



# MALANKARA ARCHDIOCESE

## of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America

(Under the Holy Apostolic Throne of Antioch and All the East)

Archbishop Mor Titus Yeldho  
Patriarchal Vicar

### STATEMENT REGARDING THE RECENT INCIDENTS IN OUR COUNTRY June 15, 2020

**Dearly Beloved,**

In this deeply troubled time, terrible acts of injustice and violence has ignited a desire to see radical change across our beloved country. Racism in any means or form is a sinful behavior, representing separation from God, and is antithetical to Christianity. **“And He has made all nations of men of one blood to dwell on all the face of the earth, ordaining fore-appointed seasons and boundaries of their dwelling”** (Acts 17:26). Likewise, we condemn violence and acts of vengeance, no matter how great the provocation or outrage. **“Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all ... so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all”** (Romans 12:17-18).

The Malankara Archdiocese condemns all actions and words that promote hatred and racism. Our Archdiocese stands in solidarity with all those engaged in demanding social justice through peaceful means that the dignity of man, made in the image and likeness of God, be respected. We sympathize with the families of all those who have been victim to racism and bigotry. However, violence is not a solution to this. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “an eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind”. This is the time to turn to God for wisdom, courage and peace.

To this point, I want to make you aware of the next action steps:

- The Malankara Archdiocese calls upon the faithful, who are troubled by the brutality of persecution and injustice, to turn first to our Lord Almighty in prayer with one spirit and one accord.
- I appoint Rev. Fr. Sheryl Mathai to lead a committee comprising of diverse members from our Archdiocese and partner with our sister Churches to develop meaningful Christian actions to share with the Archdiocesan Council to guide our faithful at the local level.
- Lastly, within the next two weeks, the Malankara Archdiocese will conduct a virtual town hall, organized by clergy and laity to provide our faithful a platform whereas they can share their concerns freely and learn our Church’s perspective on social justice and Christian response.

Dearly beloved, we must facilitate peaceful dialogue by first listening to understand with love and empathy. Let us heed to the advice of St. Paul: “Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer” (Romans 12:12). May God guide our actions to bring peace, justice and unity to this country so we can serve as a witness of His great love and abundant mercy.

May the Grace of God be with you.

+ Mor Titus Yeldho, Archbishop