



**European Baptist Federation Council  
Nazareth, Israel  
21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

The Council of the European Baptist Federation

**Expresses** sorrow and solidarity with the people of Norway and the Baptist Union of Norway following the recent attacks in Oslo and on the Island of Utoya. We find comfort and hope in the words of Jesus Christ who said;

**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”**

**Matthew 5:4**

**Resists** any aggressive and violent expressions of nationalist interest in any form especially that which is illegal or disrespectful of any democratic, political or religious groups.

**Respects** the human right of legal and peaceful protest which enables groups or individuals to express themselves openly without fear of repression or violence.

**Encourages** in democratic societies continued political transparency without unnecessary or reactionary increases in legal measures to restrain openness.

**We call** on all member Unions of the European Baptist Federation to stand up for the rights of those marginalized in their countries. We do this by our individual and communal submission to God’s word.

**“Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise,” says the Lord. “I will protect them from those who malign them.”**

**Psalm 12:5**

**We follow** closely the Risen Lord Jesus Christ who teaches us by his Spirit to love our neighbors and our enemies. In following his example we bring glory to God who has made all human beings in his image.