

North America

Canada

“This is a very timely document given the U.S administration’s ‘Peace to Prosperity’ plan and the Israeli threat to annex much of the West Bank.

“It is also timely in its reference to the injunction, ‘We cannot serve God while remaining silent.’ At this moment, we see people in Canada, the USA and around the world moved to action in response to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The killings and other injustices meted out to Palestinians living under military occupation similarly demand our action.

“As the United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel we pledge to engage with the leadership of the United Church of Canada, nationally and through our regional structures and our theological schools. Our goal is to encourage them to offer to the United Church of Canada a clear articulation of ‘theologies that prophetically call for an inclusive vision of the land for Israelis and Palestinians affirming that the creator God is a God of love, mercy and justice.’ We are also developing educational materials that oppose anti-Semitism and ‘oppose the equating of criticism of Israel’s unjust actions with anti-Semitism.’

“We will intensify our efforts to offer the support for which you ask.”

United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine & Israel (UNJPPI)

“We, the undersigned Canadian churches and church agencies, hear that Cry as a call for decisive action. We recognize ‘the word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering.’

“It is our commitment to the Creator, our love and the depth of our relationships with you—people, churches and communities in Palestine—that cause us to oppose the oppression of Palestinians. We strive to have Micah 6:8 govern our response ‘to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.’

“In that light, we will share your Cry with our communities so that they hear, in your own words, the strength and urgency of your call. We will work alongside churches and communities in Palestine as you seek to resist occupation, and to advocate for the human rights of Palestinian people. We will work alongside others in our country to address violations of human rights by the Israeli government, including our recent advocacy against the annexation of the West Bank by the newly formed coalition government.

“We will engage our communities in discernment and study on the pressing need for justice for Palestinian people, including by reflecting critically on theologies and biblical interpretations that have created barriers in our churches to the robust engagement in justice-seeking for Palestinian people. We will continue to support interfaith partnerships and promote opportunities for our communities to ‘come and see’ and to learn about the reality on the ground. We will continue to oppose antisemitism, Islamophobia and other oppressions that intersect to prevent peace with justice.

“In our humility, we acknowledge that we do not have agreement within our churches and organizations to fully endorse (or take on for ourselves) all of the non-violent strategies for resistance and advocacy that you have proposed. We do, however, support your right to engage in non-violent resistance and will support those strategies that we can.”

KAIROS-Canada Rachel Warden, Partnerships Manager, and church leaders of a number of our members including United Church of Canada, Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

"I unreservedly add my voice to the Cry of Palestinian Christians supported by Global Kairos for Justice in calling the whole Christian Community and all religious believers to hear the cry and embrace the imperative: We Cannot serve God and oppression of the Palestinians.

"This current exhortation is a redoubling of the urgent cry that led the WCRC to take action at the 2017 General Council meeting in Leipzig, Germany. The situation has gotten significantly worse. Cry for Hope starkly reveals the measures taken since then ranging from the Nation State Law, the moving of the US Embassy to Jerusalem, the US legitimization of illegal settlements and the so-called Peace to Prosperity Plan. The current Israeli government is pressing forward with annexation plans for one third of the West Bank.

"We are offered through God's grace the choice of Life and Death. The Cry for Hope is a gift from the Palestinian community to awake from our numbness and be revitalized by God's liberating spirit to seek justice and resist evil, so that all may have life and have it abundantly. It must include justice and freedom for the Palestinian people."

Rev Dr Chris Ferguson, *General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)*

United States of America

"I welcome the summons of this Cry for Hope. This statement faithfully describes the current crisis facing Palestinians amid the predatory aggression of the state of Israel. It is important that this statement appeals, not to generic humanity, but to the urgency of the gospel. It is my passionate hope that many congregations and pastors will heed this summons and act in the ways urged here. The matter of Palestinian rights and the integrity of the Palestinian people deeply concern all of us Christians. The juxtaposition of 'cry' and 'hope' is just right, a 'cry of urgency' and 'hope for newness'!"

Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

"The oppression facing Palestinian Christians took on flesh for me when I made my first trip in January of 2020 and walked with members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land to better understand their ministry, context, and realities. Having worked with my own church to engage deeply in what it means to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery so that we might live from a new narrative about the indigenous people of our continent and the painful legacy of Europeans who came to North America, I could not help but feel connected to the story of the Palestinian people and their struggles in the face of the injustices they have experienced following the establishment of the state of Israel. As a leader in a church committed to becoming by addressing the painful reality of systemic racism in our own midst, I stand with those who are launching Cry for Hope: A Call to Decisive Action. It is time – God's *kairos* moment – to dismantle the false narratives and systems that allow injustice to thrive in the land we call Holy. It is time to act together—so that all who are captive—oppressed and oppressor alike—might be set free to live within the flourishing of God's justice."

