

Motion # 8

Holy Land

Mover: Ven Dr Michael Wallace

Secunder: Rev'd Ivica Gregurec

Noting the continuing state military violence and relentless oppression of the people of Gaza, increasing violence by settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the intensifying pressure on Christian communities in the Holy Land, and the steady rise of Christian Zionism in our countries,

This Te Hīnota Whānui/General Synod:

a. Affirms and commits to continue to support the ministries of Archbishop Hosam Naoum and the Episcopal Province of Jerusalem & the Middle East - in Gaza and throughout the Middle East, and encourages our agencies ABM and CWS to continue work with partners in the Holy Land.

b. Calls on our governments to actively contribute to peace, recovery and reconstruction in Gaza.

c. Affirms the right and freedom of Christian communities to exercise their ministries in the Holy Land.

d. Calls on our governments to do what they can in international forums to uphold the rights of religious minorities in the Holy Land.

e. Rejects antisemitism¹ (As defined in the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism) and the violence that flows from it.

f. Rejects Christian Zionism² (As defined by the Jerusalem Heads of Churches in 2006) and the violence that flows from it.

g. Requests the Council for Ecumenism to educate Anglicans in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia about antisemitism and Christian Zionism.

h. Calls on our governments to do what they can in international forums to halt settler violence, and halt illegal settlements in Palestinian areas.

i. Asks the Archbishops to communicate the contents of this motion to the governments of Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa, Fiji and Aotearoa New Zealand.

¹ As defined in the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA); the JDA is a tool to identify, confront and raise awareness about antisemitism. It was developed by a group of scholars in the fields of Holocaust history, Jewish studies, and Middle East studies. It has around 370 signatories. The JDA can be found here: <https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>

² As defined by the Jerusalem Heads of Churches in 2006: <https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2006/08/the-jerusalem-declaration-on-christian-zionism.aspx>