

# IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

## Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon

“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”  
(James 2: 15–17 NIV)

In the West African country of Cameroon, Anglophone Cameroonians have long maintained that their language and culture are marginalized by the Francophone government. They want English language protection for judicial, educational and local government systems, as was constitutionally guaranteed to them when the former French



and English speaking colonies unified to form one nation. When Anglophones took to the streets in 2016 and 2017 to demand these constitutionally guaranteed protections, the government arrested thousands of peaceful protesters, imprisoning many for months without charge or trial. There are reports that hundreds of Anglophone Cameroonians have been killed, in addition to reports of the burning of homes and violence against women and children. The violence has fueled support for armed separatists who have retaliated with attacks. Throughout the conflict, more than 160,000 people have become displaced within Cameroon and over 30,000 have entered Nigeria as refugees.

## The Church Responds

In October 2018, The World Communion of Reformed Churches issued a call for prayer and action to support a peaceful solution in Cameroon. The Moderator of the 2019 General Assembly wrote to the WCRC commending their actions and offering support from The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Moderator also wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs expressing dismay over the human rights abuses related to language in Cameroon and to ask that the Minister write to the Government of Cameroon to express concern for the situation, urging it to bring all parties together to engage in meaningful dialogue to seek a peaceful solution in the presence of a third-party mediator on a neutral ground.

## Prayer

God of peace, you created us all. We pray that each of us will learn to love our neighbours despite our differences. We pray that the conflict in Cameroon will be resolved so that all may know peace and live in dignity. Amen.

