

Greenbank Church Social Justice Action Group

Palestine/Israel

Greenbank's Social Justice Action Group has recently discussed its priorities and has affirmed a continuing focus on the Palestine crisis. It recently supported the Edinburgh Direct Aid fundraising coffee morning, noting that organisation's current project work in Gaza. The Group will consider further fundraising and lobbying actions in due course. Meantime, for information, it is worth highlighting the position of the Church of Scotland on Palestine/Israel.

Given the recent genocide perpetrated on the Palestinian people of Gaza, and years of killing and injustice in Israel/Palestine, as we all continue to pray for a just and peaceful solution, the following is a brief summary of Church of Scotland pronouncements over the years on Palestine/Israel.

The Special Report of the World Mission Council (WMC) to the General Assembly (GA) of the Church of Scotland in 2019 framed the Church's work as tackling **structural issues of injustice** and highlighting the urgent need to address the **desperate situation of the Palestinian community**.

Ending Occupation and Settlement Expansion

- The General Assembly repeatedly calls for the **end of the occupation** of Palestinian territory.
- It explicitly **condemns the illegal expansion of Settlements** in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, viewing them as a major impediment to peace.
- The Assembly calls for an **end to the demolition of Palestinian houses** and the **expropriation of Palestinian land**.
- It encourages all Church agencies to engage with Israeli, Palestinian, and International organisations that are working to **end the Israeli occupation through non-violent means**.

It **repeats the call for the UK Government to recognise the State of Palestine**.

The core principle guiding the Church is the call for a peace based on **justice and respect for the equal rights of all people**.

It affirms that **Jerusalem must be a city shared by Israelis and Palestinians**.

And most recently the deliverance of the General Assembly in 2025 was as follows:

Assembly Trustees

14. Encourage the whole Church of Scotland to continue to pray for peace with justice in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, and to continue to advocate for the creation of a State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel (*Sections 15.1 to 15.10*).
15. Instruct the Israel Palestine Committee to continue to share the voices of those from the region, particularly Palestinian Christians, and to raise awareness of their situation and history with Church members, through resources, the media, and 24th of the month events (*Sections 15.1 to 15.10*).
16. In relation to Israel/Palestine:
 - (i) Condemn the resumption of the war on Gaza, the blockade of food and humanitarian aid, the ongoing forcible displacement of Gazans, and the continued holding of hostages;
 - (ii) Instruct the Assembly Trustees in collaboration with the Faith Action Leadership Team to advocate to the Government of the UK that it must exert all efforts towards the upholding of International Humanitarian Law, the establishment of a ceasefire, the lifting of the blockade on food and humanitarian aid, and the release of the remaining hostages;
 - (iii) Renew the call to the Government to stop granting export licenses for the sale of weapons to Israel; and
 - (iv) Encourage the Church to engage in prayer and advocacy for the peace of Israel and Palestine.

End of notes.