



## New Year's Message 2024

My name is Embert Charles and, as President of the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), it is my privilege to share with all our members and partners our warmest wishes for the New Year.

Many thanks to our members from all the regions of the world, particularly those who have continued to lead our programmes. I urge you to continue to tackle the communication challenges that became so stark in 2023. Let our faiths renew our strength for 2024.

In many places around the world including Haiti, Ukraine and Gaza, we have seen exponential increases in misinformation and disinformation, restrictions on media freedoms, and attacks on journalists – many of whom have regrettably lost their lives.

Peaceful coexistence seems to have become a thing of the past, as economic crises, the climate crisis, global migration, civilian and armed conflicts have escalated. People have lost trust in the media, and the promise of a new democratic world offered by digital technologies has so far failed to materialise.

Against this background, WACC and its members and partners seek to rebuild trust in the information and communications media as well as in democratic governance. We would like to help restore a sense of humanity and responsibility in global and local affairs. And we would like to promote more balanced communication in a shared effort to bring about greater understanding and respect for each other, in increasingly difficult local and global situations.

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Together, we can help address these challenges through our work in the areas of communicative justice, digital justice, and gender justice. WACC's slogan is "Enabling people to be seen and heard" – in the belief that when people and communities are enabled to express their needs and concerns in their own languages, as well as their hopes for a better future, the world will become a better place.

But this journey to a better place seems to be long. I invite members to continue the journey and for people committed to communications justice, to join us, and to support WACC in our many endeavours and programmes. Visit WACC online platforms.

We are working to make 2024 more peaceful, with greater faith placed on trustworthy and unbiased communication and shared actions for peaceful coexistence in our many worlds.

Thank you.

Embert Charles  
WACC President