

## **JOINT DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY**

*We, the undersigned, are gathered here today for a historical initiative to inspire spiritual and practical action by all global faiths and people of good will everywhere to eradicate modern slavery across the world by 2020 and for all time.*

*In the eyes of God\* each human being is a free person, whether girl, boy, woman or man, and is destined to exist for the good of all in equality and fraternity. Modern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labour and prostitution, organ trafficking, and any relationship that fails to respect the fundamental conviction that all people are equal and have the same freedom and dignity, is a crime against humanity.*

*We pledge ourselves here today to do all in our power, within our faith communities and beyond, to work together for the freedom of all those who are enslaved and trafficked so that their future may be restored. Today we have the opportunity, awareness, wisdom, innovation and technology to achieve this human and moral imperative.*

*\* The Grand Imam of Al Azhar uses the word “religions”.*

***Catholic: Pope Francis***

***Hindu: Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma)***

***Buddhist: Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh (Thay) (represented by Venerable Bhikkhuni Thich Nu Chan Khong)***

***Buddhist: The Most Ven. Datuk K Sri Dhammaratana, Chief High Priest of Malaysia***

***Jewish: Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka***

***Jewish: Chief Rabbi David Rosen, KSG, CBE***

***Orthodox: His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (represented by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France)***

***Muslim: Mohamed Ahmed El-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar (represented by Dr. Abbas Abdalla Abbas Soliman, Undersecretary of State of Al Azhar Alsharif)***

***Muslim: Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi al-Modarresi***

***Muslim: Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Basheer Hussain al Najafi (represented by Sheikh Naziyah Razzaq Jaafar, Special advisor of Grand Ayatollah)***

***Muslim: Sheikh Omar Abboud***

***Anglican: The Most Revd and Right Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury***