



**UNESCO ASSOCIATION FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE  
(FOUNDING MEMBER OF UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE)**

## **FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE TERRORIST ACT PERPETRATED IN BARCELONA ON 17th AUGUST 2017**

In relation with the tragic events that took place yesterday in the Rambles of Barcelona, we want to transmit our solidarity with the victims and their families and express that, despite there is a growing dynamics of conflict, hatred and fear being installed all over the world, we think that the best way to prevent it and overcome it is the constant, daily construction of a culture of dialogue, love and hope from all areas. Unfortunately all religions suffer pathological deviations that can't prevent the recognition that the fundamental intuitions of the vast majority of big religious and spiritual traditions and of non-religious philosophical convictions venerate and defend with determination the absolute of life and love and that, because of that, they are unconditional allies of coexistence, social cohesion and peace. These traditions are a diverse and common heritage of humanity that is essential to achieve our survival not only as a democratic society but also as a species. We cannot afford to do without their humanizing contributions.

This is why, from the Association, inspired by the culture of dialogue and peace that UNESCO promotes, we think it is essential, now more than ever, that our societies favour synergistically the education in dialogue, tolerance and the mutual knowledge and respect and prevent the prejudices and stereotypes that feed the hatred and the difference.

In this sense we regret the voices that, in front of such unfortunate events, through the networks and the media, tend to identify some terrorists with a tradition or a religious community. We trust in the clear, forceful and necessary statements that different Muslim organizations already published to undermine these voices that take advantage of the misfortune and the pain of the victims to try to reach social and political goals that have nothing to do with the humanist and inclusive spirit of the big religious, spiritual and convictional traditions.

We also believe that these unpleasant situations are an opportunity for all of the religious and spiritual authorities and personalities of the diverse communities to show their rejection of violence, their capacity of self-criticism and the public recognition and repentance for the mistakes and complicities that have made possible a certain ambiguity or even a certain

connivance with situations of injustice, exploitation, oppression or violence. We are convinced that the firm and determined commitment with the culture of dialogue and peace that is expressed in the different platforms of interreligious dialogue all around the planet is built on fraternal correction and common healing of past wounds.

All together we can build a new and different world and we have to do it day by day through creativity, social innovation and the recognition of the values of diversity and the respect and love of the human rights. We can't exclude or abstain from anyone.

Barcelona, 17th August 2017