



## **Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk expresses condolences over the tragedy at Sandy Hook School in Connecticut, USA**

*Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, expressed his condolences to the Governor of Connecticut, Mr. Dannel P. Malloy, over the tragedy at Sandy Hook School in Newtown, that claimed the lives of twenty-seven people, most of them children. The text of the message is given below:*

**Dear Mr. Malloy,**

Please, accept my deepest condolences over the tragedy at Sandy Hook School in Newtown. Many people, most of whom were small children, fell victims to this tragedy.

The way the teachers acted inspires respect: thanks to them, dozens of pupils have been saved. With all my heart I sympathize with the parents, relatives and friends of those who died or were injured. I ask you to convey to them words of consolation and support.

I offer up my zealous prayers to the All-Merciful Lord for children to live peacefully and without troubles under the protection of parents, society and law in all corners of our planet.

**+Hilarion**

**Metropolitan of Volokolamsk**

**Chairman**

**Department for External Church Relations**

**Moscow Patriarchate**