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Historic First-Ever NCCI Heads of Churches Conclave Calls for Grassroots Ecumenical Action, Protection of Constitutional Rights, and Commitment to Justice and Peace



Hyderabad, 5 August 2025 — Leaders of the Protestant and Orthodox Churches within the fellowship of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) convened in Hyderabad for a landmark meeting — the first of its kind in the NCCI's 111-year history — to reflect on the common ecumenical pilgrimage of the Churches in India. The conclave was convened under the leadership of the NCCI.

The gathering addressed a broad range of critical concerns, with particular focus on the alarming rise in targeted attacks against Christians across the country, often perpetrated with impunity. The leaders unequivocally condemned these acts of violence and expressed deep gratitude to all who stand in solidarity with the affected communities.

Call to Action on Grassroots Ecumenism and Legal Reform

Reaffirming their commitment to the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion, the leaders called for:

- Strengthening ecumenical engagement at the grassroots level to foster unity, respect for diverse faiths, and protection of individual rights.



- The repeal of all Freedom of Religion (anti-conversion) laws, citing the absence of any evidence of forced, fraudulent, or induced conversions within the Christian community, and affirming that existing laws are adequate to address any alleged incidents.

Appeal for Social Justice and Inclusion

The assembly expressed deep concern over the 75-year delay in amending the 1950 Presidential Order to make it religion-neutral, ensuring that all Scheduled Caste communities can receive their rightful entitlements without discrimination based on faith.

The leaders also pledged to:

- Work collectively to end gender-based violence and protect the dignity and rights of all people.
- Empower young people in the Church and society to live meaningful lives and shape a hopeful future.
- Acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of tribal and Adivasi communities in nation-building, commemorate their leaders, and ensure their inclusion in all church decision-making bodies.

Commitment to Peace and Humanitarian Action

On issues of war and conflict, the leaders called for united efforts to end hostilities, respond to humanitarian crises, and promote lasting peace.

Ecumenical Solidarity

In their closing statement, the leaders reaffirmed the NCCI's strong relationship with the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Fellowship of India through the National United Christian Forum (NUCF) — jointly mandated by the NCCI, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), and the EFI — to serve as a coordinated and authentic voice of the Christian community in India.

This historic conclave witnessed the participation of the leadership of NCCI Member Churches in person, as well as through appointed representatives.

Rev. Asir Ebenezer
General Secretary,
NCCI