

## Invitation to People of all Faiths to Pray for the End of the Corona Virus Pandemic

On 4 February 2019 Pope Francis and Dr Ahmad al-Tayyeb, the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, jointly signed a document on **Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together**.

A joint committee has been constituted for the application of this document. Recently this committee suggested that on **Thursday 14 May** Christians and Muslims should pray together for the end of the coronavirus pandemic.

Abu Dhabi: The global response to COVID-19 will require people of all faiths to work together as the world faces a challenge like never before; that was the message from the UAE's Higher Committee of Human Fraternity (HCHF), as the body prepares for its upcoming prayer for humanity event on Thursday.

Set to be marked globally, May 14 has been dedicated as a day for fasting, works of mercy, prayers, and supplications for the good of all humanity according to the HCHF, with the organization encouraging followers of all major religions to take part according to their own religious rites and customs.

The initiative has already received support from several religious bodies representing Islam, Christianity, Judaism and other faiths, with figures such as Pope Francis and Dr Ahmad El Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar and chairman of the Muslim Council of Elders lending their backing to the call.

“The support for this initiative is clear proof of our ability – especially when facing common challenges – to put aside our disagreements and ideologies [and] to unite under the banner of our human fraternity,” said Mohammad Abdel Salam, secretary general of HCHF, during an online press conference on Monday night.

“We call on people from all over the world, each according to their own faith, to pray to God almighty to help humankind overcome the coronavirus pandemic and to help scientists create a vaccine to rid the world of this dangerous virus,” he added, also highlighting how the global pandemic has already managed to unite many countries together in their joint fight against the novel virus.



Pope Francis meets Grand Sheik Ahmed al Tayeb as he arrives for a meeting with Muslim Council of Elders at Grand Mosque of Sheik Zayed in Abu Dhabi. EPA/Vatican Media Handout

## POPE FRANCIS INVITES CATHOLICS TO FAST AND PRAY

On Sunday 3 May Pope Francis declared:

“Since prayer is a universal value, I have accepted the proposal of the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity for believers of all religions to unite spiritually this 14 May for a day of prayer, fasting, and works of charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic.

Remember: 14 May, all believers together, believers of different traditions, to pray, fast, and perform works of charity.