

Standing with Our Children in the Face of Racial Intolerance

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland is deeply disturbed by the racially aggravated incident that took place at the end of the recent Pathfinder and Adventurer Camporee held at the Crai Scout Activity Centre in Wales.

Although our clubs were not named in the subsequent media coverage, we can confirm that children and young people from our congregations in Scotland and Wales were directly impacted by the xenophobic and racially charged abuse recorded on video and now under police investigation.

We unequivocally condemn all forms of racism, discrimination, and xenophobia. These acts stand in direct opposition to our Christian values and have no place in our society or in the kingdom of God. As a church, we stand firm in our belief that every human being is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), deserving of dignity, respect, and love, regardless of race, nationality, or background.

Our prayers and pastoral support are with the children, families, and leaders who were affected. What was meant to be a joyful conclusion to a spiritually uplifting weekend became, for some, a painful and unsettling experience. We are grateful to the members of the local community who showed kindness, spoke out against the abuse, and supported our group. We recognise that the discriminatory views expressed do not reflect those of the wider community. We also extend our sincere thanks to South Wales Police for their ongoing support in this matter.

To those who directed this hatred toward our children, we extend the forgiveness that Christ Himself demonstrated, even in the face of suffering (Luke 23:34). We are praying that you, too, will one day experience the fullness of Jesus Christ, His love, His grace, and His transforming power.

To the young people who were affected: we see you, we hear you, and we stand with you. To their parents and leaders: thank you for your courage, your faith, and your ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of our youth.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to "overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). It is in this spirit that we reaffirm our mission to serve, uplift, and love all people.

As we approach the International Day of Peace on 21st September 2025, we invite our neighbours and friends to join us in prayer as we work together toward a society that reflects the compassion and love of Jesus. For more information about this time of prayer, or for media enquiries, please contact Catherine Boldeau at cboldeau@adventist.uk.