

**Statement of
UNITED CHRISTIAN FORUM OF NORTH EAST INDIA (UCFNEI)
ON THE PORTRAYAL OF JESUS AS "DEMON"**

Date 19th June, 2017

The United Christian Forum of North East India (UCFNEI) takes serious objection to the portrayal of Jesus as "demon" in the Class 9 Hindi language text book published by the Gujarat State School Textbook Board (GSSTB). The 16th Chapter of the book entitled "Bharatiya Sanskriti me Guru-Shishya Sambandh" on page number 69 reads: "*Is sambandh me 'haivaan Issa' ka ek kathan sada smaraniya hai*" (In this context, a statement by '**demon Jesus**' is always memorable). These words in the text book have shocked and deeply hurt the sentiments of Christian Community and of all people who respect the religious beliefs of all the communities in the secular State. One fails to understand the wisdom behind such a derogatory depiction of Jesus, who is revered by Christians in India and all over the world, as their Saviour and by many others like Mahatma Gandhi as a religious leader. The UCFNEI notes with utmost pain such caricaturing of Jesus.

Apart from hurting the sentiments of the Christian Community, the said chapter grossly misrepresents the person of Jesus and provides erroneous information to children. The GSSTB, which should have taken trouble to provide correct historical information, has erred in executing its duty. One gets a feeling that it is a deliberate attempt to malign a minority group. This statement comes not from a fringe fundamentalist group but from an official body of the Government of Gujarat. We are shocked to see an official body of the State taking such a stand.

The UCFNEI strongly objects to such an attempt of the GSSTB and demands that the text book be immediately withdrawn. It also demands an apology from the GSSTB and from the Government of Gujarat to the Christian Community.



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