



ԱՌԱՋՆՈՐԴՈՒԹԻՒՆՆԵՐ ՆԱՅՈՑ ՄԵԾԻ ԲՐԻՏԱՆԻՈՅ

DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREAT BRITAIN

HG Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian, Primate and Pontifical Legate

## STATEMENT

by

**HG BISHOP NATHAN HOVHANNISIAN**

*Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Great Britain*

*& Pontifical Legate to the See of Canterbury*

22 July 2005

*He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love (1 Jn 4:8)*

The recent series of attacks against soft targets in London have brought home to us all the globalised nature of terrorism that spares no person, no faith and no country. Buses and underground stations are being indiscriminately attacked by persons who distort the teachings of their faith and who kill innocent men and women in a callous attempt to disrupt life, frighten people and exact revenge. Terrorism and violence are not the ways to express disagreement over policy, nor can they be the tenets of belief for adherents of faith.

But despite those vile attacks, Londoners have shown resilience, fortitude and stoicism in the face of adversity. They have refused to be cowed by such naked aggression that aims to create malevolent inter-communal fissures within our society. Cautious, and perhaps uneasy, Londoners continue with their daily lives.

Today, we pray to the Almighty that the recent attacks against our capital city, will neither undermine our common belief in the goodness of human beings nor derail our determination to stand on the side of democratic values and civil liberties, just as we stand at the same time on the side of peace and security.

The Armenian Apostolic Church in Great Britain, alongside its institutions and community, express their full faith-centred solidarity with all peace-loving and peacekeeping men and women in our country and across our inter-dependent global village. As we offer our deep condolences to all those who lost family relatives or friends, we pray that they will learn with time to bear their painful loss, and that peace with safety will re-visit our shores again soon. We also commend today all those civic and public authorities that are sparing no effort in ensuring inasmuch as possible our safety and well-being.

In the face of hatred, pain and uncertainty, our faith reminds us that terror is an affront to our Maker who created us in His own divine image. It constitutes an abject failure of humanity.