

**NGO Correspondence with Christian Aid
Response by Christian Aid**

30 June 2008

Dear Mr. Fink,

Thank you for your letter dated April 10th regarding the United Nations World Conference against Racism in Durban in 2009. Christian Aid is committed to challenging racism and discrimination in all its forms, and as such any issue on this subject is important to us.

In your letter you asked three specific questions, to which I am pleased to respond.

1) Christian Aid did not fund the 2001 World Conference against Racism in Durban. We proudly supported the participation of the Dalit Solidarity Network UK, to raise issues of caste discrimination. Conclusions drawn from this experience are that the 2001 Conference provided a useful forum for the discussion of social exclusion faced by Dalits, as well as some other forms of racism and social exclusion. We were not involved in any sessions focused on the Middle East, we did not provide sponsorship for any of our Middle East partner organisations to attend, and are therefore not placed to draw conclusions or to comment on this.

2) Christian Aid does not intend to send a representative of our Middle East programme to the 2009 conference. We may once again provide funding to the International Dalit Solidarity Network or similar partners to attend. Further than this, it will be up to our partner organisations to determine and support their own participation in the conference, as there will be many items on the agenda of importance to organisations working against racism all over the world.

3) Thank you for sharing with us the document written by Magenta and the Jacob Blaustein Institute. Christian Aid is a signatory to the International Red Cross code of conduct, which we are confident fully covers the issues at hand.

I hope that this has been helpful. Please do contact us again if you have any further questions on this issue or any other.

Yours sincerely,



Daleep Mukarji
Director, Christian Aid