



## CONFERENCE STATEMENT

### **10<sup>TH</sup> ASIA PACIFIC DOMINICAN FAMILY JPCC CONFERENCE Negombo, Sri Lanka 3-7 November 2018**

Gathered for our 10<sup>th</sup> quadrennial conference in the peaceful surroundings of the Good Shepherd Spirituality Centre, thirty members of the Dominican Family from eleven countries prayed, listened and conferred together with the aim of strengthening the regional justice and peace network, and thereby, involvement in the justice concerns in our countries.

After reflecting on country reports, we recognised commonalities in the socio-economic, human rights and ecological ills afflicting all our societies. Two inter-related realities at the root of so many of these ills stood out: gross inequalities in access to life resources (economic, social, cultural, educational); and the oppression and unequal place of women in society. It was noted with sorrow that this inequality and disrespect is also deeply embedded in the structures, processes and theologies of our church.

At the same time, we were heartened and inspired by hearing of the work of each other. Wide-ranging and detailed reports painted a picture of the vast contribution already being made by Dominicans at work in promoting human flourishing and the justice of God's Reign.

Through our presence here, we wish to express solidarity with each one and with those whom they seek to serve.

Energised with fresh hope and strengthened by the growing unity of purpose arising from experiences shared, a sort of spiritual 'bread' for the journey, we examined ways of further developing our efforts at home and the possibility of collaborating regionally.

Though faced with seemingly intractable problems and the immense challenges of the future, we nevertheless commit ourselves to continuing our work for justice and peace, relying on God's Providence and the resources among us.

In pursuing this goal, we resolve to make ever better use of our usual educational and formative strategies: i.e. developing critical consciousness, applying scholarly analysis and planning thoughtful action. To optimise these means, we intend to explore ways of sharing resources and mutual support through renewed channels of communication. Thus, we continue the journey, step by step, confident in the knowledge that even in small actions, we can contribute to the in-breaking Reign of God.

\*\*\*\*\*