Statement from The Global Imams Council on the Persecution of Christians Worldwide

The Global Imams Council expresses deep concern over the alarming rise in the persecution of Christians around the world. We stand in solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters who continue to face discrimination, violence, and displacement solely for their faith. The Holy Quran reminds us: “There is no compulsion in religion” (2:256), a timeless command that upholds freedom of belief and the sanctity of human dignity.

Reports indicate that more than 380 million Christians currently experience high levels of persecution and discrimination, with an estimated 310 million living under extreme threat — including violence, imprisonment, and forced displacement. Incidents of sexual violence, harassment, and other faith-related attacks have also risen sharply in recent years. Such acts are in direct violation of the moral and ethical values shared by all Abrahamic faiths.

Nigeria remains among the most dangerous countries for Christians, where extremist groups such as Boko Haram and Fulani militants have carried out horrific acts of violence. Since 2009, over 52,000 Christians have been killed, 18,500 churches destroyed, and millions displaced. In 2025 alone, over 5 million Christians have reportedly been displaced, more than 9,000 churches attacked, and hundreds of clergy kidnapped or killed. These atrocities, often carried out in the name of religion, are a grave distortion of Islam’s true teachings and must be unequivocally condemned by all people of conscience.

The Global Imams Council calls upon Muslim leaders, scholars, and institutions worldwide to intensify efforts toward interfaith dialogue, education against extremism, and collaboration with Christian and other faith leaders to foster understanding and peace. We further urge governments and international bodies to ensure the protection of all religious minorities and to uphold the universal right to freedom of belief.

In these challenging times, we reaffirm our shared responsibility to defend human dignity and promote coexistence among all faith communities. The Global Imams Council extends its prayers and unwavering support to persecuted Christians everywhere and remains steadfast in its commitment to a world where every individual may practice their faith freely, safely, and without fear.