



National Council of Churches in Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

20 June 2018

Last year I went to the UN Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights in Geneva.

I was there with the Christian Conference of Asia to support minority religious groups, including Christians, who suffer human rights abuses in Pakistan. It was my first time at the UN Commission on Human Rights.

I was very impressed by the way the international community nudge and encourage each other in that forum to a better implementation of agreed human rights.

The process, as I listened over several days, was dignified, diplomatic and precise.

I could see how this work edges the human family forward to a better life together within an agreed framework of international law and diplomacy. For me, the process reflected the dignity every person is entitled to as a child of God, carrying the divine likeness.

Hence it is deeply disappointing to read that the Trump administration has withdrawn from the UN Human Rights Council (The Age 20 June).

What good can come of that, especially for besieged minorities in places of brutality? We can but urge reconsideration for the sake of the common good.

Bishop Philip Huggins
President

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Orthodox Church

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Chinese Methodist
Church

Churches of Christ

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