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The Board of Managers of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin, in a letter dated August 8, 2023, called upon our churches, as well as other related organizations and partners to be educated on the Hindutva movement (Hindu Nationalism), which is distinct from Hinduism. This ideology believes that the Hindu religions and culture should shape the politics and government of India. The Board of Managers, as of the twelfth of June, 2025, reaffirms our letter from August 8, 2023, and renews the call for leaders, churches, partner organizations and other related ministries to raise awareness of Hindu Nationalism. We invite you to sign our letter:

We, the undersigned, denounce religious nationalism of all forms. Hindu Nationalism is related to other forms of religious nationalism and is currently funded and supported by American organizations and politicians. The ideology of Hindutva directly impacts Christian, Muslim, and other religious minorities, along with cultural and ethnic minority groups in India.

We commit to raising awareness of Hindu Nationalism and denouncing violence against Christians in India. The atrocities against Christians have increased with attacks on pastors and congregations, vandalism of churches, and on January 8, 2025, the Hindu Religious Parliament called for the massacre of Christians on March 1. Thankfully, this massacre did not occur after repeated calls to the Indian government. However, on March 24, 2025, Pastor Praveen Pagadala, a prominent Christian preacher who spoke out against the persecution of Christians, was found dead under suspicious circumstances. His death has been marked with widespread protests among the Christian community in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Christians continue to face violent acts in India along with anti-conversion laws that make it illegal to convert from Hinduism to any other religion. However, the forced conversions of religious minorities including Christians back to Hinduism is exempt from the anti-conversion laws, creating a one-sided law that violates basic human rights. These laws have been denounced by human rights advocacy groups and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

We call upon churches, partner organizations and other related ministries to be educated on the rise of Hindu Nationalism, both in India and within the United States and how it relates to U.S. politics and the rise of Christian Nationalism. We call for defunding the corporations in the United States that support Hindu Nationalism. This includes registered 501(c)3 organizations generating millions of dollars to Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA, an institution that contributes to militant movements in India that target "tribal communities (with substantial Christian populations) through 'religious indoctrination that can even take the extreme forms of kidnapping tribal children.'" Hindu nationalists have also funded campaigns to change U.S. textbooks in their discussion of the caste system by attempting to remove "Dalit." We also call upon individuals and organizations to contact local elected officials to include caste as a form of discrimination in anti-discrimination laws.

We advocate for the support of religious, cultural and ethnic minorities in India. We believe no religion should shape politics or government in ways that control, dominate, oppress, persecute, harm, and destroy believers of any religion and their free exercise thereof. We encourage all people to understand the difference between Hindutva and the Hindu Religion, and we support Hindus for Human Rights in their continued work to resist Hindu Nationalism and caste discrimination. We continue to urge leaders, churches, and religious organizations to denounce Hindu Nationalism, Christian Nationalism, and all forms of religious oppression in the United States, India, and around the world.

Signed:

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell
Regional Executive Minister
American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin
On behalf of the ABCWI Board of Managers