



IGREJA ANGLICANA
DE MOÇAMBIQUE E ANGOLA
I.A.M.A.

05.03.2023

STATEMENT BY THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA
ON THE DECISIONS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND REGARDING THE BLESSING OF
SAME-SEX UNIONS.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, we greet you in the Holy Peace of our Lord.

This statement is addressed to the People of this 42nd Province of the Anglican Communion, the Church of England and the other Provinces of the Anglican Communion, and to everyone in general.

The Synod of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola, at its Second Meeting, held on 26-27 February this year, in its virtual format, hereby declares:

1. We regret that the Church of England has decided to bless and minister specific prayers to same sex civil union couples as this is a serious departure and abandonment from the biblical teaching on marriage that this Church has affirmed, taught, and practiced for over 500 years of its existence. We also deplore the fact that the Church of England has taken decisions that affect and divide the Anglican family instead of preserving the unity of Anglicans, since Anglicanism originated from it and still holds the important historical symbols of it, namely the Archbishop of Canterbury and the See of Canterbury.
2. We strongly declare our condemnation and abhorrence of the decisions of the Church of England to bless and offer prayers for same-sex unions as well as, in general, all practical attempts to make this sin normal and acceptable in the Church. The practice of homosexuality is an abominable sin (Gen. 18:16-19:28). While the aforementioned decisions allegedly seek to favourably address the pain and problem of feelings and emotions of those practising homosexuality, they also affect, marginalise and tear apart the faith of many Anglicans within and outside the Church of England.
3. The Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola (IAMA) reaffirms its commitment to continue to teach and defend the biblical and orthodox doctrine on marriage as it has received it through the Holy Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer, the 39 Articles of Religion and the customary laws of the peoples of this Province which define marriage and its blessings and



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prayers as the union between one man and one woman. We will do all we can to protect and enhance these principles.

4. We recognise that the departure of the Church of England in the direction it has taken creates serious implications for relationships with other Provinces. Such relationships which need to be reflected upon and redefined in such a way that the boundaries which these decisions provoke are clearly known, in order also to define to what extent there will be a "walking together".
5. While we recognise that Anglicans live together in diversity and that all members of our faith communities deserve pastoral support from the Church, we believe there are critical aspects of our identity that should never be called into question. We therefore call on the Church of England and other Provinces in a similar situation regarding the treatment and challenges of human sexuality to return to the Biblical and natural way and never to conform to *"the practices of this world,"* but rather to be transformed by the *"renewing of your mind."* (Rom. 12;1-2) so that we may be God's Church in God's World.
6. Because we recognize that we all need the redemption and reconciliation that only God can give us, we assure every one of our prayers that this same God, the author of life and of whom the whole human family is named, the same God whose *"ways are higher than the ways of men"* and whose *"thoughts are higher than the thoughts of men"* (Is. 55:9), will enlighten the whole Church so that she herself may be converted, reconciled and blameless, holy and faultless in his glory (Eph. 5:27).

"To Him be the glory and the power, for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Pe. 5:11



++ Carlos Simão Matsinhe
IAMA Primate and Interim Archbishop



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