The Rev Jim Gonia, *Bishop, Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

"I welcome the statement that the oppression of the Palestinian people is a sin that can no longer be tolerated, and that Christian support for Zionist ideology that permits one people to deny the human rights of another is incompatible with the Christian faith.

"It is also incompatible with the Jewish faith—incompatible with the moral and religious principles that Judaism has embodied for millennia. That is why I endorse the Cry from my own American Jewish perspective.

“The creation and maintenance of an apartheid state, and the oppression of the indigenous people of Palestine which goes with it, may have been perpetrated by Israeli Jews, and facilitated and supported by American Jews and Christians alike, but it is no more ‘Jewish’ than it is ‘Christian.’

“While I welcome the call to engage in study and discernment for those who are unaware of the realities on the ground in Israel/Palestine, and of the need to liberate the oppressors as well as the oppressed, it is long past the time for action. We must join hands in non-violent resistance—heeding the call of Palestinian civil society for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions.”

The Rev Dr J. Herbert Nelson, II, *Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

“I am honored to endorse Cry for Hope, a global solidarity movement calling for decisive action to bring about a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. It is time for the International Community and leaders and members of different faith traditions to join efforts in challenging the injustices wrought upon the Palestinian people. From a Gospel perspective we cannot remain silent as we continue to see how the tight grip of occupation squeezes life out of our Palestinian siblings. We have come to a critical point in this struggle which demands concrete actions, especially against any unjust and unilateral decision to annex settlements in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley. I support the appeal from Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land) warning about the ‘catastrophic implications’ the proposed annexation will have on the peace process. With him I call for ‘Liberation not annexation.’

“I write from my social location in the United States of America where we are seeing the results of decades, and even centuries, of the church’s apathy, silence, and even complicity with unjust systems, in the struggle for racial justice. We can no longer stay on the sidelines claiming an a-political posture.

“Tradition attributes to St. Francis of Assisi the following saying, ‘Every Christian should preach, and if necessary, to use words.’ The time is now for us to lift our voices and support Cry for Hope.”

Rev Dr Rafael Malpica Padilla, *Executive Director for Global Mission, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

“The challenging question of the prophet Elijah is never more urgent: ‘How long will you go limping with two different opinions?’ (1 Kings 18:21) Churches today face an urgent choice on which hinges the integrity of the Gospel they preach.”

Rev John H. Thomas, *General Minister and President (1999-2009, United Church of Christ*

“We are indeed living in a time of crises. It seems now that the whole world, like a sleeping giant, is finally waking up to the fact that we have been living with an uncomfortable combination of nationalism and racism for generations. As a black man in America, I immediately saw and felt the systemic racism my Palestinian brothers and sisters were enduring on my first visit to what we call the Holy Land. As we continue to grapple with the systemic racism in America, we are also called to engage in the fight of liberation of Palestinians. BLACK LIVES MATTER=PALESTINIAN LIVES MATTER. It’s the same fight, therefore, I endorse and support the goals and the actions called for the ‘Cry for Hope’ document.”

Bishop Don diXon Williams, *Inter-Organizational Relations and Public Policy Department
United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic)*

“I wholeheartedly endorse Cry for Hope. Its message is clear. Its message is a step in the right direction of forming the beloved community that Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about. A Cry for Hope honors both the Palestinian cause and Israeli concerns; and it calls for a path toward justice that is non-violent and respects all of God’s children who are made in the image of God. It is not partisan. It is not bitter. It is not anti-Semitic. It is prophetic and profound and has my full support.”

Dr Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., *Pastor Emeritus Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL, USA*

“We regret that our government here in the US collaborates with the Israeli government to carry out policies that rob our people in Palestine of their land, water resources, freedom of movement, liberty to protest, and their aspirations to live in freedom in their homeland.

“We add our voice of support to the Kairos Palestine Cry for Hope, and we urge churches in the US and around the world to use their spiritual and moral influence to actively oppose the injustices that the Israeli government continues to inflict on the Palestinians since the creation of the State of Israel.”

Rev. Dr. Alex Awad, *Co-chair, Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace (PCAP)*

“We, the Rabbinic Council of Jewish Voice for Peace, stand in solidarity with the goals stated in The Cry of Hope released by Kairos Palestine. We see ourselves standing in a shared tradition of the core spiritual values of pursuing justice and seeking peace for all people, and especially the people of Palestine who live under Israeli occupation and subjugation. We stand in solidarity against the misuse of Scriptures to promote occupation and displacement of the Palestinian people and we stand in shared resistance to political policies that promote and institutionalize apartheid and racism. As rabbis who serve the Jewish community, we recognize our obligation to publicly oppose the violations of Palestinian human rights as recognized under international law, and to work toward equality, democracy and freedom for all people.”

Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb

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Robert Herbst, *Lawyer, New York; Member, Jewish Voice for Peace*