



## Open Letter

### *To Whom It May Concern:*

We as delegates of UEM members from Africa, Asia and Europe attended an **International Workshop on Partnership and Subtle Racism** from 25th – 31st October 2022 in Windhoek, the capital of the Republic of Namibia, organized by The United Evangelical Mission (**UEM**).

We recognize that racism is a human rights violation. The presentations and our deep conversations over the 6 days confirmed that racism is destructive and is a form of discrimination based on racial identity that functions on multiple levels across various domains throughout history. Fundamentally, racism is about disempowering others by denying them access to resources. Although many blatant forms of racism have disappeared and the laws of most of our countries now make acts of discrimination illegal, racism is still very much alive. Much evidence of inter-generational trauma and many ways in which unhealed wounds of the past continue to infect the present based on colonialism and racism, was on display. However, the subtleties of racism, micro-aggressions, and the day-to-day realities of being othered or tokenized are not addressed by governments and the church.

Visitations to projects in the suburbs of the city and an exposure to the city center of Windhoek confirmed that the social inequality of the past is still very much prominent. This reality was confirmed by the fact that we were surrounded by racial inequalities, as visible in the buildings, street names and as hidden in people's behavior.

Delegates to this workshop now conclude that in order for us to achieve the goal of being a nonracial society, we can no longer shut our eyes to subtle racism and visible economic inequalities. For this reason collective action is needed that includes drawing up a toolkit to inform communities about the history, meaning and effects of racism, promoting antiracist projects, assisting partners with antiracist policies and agreeing on a timeline as to when such actions is to be implemented.



Our Christian faith calls us to a prophetic and pastoral concern for the victims of racism. We recognize the injustices of our past; honor those who suffered for justice and freedom; respect those who have worked to build and develop our countries; and believe in an antiracist society. We therefore confirm our commitment in service of our Lord Jesus Christ to be antiracists by fearlessly standing in the gap for the victims of racism. We furthermore declare our commitment to consistently identify and describe any form of racism and then dismantle it.

The time has come to say farewell to innocence. Let us follow the Biblical injunction to **“turn from evil and do good; to seek justice and pursue it”**.

UEM partnership groups, you are hereby invited to partner with us in our commitment and efforts to address this evil and we trust that you will declare yourself willing to this end.

Please find below the recommendations of this workshop for your attention.

*Sincerely,*

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