



Letter to CEC Member Churches in France

Brussels, 13 December 2018

Dear Church leaders, Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is with deep concern and sadness that we have received the news of shooting in Strasbourg, where according to media reports, a gunman opened fire at a Christmas market on 12 December 2018, killing three people and wounding thirteen.

We strongly condemn this senseless attack on innocent people and offer our solidarity and prayers for the community and families of all those affected by this violence.

We are praying with and for our Member Churches in France, especially the Union of Protestant Churches in Alsace and Lorraine (UEPAL) which has its headquarters in affected area. We are particularly moved as CEC President Rev. Christian Krieger, who is president of the Reformed Protestant Church of Alsace and Lorraine and Vice-President of UEPAL lives in the city, as well as our staff members from the CEC Strasbourg office.

Staff members of CEC and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe had a meeting in the affected area in Strasbourg only two weeks ago.

The people of Strasbourg and Alsace have experienced tragedies of European divisions, enmities and bitter wars "from the inside". Yet they have always held on to hope, continuing to build a future of trust, togetherness and unity for all of the Europe. Now, when Strasbourg is attacked "from the inside" we grieve with the

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people of this city and we hold on to the same hope as them for peace. We trust the message of Christmas will continue to enlighten and enliven the streets of Strasbourg, despite the stifling attempts of violence.

Please be assured of our prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Heikki Huttunen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Fr Heikki Huttunen

CEC General Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dr Torsten Moritz". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a prominent loop at the end.

Dr Torsten Moritz

CCME General Secretary

