Following some concern for safety, the SEC Youth department have now severely downgraded this evening’s event and are only planning on a few experienced Youth leaders meeting at Tottenham, Seven Sisters Station between 5:00 and 6:00pm. They emphasize that any outreach or community service should only be within members own areas, they should not travel across town, and only venture out under direct instruction from local church leadership who directly understand the situation.

Pastor Stewart says, “As a Church we pray that peace will reign in the hearts and minds of all those who are troubled today and that through our actions we can show the world the Prince of Peace in a time when many are troubled and in fear.”

There has been a large and positive reaction to the 'ADVENTIST PRESIDENT & YOUTH REACT TO LONDON RIOTS' news release sent out this morning with comments that reflect our need and passion as a Church right across the UK and Ireland. Below is a small representative selection.

Mark writes, "This reminds me of phrases used in the media such as 'broken Britain', 'rip off Britain' etc. Adventists should know by now of the times that we are living in. I just like a number of Adventists in Britain have become increasingly concerned that many that attend our churches are busy attending church but not willing to get their hands 'dirty' when there is so much that we can do to help 'broken Britain,' rather than simply waiting for prophecy to be fulfilled. We must become more practically relevant to our local communities; many are hurting, confused, deluded... As we become more involved practically in our communities people who never attend church groupings/unbelievers etc will get a taste of hope which will permanently transform lives."

Becky reports that some Adventist youth are helping with the clean-up in the Croydon area.

Adrian adds, "May God bless you in what you do and give you the voice that you need to spread good news instead of fear, and to temper bad news with His redemptive love."

Naturally there are a number concerned about our youth being at risk. Roy states, "Is this move wise... could their Peace Rally be hijacked and lead to further problems?" Johnette writes, "I think the safety of our young people is paramount and they will be put in harm's way by marching in Tottenham this evening and also on Wednesday. Please rethink this decision and hold the march when law and order is restored to our communities." Pastor Stewart responds that this was not planned as a march or rally, but an opportunity for young people to demonstrate and pray for peace. This is in harmony with many pastors, and members from various faiths who met on the streets of Edmonton last night for prayer – and who will do so again this evening. Sue, a Street Pastor from Lincoln notes that all Street Pastors across the UK have been mobilized, are spending time in prayer today, and will be available as need arises, naturally in close consultation with the police. Ariane writes, "Although I applaud the motive and courage of those who will take part, I fear for our members."

Pastor Sam Davis, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southern England has told the media that:

"As a Church we have thousands of young people who are fun loving and law-abiding and we do not condone what is taking place around us. During the past four years our young people have taken to the streets of London and Bristol
supported by the police in marches against gun and knife crime. Just last week the riot police visited our Pathfinder Camporee in Surrey to talk with our young people and encourage them."

He adds, "Our Youth and Community Ministries department are ready and willing to join with the community in the clean-up operation. We are already working in one of the affected areas to assist displaced families in whatever way we can. The Seventh-day Adventist Church deplores violence in all its forms and call for calm and quiet reflection at this time."

A BUC News video statement on the current unrest that has reached a number of cities across England will be available on the www.hopetv.org.uk website later today.

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