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## **North American, global Christians urge UN inquiry into ‘deadly acts of racism’**

Nine North American Christian denominations and four national and worldwide ecumenical bodies are urging their members to press the United Nations for a formal inquiry into “deadly acts of racism” against black people around the world.

Responding to an unusual “urgent debate” held by the U.N. Human Rights Council June 17-18, the religious leaders issued a June 18 statement asking UNHRC to “investigate the circumstances” of George Floyd’s May 25 death in Minneapolis and to hold the United States and other countries accountable for “anti-black racism and racist actions.”

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, associate general minister of the United Church of Christ, took the lead in drafting and circulating the statement. “The call for urgent debate was unprecedented and points to the willingness of the global community to see a commission of inquiry established,” she said. “Anti-black racism and all forms of racism are global problems that call for the intervention of the global community to ensure human rights and dignity for all. Our hope is that the members of the Human Rights Council will address the need for strong inquiries into racism, racial violence and the killing of African descendant people in the U.S. and globally.”

Endorsing the statement were the World Council of Churches, World Communion of Reformed Churches, Council for World Mission, KAIROS Canada, National Council of Churches (USA), Anglican Church of Canada, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Canada, and United Church of Christ.

The full text of the statement can be found [here](#).

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*The United Church of Christ, a mainline Protestant denomination, has more than 825,000 members and over 4,800 congregations nationwide. Headquartered in Cleveland, it is a church of many firsts: the first mainline denomination to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man and the first predominantly white denomination to ordain an African American. More on the UCC’s justice ministries is [here](#).*