**Liverpool Declaration**,

By the IEF International Theological Commission

The International Ecumenical Fellowship is an organisation of grassroots Christians longing for reconciliation and visible unity between the Churches. Since its beginning in 1967, a central moment of the life of the Fellowship has been the international conference, during which the members get to know each other, talk, pray, and celebrate worship. The last time we met in 2019 in Krakow under the motto “The Love of Christ compels us” (2 Cor 5,14). We were aiming for a Church, which cares about those on the margins of society and discerns signs of the times.

Since our last international meeting, much has changed. The global pandemics and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have awakened primordial fears and broken down any optimistic confidence in cultural and technological progress. In many countries, people are experiencing disastrous results of conflicts, poverty, environmental crisis and persecution. Many wallow in a feeling of meaninglessness. The political, social, ecological, economic, cultural, moral, and spiritual crises have become keywords when describing the current global situation.

We are assembled now in a city that served for a long time as a major port for the slave trade. Times have changed, but even in today´s world, many people are living in de facto slavery, are suffering inhuman treatment, lacking basic necessities of life – freedom, food, water, healthcare, education. It is not just refugees, but many other groups and communities. We wish to point to that situation and raise our Christian voice of protest.

Christians believe that the Church is called to change history, is called to “heal the people” from despair and meaninglessness, to bring to the world a message of hope, joy, and a sense of meaning. As those involved in ecumenism, we must permanently recognize our mission of building the unity of Christ’s disciples so that the Church may fulfil her vocation. Therefore we repeat our commitment to promoting theological dialogue, to acting for social justice, peace and to integrating creation, and to building bridges between cultures, especially where there are conflicts. We wish to be a sign of Christ’s presence in the world while witnessing to His peace, justice and hope and spreading His great promise of healing broken humanity.

In Liverpool, 25th July 2022