

**Bailiff's speech for vigil for Paris Terror Attacks  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Your Excellency, Chief Minister, Honorary Consul, Mr Jamali,  
ladies and gentlemen

1. The word “welcome” in connection with an event such as this seems barely appropriate but you are indeed welcome and it is gratifying to see so many here.
  
2. Monsieur le Consul honoraire, les Etats et le peuple de Jersey ont tous été profondément choqués et attristés par la perte de vie à la suite des attentats terroristes à Paris vendredi dernier. Nos pensées immédiates et nos condoléances vont à tous qui ont été touchés par cet événement atroce. Mais nous sommes ici ce soir pour une raison plus profonde – nous sommes ici pour transmettre notre solidarité au peuple de la France, une solidarité contre la terrorisme, contre ceux qui, dans leur extrémisme sont indifférents vers les autres, une solidarité pour les grandes valeurs de la tolérance et la respect pour tous, la vie des européens.
  
3. This is the second act of terrorism in Paris this year. Those who were there say there was a wonderful march on January 12<sup>th</sup> commemorating the dead and standing firm against terrorism. Millions took part in that and in sympathetic demonstrations in other parts of the world. Many participants were Muslims. It was a

moment to proclaim that it was possible to be both Muslim and Western.

4. It is with that thought in mind that I am grateful to Dr Jamali, the leader of the Muslim community in Jersey, for agreeing to speak to us tonight, which he will shortly do. People do feel strongly about religion or in some cases the lack of religion; but at the end of the day religion or the lack of it does not justify killing and injuring the innocent. My own belief, for what it is worth, is that one day we will all answer to God for what we do or not do not do. So I reckon on leaving it to Him to sort out religious differences and in the meantime we should get on with our lives applying as best we can as fallible human beings our own set of beliefs.
5. So let us weep today at the damage done which goes way beyond those actually killed or injured. Thousands will remember November 13<sup>th</sup> as the day they lost their spouse, partner, child, friend. That pain will run for decades, as many of those killed or injured were young people. You only have to log onto Facebook to see the numbers of faces on which the *tricolore* has been imposed to see how many have been affected by what has happened.
6. And let us stand firm in ourselves against the threat to our way of life, and let us reaffirm tolerance and respect as the building blocks of our Island.