

LET US STAND UNITED AND TAKE CLIMATE CHANGES SERIOUSLY!

AN APPEAL FROM FAITH- AND LIFE STANCE LEADERS IN NORWAY

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is gathering the world's political leaders in New York on September 23 to accelerate the work for a fair and ambitious new climate agreement. On the day before, 30 prominent world leaders of ten different religions are coming together to convey the message of climate responsibility to Ban Ki-moon and state leaders. Simultaneously, religious groups in several countries are endorsing the message of the religious leaders in New York for strengthened efforts towards an agreement in Paris. Here is the statement from leaders of religious- and life stance communities in Norway.

Mother Earth is vulnerable and our lives are deeply connected to her condition. The path we choose the next few years will determine whether we will be able to limit global warming and face the climate challenges. As leaders and representatives of various religions and convictions in Norway we argue differently as to our commitment to nature, to the environment and to our children's future. But we are all deeply concerned about the ever-increasing concentration of gases in the atmosphere and the all too slow progress in the work to reduce Norwegian emissions. This worsens the living conditions of vulnerable people and natural areas around the globe. We know that those who have contributed the least to global emissions are the ones who are hit the hardest. It is wrong and unfair to allow this to happen.

Together, we demand that the ethical perspectives have a far greater say in the negotiations and in measures taken. We agree that the transition to a more climate-friendly policy in Norway must speed up and that Norwegian politicians need a stronger commitment and must give priority to the following:

- 1) Norway must take their fair share of responsibility: significant mitigations in emissions in Norway and much more money for necessary and improved climate change measures in developing countries.
- 2) Norway must give priority to *both* development *and* the fight against climate change in such a way that the focus on one area does not happen at the cost of the other.
- 3) Norway must work for an ambitious, committed and fair climate agreement in 2015, which takes into consideration the historical burden-sharing and financial capacity.

We are willing to commit to this cause and we wish to support and challenge those with political power. Let us promote optimism and demonstrate a joint commitment as we care for the earth and for our future generations. We need politicians who think long-term, contribute to more justice and make wise choices for our common future – and we need it now. We give our full support to the joint statement issued by the 30 religious and life stance leaders presented to the UN Secretary General and world political leaders in New York today.

Let us seize the opportunities we still have and act together while there is still time!

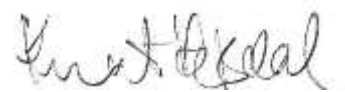
Oslo, September 22, 2014



Mehtab Afsar
General Secretary
Islamic Council of Norway



Ervin Kohn
Leder
Jewish Community in Norway



Knut Refsdal
General Secretary
Christian Council of Norway



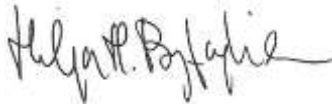
Manjor Singh
Leader, Sikh
Gurduara Sri Nanak Dev Ji



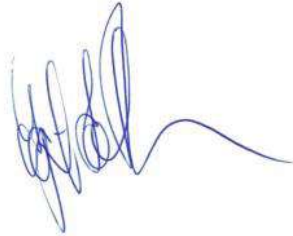
Kari Bansal
Deputy Head
The Holistic Society



Arnfinn Løyning
Synod Leader
The Evangelical Lutheran
Free Church of Norway



Helga Haugland Byfuglien
Presiding Bishop
Church of Norway



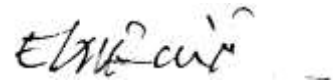
Egil Lothe
Leader
The Buddhist Federation of
Norway



Bernt Eidsvig
Bishop
Catholic Diocese of Oslo



Tom Hedalen
Bord Chair
The Norwegian Humanist
Association



Ebrahima Kebba Saidy
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