



MAJLIS GEREJA-GEREJA MALAYSIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF MALAYSIA

26 Jalan Universiti 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
Tel: 03-79567092/79608926/ 79551587 Fax: 03-79560353
E-Mail: cchurchm@streamyx.com/oikoumene321@unifi.my

“Behold I Make All Things New”

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES VIEWS WITH GREAT CONCERN THE FACT THAT INTERFAITH DISCOURSE IS BECOMING MORE POLEMIC AND UNHELPFUL IN PROMOTING INTER-RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING , MUTUAL RESPECT AND PEACE CO EXISTENCE AMONG ALL THE RELIGIONS IN THE COUNTRY

The instance of the controversial seminar that was held at the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) is a case in point.

The following are apparent and a matter of urgent concern.

1. The speakers at the forum apparently want to promote bigoted religious views and cast suspicion of the religious other.
2. The authorities at the UiTM have allowed for such seminars at their premises indicating that academic authorities are willing to tolerate and perhaps even promote a certain brand of religious teaching to promote a certain agenda
3. That sadly, the government of the day has been consistently lethargic in countering interfaith discourse that fringe on extremism and bigotry.
4. And that certain quarters of the press wish to highlight and give prominence to views of some “controversial” scholars or teachers who do not enjoy mainstream support.

In order for the cause of inter-religious understanding and peaceful coexistence to prosper in this country, universal values shared by all religions should be taught and inculcated among students.

The fact that our country has reached an all time low in interfaith relations is not surprising given the almost weekly occurrence of some form of bigoted view of religion being given high prominence in the country.

Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri
General Secretary

Date: 7th May 2014

Member Churches: · Anglican Diocese of Kuching · Anglican Diocese of Sabah · Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia · Basel Christian Church of Malaysia · Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia · Lutheran Church in Malaysia & Singapore · Mar Thomas Syrian Church · The Methodist Church · Chinese Annual Conference · Sabah Provisional Annual Conference · Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference · Sarawak Iban Annual Conference · Tamil Annual Conference · Trinity Annual Conference · Orthodox Syrian Church · Presbyterian Church in Malaysia · Protestant Church in Sabah · The Salvation Army ·

Associate Members: · Bible Society of Malaysia · The Boy's Brigade in Malaysia · Girls' Brigade Malaysia · Interserve Fellowship · Malaysian Care · Mobilization Fellowship Malaysia · National Council of YMCA's · Seminari Theoloji Malaysia · Sabah Theological Seminary · YWCA · Prison Fellowship Malaysia · Open Doors Malaysia

Affiliate Member: · Coptic Orthodox Church ·