

31 October 2020

Dr Nazirudin Mohd Nasir Mufti The Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) 273 Braddell Road, Singapore 579702

Dear Mufti Dr Nazirudin Mohd Nasir,

We receive with deep appreciation your letter to the leaders of the Christian community dated 30 Oct 2020.

The National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) joins you in condemning the latest attacks in Paris and Nice. Like you, we reject the ideology of hate which motivated these attacks. It is the same ideology undergirding other recent terrorist acts committed in the name of religion, which has resulted in the deaths of Christians, Muslims and people of other faiths.

The NCCS and our member churches understand well that these acts of violence in France were committed by extremist elements, who do not represent the true teachings and spirit of Islam. Their acts, as you say, were "an assault on Islam" itself. They are unrecognisable from the face of Islam which we see through our daily interactions with our Muslim friends, neighbours and colleagues in Singapore.

We are grateful for the religious harmony and peace we enjoy in our homeland. We know that this blessed situation must not be taken for granted, but must be maintained through continued efforts by members of each religious community to nurture the bonds of friendship and trust with those from other faiths. The NCCS is committed to working closely together with MUIS and the other religious organisations in Singapore to foster such friendship and trust. May we always remain one united people, committed to the well-being of all Singaporeans, in spite of our differences in race, language and religion.

We pray for the victims of the recent terrorist attacks, and for their families and local communities. We pray also for the nation of France, that it will be able to find a way to cultivate understanding and harmony between the different religious communities, as well as with those without any religious commitments. We look to God to bring his healing, reconciliation and peace to the world he has created and which he loves profoundly.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Rev Keith Lai | President National Council of Churches of Singapore Rev Dr Ngoei Foong Nghian | General Secretary National Council of Churches of Singapore