

# Coalition of Peace Workers in Kaduna

## RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION OF INSECURITY AND SUBSIDY REMOVAL DELIVERED TO THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE - January 7th 2012

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*At this moment of crisis and turmoil, we stand in solidarity with all Nigerian people of goodwill.*

*We represent Christian and Muslim men and women from Kaduna State whose religious beliefs drive us to stop violent conflicts, and seek to create stability and peace.*

*As a Coalition of Peace workers, we stand in support and solidarity with every endeavor to realize peaceful coexistence among people from all religious traditions in Nigeria and beyond. We bear witness to the struggle of people of different faiths, ethnicities and interest groups in this great country of Nigeria to live in peace, with mutual respect. We support every effort to realize that vision.*

*We affirm the sacredness of all life, the spirit of good neighborliness among all people and the protection of human dignity across all faith traditions. Shoulder-to-shoulder, together we represent Islam and Christianity, two great Abrahamic faiths. We are unified in our conviction that:*

- a. Respect for human life and dignity is a central tenet of all religions – it is our shared duty and obligation to respect each life, which is sacred to us all. We are all one family in this universe.
- b. Violence of any kind has no place in any society. In light of the acts of the recent days and weeks, we mourn with the families of the victims. Amid their cries, we hear ever louder the call for vigorous, respectful discourse and dialogue among Nigeria's men and women, and a shared commitment to moving forward together to build a thriving society.
- c. We call on all the people of Nigeria to join us by pursuing peace in your daily lives – with the goal of building a more powerful nation, where every man, woman and child has the opportunity to live a full and abundant life free from persecution and fear, regardless of religious persuasion.
- d. We condemn the misuse and abuse of religion and ethnicity by Political and Religious leaders in the promotion of violence of any kind.
- e. We invite Nigeria's religious leaders in the cities and villages of both the North and the South, to share in this vision and to vigorously practice their faith free from violence, and restrain themselves from provocative utterances for peaceful coexistence in Nigeria.
- f. We appeal to Nigerian political leaders, as well as to all public and private stakeholders, to play politics without bitterness and shun politics without principles.
- g. We call on the Nigerian government to listen to and dialogue with aggrieved persons to put to an end to destructions of lives and property of its citizens.
- h. We encourage the business community – individuals, groups, and multinational organizations – to invest in peace projects and youth empowerment across the Nigerian nation.
- i. We beckon to the Nigerian youth, who are the future generation: Your own destinies and the destiny of this nation are in your hands. We implore you to shun violence, extremism, militancy, religious and political manipulation, and exploitation by conflict entrepreneurs. We counsel you to develop a clear vision of your positive role in the history of your nation and the human family, and to become peace-ambassadors in the various fields of human endeavor.
- j. We invite all Nigerians to join us in recognizing the value of our neighbors across the road, in the next region, in the next country and across the globe. Let the best of our diverse religious traditions, beliefs and cultures heal our community. Let strength in diversity bring us together in a common vision, as desired by the nation's founding mothers and fathers, for a peaceful and prosperous Nigeria. Let Nigeria be a role model among nations worldwide.

**Signed:**

Christian Awareness Initiative of Nigeria  
Interfaith Council of Muslim and Christian Women's Associations, Kaduna  
Interfaith Mediation Centre, Kaduna (Muslim Christian Dialogue Forum)  
Kaduna Grassroots Youth Consultative Forum (Muslim and Christian)  
Love to the World Initiative  
Universal Peace Federation Peace Corps, Kaduna State  
Youth Federation for World Peace/Universal Peace Federation