

LORD BISHOP OF COVENTRY



24th May 2014

Mr. Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing from the City of Coventry in the UK, the City of Peace and Reconciliation where so many people from India and surrounding countries have made their home, and where peoples of Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Faiths, together with people of other Faiths and of no particular Faith, live in mutual respect and common purpose.

We write to congratulate you on your election and to assure you of our prayers for your great country as this new period in its history begins. As you step into the leadership of the largest democracy on earth, you are no doubt conscious that you do so at a critical point in history when democratic ideals are being challenged in different places in the world. You will also be very aware of how religious differences between communities are increasingly being manipulated by forces that seek to exploit those differences for economic and political ends, causing deep disruption between communities and even extreme violence.

As you shoulder your momentous responsibilities, we look to you – indeed the world looks to you – to work unremittingly for a country in which every citizen is fairly and justly treated and given equal opportunity to thrive and prosper, and where all minority communities are not only fully protected but also allowed to flourish.

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May your leadership of a country as vast and diverse as India inspire all the leaders of the world to so govern and direct their nations that the dignity of every person will be fully respected, and the contribution of each community to the common life will be honoured.

With our respects to you as you begin your most important work
Yours sincerely,

+ Christopher Coventry

The Lord Bishop of Coventry and on behalf of:

Dr. Abdullah Shehu
Chair,
Coventry Muslim Forum

Mr. Sanjay Jagatia
General Secretary,
UK Hindu Council

Mr. Kulwant Singh Dhesi
President,
Singh Sabha Coventry

cc His Excellency Mr. Ranjan Mathai
High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom