

**European Baptist Federation Council**  
**Mondo Migliore, Rome, Italy**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

As Baptists in Europe who have sometimes known the experience of being oppressed and discriminated against, but who nevertheless have worked and prayed for human rights for all people:

**We appreciate** the increased level of democracy and liberty in Europe. Sadly this is not true in all our countries.

**We deplore** the fact that a generous openness towards strangers is being threatened through the presence of xenophobic groups in some political parties. As Baptist Christians we oppose these tendencies.

**We believe** that God commands us in the scriptures to love and to welcome the stranger.

**We urge** all Baptists to show hospitality towards immigrants, refugees and ethnic minority groups and to work for a welcoming attitude in our societies.

**For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.**

**Deuteronomy 10:17-19**