



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

**THE MODERATOR PRAYS FOR CHRISTIANS TO HAVE THE COURAGE
TO STAND AGAINST BULLYING AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE DIRECTED TOWARDS
LGBTQIA2S PERSONS**

PRAYER

God of the ridiculed and the oppressed,
We acknowledge before you that people who identify themselves as LGBTQIA2S are verbally bullied and physically assaulted.
We have been horrified by the actions of some countries that have passed laws making homosexuality a criminal, even capital, offence.
We are distressed that in some parts of our world police forces and security personnel perpetrate violence against and torture on people from sexual minorities.
We are ashamed to confess that we have not spoken loudly against such violence, either personally or as a church community.

God of courage and boldness,
We thank you for church leaders both ordained and lay who have stood against the violence, against the passing of homophobic laws, against the bullying.
We thank you for church leaders in Jamaica who have offered safety to gay men who were being beaten by the police. We thank you for clergy in various countries in Africa who have spoken against the passage of laws making homosexual activity a criminal offence.
We thank you for the example set by the Rev. Alex Maulana, General Secretary of the Blantyre Synod of Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, who has sought to move the congregations and clergy of the synod to offer welcome to all, including sexual minorities.

Give us boldness that we might stand against the bullying and physical violence directed towards LGBTQIA2S persons. May we do this with our words and with our actions. Give us the courage to intervene when we are called to do so.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly*