

بيان سانت جالن

செங்காளன் தெரியப்படுத்துகிறது

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## St. Galler Declaration for the Coexistence of Religions and interreligious Dialogue

### 1. We state:

Today members of different religions and denominations are living in Canton St. Gallen: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and others. A considerable number of people do not feel the need for any kind of religious preference. Many members of non-Christian religions are foreigners.

Coexistence in this diversity is not always uncomplicated. Many consider this as a threat. We take this seriously. The familiar creed has to be protected and the foreign one recognized. Both are legitimate. In all religious communities, there are fears and prejudices, the roots of which often go back to a burdened history.

### 2. We commit ourselves:

- a) We abstain from making sweeping statements about people of other faiths. They should remain true to their faith and be allowed to adapt themselves. We are open to religious communities that speak and coexist with each other to discover, share, pass on and receive the truth.
- b) We believe that God will listen to all, who sincerely call on Him, even though people name and honor Him in different manners. For this reason, we approve the prayer of different religions in co-celebrations, and it is our concern, not to obscure the differences, but to make them understandable.
- c) We advocate human rights for all. We are bound to God and to our religion, a calling in a special way, to hold and safeguard human rights. Our special attention goes to equal rights for women.

- d) We let ourselves be guided by the principle, that differences among people exist and they need to be addressed, but that they are relative. We are all God's creatures. We therefore support a culture of diversity. We want to strive for our religious and cultural identity, not in defending ourselves by isolating or excluding others, but by introducing this in a dialogue of coexistence. We are committed to a diverse, but best possible integrated society, based on fundamental humanitarian values and a democratic constitutional state.
- e) We are witnessing radicalism and fundamentalism, in whichever religion they may exist, as intolerant religious forms, that sow hatred and fear and breed violence. We dissociate ourselves from any form of extremism that threatens, condemns or hinders people with other beliefs. Since we are obliged through our religions to tolerance and peace, we persistently and patiently seek interreligious dialogue and coexistence.

*St. Gallen, the 10th of September 2005*

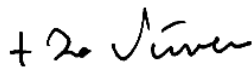
The first undersigned:



Kathrin Hilber  
State Councillor  
Head of the Department of Home Affairs  
of the Canton of St.Gallen



Hubert Schlegel  
City Councilor  
Direktion Soziales und Sicherheit



Dr. Ivo Fürer,  
Bishop of St.Gallen



Pfr. Dr. Dölf Weder  
President of the Church Council  
Evang.-ref. Kirche des  
Kantons St.Gallen



Dr. Hisham Maizar  
President Dachverband Islamischer  
Gemeinden der Ostschweiz  
und des Fürstentums Liechtenstein