

## **Statement of the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) Council on the Situation in Papua**

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."* (Micah 6:8)

Guided by the biblical call to justice and the affirmation that every human being is created in the image of God, the Council of the United Evangelical Mission (UEM), consisting of members from Africa, Asia, and Germany, expresses its concern regarding the situation of the people and churches in Papua. As a communion of churches committed to justice, peace, and the integrity of creation, we listen attentively to the voices of our member church in Papua, the Gereja Kristen Injili di Tanah Papua (GKI-TP), and to indigenous communities who continue to face violence, displacement, and environmental pressures.

As a global communion of churches, we affirm that the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to stand with those who experience injustice. Trusting that God hears the cries of the oppressed (Exodus 3:7), we commit ourselves to fostering justice, peace, and the dignity of all people, while supporting constructive and peaceful efforts that contribute to the well-being of communities in Papua.

The situation in Papua has escalated into a multidimensional humanitarian crisis, where systemic oppression manifests in a devastating cycle of violence and neglect. Under a permanent state of exception justified by national security, indigenous Papuans are reduced to a state of 'bare life,' stripped of fundamental rights and protections. This is not a distant threat but a present reality, evidenced by the brutal repression of political aspirations that has driven over 103,000 people from their homes into a deadly displacement crisis.<sup>1</sup> Simultaneously, National Strategic Projects, such as the Merauke Food Estate, are perpetrating an ongoing ecocide and ethnocide, systematically destroying the ancestral lands, food sources, and cultural identity of indigenous communities like the Malind. This is compounded by a catastrophic failure of public services, with Papua facing the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in Indonesia and an estimated 700,000 children denied a future through lack of education.<sup>2</sup> These are not separate issues but interconnected facets

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<sup>1</sup> Andi Adam Faturahman, *Dewan Gereja: 103.218 Orang Mengungsi Imbas Konflik dan Operasi Militer di Papua*, December 15, 2025, <https://www.tempo.co/politik/dewan-gereja-103-218-orang-mengungsi-imbasm-konflik-dan-operasi-militer-di-papua-2099176>.

<sup>2</sup> Andi Adam Faturahman, *Akar Masalah 700 Ribu Anak Papua Tidak Mengenyam Pendidikan*, Politic, (Jakarta), December 28, 2025, <https://www.tempo.co/politik/akar-masalah-pendidikan-di-papua-2102596>.

of a single, profound crisis that demands an immediate and unequivocal response from the global community.

In this context, the UEM Council has valued the strength and resilience of Papuan which inspire all of us and will bring them continuously in our prayer. We encourage sisters and brothers in Papua to keep hope alive and continue striving for peace and justice. We call for the stop of all forms of violence and for safe and unhindered humanitarian access for affected communities. We encourage the continuation of open, inclusive, and dignified dialogue involving representatives of Papuan communities. We also support efforts toward transparent monitoring and responsible evaluation of development initiatives, particularly those with significant environmental and social impacts.

We invite all UEM members to remain attentive to the situation in Papua by raising awareness, supporting research on economic and social dynamics affecting the region, and strengthening initiatives that promote education, empowerment, and community resilience. We also encourage our members to remember the people of Papua in prayer and solidarity.