

Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Statement on the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury from Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

“I am numbed and deeply saddened at losing an Archbishop who is much loved across the Anglican Communion, but his courageous decision to accept accountability is an important step towards eradicating, root and branch, the scandal of abuse in the church worldwide.

“The scandalous abuse of innocent people, often at the most vulnerable times of their lives, affects us all. The Anglican church in Cape Town in which John Smyth worshipped – for a year or two 20 years ago, and again in the final months of his life – has reported that it never received any reports suggesting he abused or groomed young people, but there is no room for complacency.

“For we have had other instances of abuse in the church in Southern Africa, and it is only in recent years that we have established a Safe and Inclusive Church Commission, which is pro-actively pursuing such cases.

“The bishops of Southern Africa join me in assuring Archbishop Justin and his family of their prayers. They share my sadness at his resignation and their respect for a decision reflecting Archbishop Justin's compassion for those affected by the church's ills.”

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

Metropolitan

Anglican Church of Southern Africa