

## Press Statement - Thursday 17th March 2022

The national leaders and congregations of the black majority churches in the United Kingdom are horrified at the shameful and inhumane actions on a 15-year-old girl on school premises. This not only violates moral principles, but also human rights and regulatory policies that are appropriate in this instance. It is almost beyond belief that in the 21st century United Kingdom, in a post-colonial setting that a 15-year-old child could be subject to such treatment, that nuances the slave trade of the 16th century. We further find it deeply troubling that the authority of the local school was absent, and apparently relinquish their responsibility, in deference to the police without even challenging for the rights of this child. We also found it perplexing that the Metropolitan Police, in the wake of recent events, with whom we have been partnering for improvements, over a wide range of issues have yet again fallen short in regard to protecting females and a minor at that. We are resolved to walk with and support the families in any and every way possible.

We question the direction of travel of the Metropolitan Police and further call the Secretary of State for Education to personally engage and investigate this matter with an aim to provide a comprehensive report that would help the family and provide assurances to our communities that the cause of this systemic failure has been identified, appropriate measures discussed and agreed and then taken to provide a remedy.

We express our deep empathy and solidarity with the teen and her family and offer/pledge our support in any form, as they deal with the trauma of the incident. We offer up our prayers for their comfort, peace and assurance from the undersigned black led churches and others that we are standing with you, in this space crying out for justice.

### Church Leaders

Bishop Donald Bolt - National Administrative Bishop (New Testament Church of God)  
Bishop Delroy Powell - National Administrative Bishop (New Testament Assembly)  
Bishop Dexter Edmund - National Presiding Bishop (Bethel United Apostolic Church)  
Pastor Agu Irukwu - Senior Pastor - (Jesus House; Redeemed Christian Church of God)  
Bishop Tedroy M Powell - National Presiding Bishop (Church of God of Prophecy)  
Bishop Lloyd Crossfield - Freedom Worship Centre International  
Bishop Danny Bennet - Shiloh Worship Centre  
Bishop John A Francis - Ruach City Church  
Senior Pastor Kola Taiwo - New Wine Church  
Senior Pastor Alton Bell - Movement for Justice & Reconciliation  
Bishop Wayne Malcom - I-Can Community Church