



## OSMTH – KNIGHTS TEMPLAR INTERNATIONAL

### **BRUSSELS DECLARATION**

13<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**OSMTH – Knights Templar International:  
“Aiding humanity on the pilgrimage through life.”**

#### **OUR VISION**

Today, OSMTH – Knights Templar International looks for a world in which:

- a constructive dialogue between the great religious faiths, and the individuals and nations that adhere to them, is conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding and peace;
- the holy sites of Christianity and the other great faiths are respected, protected and maintained, and pilgrims can travel to them in safety;
- the dedication, generosity and integrity of all those engaged in providing humanitarian aid are recognised and valued, and aid workers carry out their vital work in an ethical manner without fear of discrimination;
- the principles of active charity, courtesy, dedication and honesty, inherent in the highest ideals of a code of chivalry and a personal rule of life, are spread wider and wider in society; and
- the contribution of the Knights Templar, medieval and modern, with regard to agriculture, construction, transportation, crafts, medicine, finance, inter-faith affairs, diplomacy and philanthropy is both well researched, and also widely understood and valued by the public.

## **OUR COMMITMENT**

OSMTH - Knights Templar International aspires to be the modern organisation the original Knights Templar might have become, if their historical development had not been broken.

Like other orders of military and monastic origins, whose traditions stem from Jerusalem in the Middle Ages, our membership has long ago put aside swords for purely ceremonial use and turned its attention, as a civil society organisation, to charitable, cultural, humanitarian and reconciliation endeavours. In our members today, we look for Christians sufficiently confident in their own beliefs to respect and value the beliefs of those of other faiths and of none.

Today's Templars in OSMTH – Knights Templar International seek, by their collective action and individual personal example, to put into practice in the modern world the highest ideals of the code of chivalry and the personal rule of Christian life inspired by the spiritual father of the medieval Order, St Bernard of Clairvaux.

Our modern Order also adheres to the Principles adopted by the General Assembly of the Order of the Temple in Paris in 1841 in that:

- our membership is open to Christians of all denominations and from all social backgrounds;
- we operate as an openly accountable, democratic and non-political organisation;
- our members have a duty to promote the causes of peace and human dignity; and
- our work in humanitarian aid is undertaken for the benefit of the diverse strands of all humanity.

## **OUR ACTIONS**

In addition to the local and national activities of each of its constituent Member Grand Priorities, OSMTH – Knights Templar International undertakes a range of collective programmes around the world.

In choosing and implementing these collective international programmes, our modern Order particularly seeks:

- to promote dialogue amongst, and between, the Abrahamic faiths and the other great religions of the world with a view to establishing better understanding and greater tolerance;
- to assist Christian communities around the world, and especially in the Holy Land, whenever their human rights are at risk;
- to build bridges of understanding and support between the Eastern and Western Churches of the Christian faith; and
- as a UN recognised Non Governmental Organisation, to support the United Nations and other international civil society organisations by our active participation in programmes of disaster relief, humanitarian aid, peace building and sustainable development, that respect the full range of human diversity.