

## **Press release: Pentecostals are not being persecuted by Norwegian authorities**

In connection with the demonstrations and protests against Norwegian authorities held in several countries, the Leader Council of the Pentecostal Movement of Norway want to express the following:

We can not and will not make any statements, nor take a stand, in regards to the current case in Naustdal, Norway. However, in regards to the general situation in Norway we want to say that in our experience the Norwegian authorities, including child welfare services, are treating different religious groups in a fair and good manner. We have no reason to suspect that we are being treated differently than others in our country, due to our faith.

Regarding the matter of physical violence as a way of punishment towards children, we will repeat what the Leader Council has earlier stated:

The church is to convey Gods unconditional love towards children, and we find no reasonable theological arguments for using physical violence as punishment when children do something wrong. On the contrary – in a time when it was common to set children aside, Jesus himself invited the children to come close and sit on his lap. This narrative, and other passages, shows how great respect and love God has for each and every child.

Regards,

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