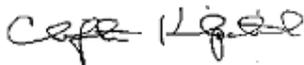
We want to affirm what you say about our truth being transcendent and that we do not ever have to protect this truth, least of all by violence. We see this in line with what you say about the radical teaching of Jesus to love even those who not necessarily love us.

It is very clear to us from your response that you are quite prepared to enter more deeply into dialogue. We want to inform you, that the World Alliance of Reformed Churches is also prepared to enter into dialogue on a much deeper and profound basis. We have sent, last year, a short letter of appreciation for the document "A Common Word" and are eager to be involved with other Christian partners in the next steps of dialogue and understanding with our Muslim colleagues.

We have indicated constantly that Christian communities need to respond to this letter from the 138 Muslim scholars ecumenically, rather than in a fragmented manner. This is one of the reasons why we appreciated your inviting us together with other ecumenical representatives to the June consultation. We continue to seek broader partnerships in responding to "A Common Word" ecumenically. We are committed to working with the World Council of Churches and other Christian World Communions in making a coordinated response and believe your statement is very helpful in this regard.

Once again, thank you very much for your leadership. May the blessings of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – be with you and all of your colleagues in the Anglican Communion.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick
President



Rev. Dr Setri Nyomi
General Secretary