



MODERATOR OF THE 146TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Daniel D. Scott, B.A., M.C.S, M.Div., D. Min.

December 1, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
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Dear Prime Minister,

I bring greetings from the 2021 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada which met online June 6–9, 2021. The General Assembly considered and adopted a report which drew attention to the devastating impact violence has on families affected by the conflict in Palestine and Israel.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada agrees with you, that “the Palestinian and Israeli peoples have a right to live in peace, security, and dignity – without fear and with their human rights respected.”¹ The church supports a just peace in the region that includes a two-state solution where all can live in peace and security. We condemn all acts of hate or intimidation that target any peoples or communities not only abroad but here in Canada as well.

The church believes that Canada and the international community can and must continue to provide humanitarian assistance, and work to support a process for a just peace. We affirm the Government’s commitment of \$25 million to UN agencies in support Palestinian civilians with food and shelter assistance, rebuilding efforts and peacebuilding initiatives, particularly considering the devastating impact of the outbreak of violence in East Jerusalem and Gaza earlier this year. Humanitarian support must be sustained as long as this conflict continues.

But humanitarian support can only go so far and will not end this conflict. Therefore, the church additionally urges you to further strengthen Canada’s efforts by giving authority to the Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations to take stronger actions pressuring the State of Israel to live up to its obligations to international treaties and humanitarian laws. Annexation of the Occupied Territories must be halted immediately and Palestinian people must be allowed the right of return. The ongoing development of infrastructure (such as military outposts and roads, homes for Israeli settlers, and the building of the Separation Wall on Palestinian lands) on annexed territory, in spite of the formal suspension of new expansion into the West Bank, is in contravention of international law and only deepens and entrenches Israeli occupation on Palestinian lands. These developments and human rights violations that accompany them remain a critical roadblock to a long-lasting and just peace between Israel and Palestine.

Our faith in a loving Creator emboldens us to encourage you to take these steps to seek a just peace that reflects the dignity, wellbeing and security of all Palestinians and Israelis. Thank you for your consideration of these matters and please rest assured of our prayers as you govern. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Scott
Moderator
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

¹ “Prime Minister announces assistance for Palestinians affected by the recent violence in Gaza and the West Bank,” May 28, 2021, <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/05/28/prime-minister-announces-assistance-palestinians-affected-recent>