

From the Bishop

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick
The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i



Hear Their Voices

July 23, 2026

My dear Siblings in Christ,

Recently, the General Synod of the Church of England adopted a resolution regarding the plight of the Palestinian people and ongoing conflict in Palestine and Israel. The General Synod is something like the General Convention of the Episcopal Church and functions as the primary governing body of the Church of England.

The text of the resolution can be found at:

- [Synod votes to stand in solidarity with Palestinian Christians and ‘hear’ their voices in amended motion](#)

The resolution commits the Church of England to “stand in solidarity” with Palestinian Christians and “hear” their experiences while opposing anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hatred.

The Synod called members of the Church of England to “hear” the “heartfelt expressions of the lived experience of Palestinian Christians” through the words of four documents:

- [Kairos Palestine Document](#)
- [CRY FOR HOPE: A CALL TO DECISIVE ACTION](#)
- [A Call for Repentance: An Open Letter from Palestinian Christians to Western Church Leaders and Theologians](#)
- [Kairos Palestine – The Palestinian Christian Initiative](#)

As your Bishop, I too urge you to read the documents and consider well the reality of Palestinian Christians.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Sarah Mullally, noted during the discussion of the resolution:

There has been much public discussion of the Kairos II in recent days. This document reflects the pain and trauma of the Palestinian people. As a pastor, I hear the cry of our Palestinian Christian sisters and brothers – a cry that rises from the ruins of Gaza, and from the violence and oppression of the West Bank.... The urgency of the situation in the Holy Land demands that we have difficult conversations. We must listen to those things that are hard to hear, and take the risk of engaging across divides.... To hear the heartfelt expressions of the lived experiences of the Palestinian Christians does not mean we agree

with everything in these documents – but it does mean that we listen with compassion, and stand in solidarity with them amidst the many injustices they face.... I am a pastor, not a politician. When I say the Palestinian people deserve their freedom, that is not a political statement, but a moral and spiritual one. Both Palestinians and Israelis deserve to live free from the horrors of war, terrorism, occupation, displacement, and oppression. (see the full text of the Archbishop's comments: [We must hear the voices of Palestinian Christians, says Archbishop of Canterbury](#))

As Christians, we stand in solidarity with sibling Palestinian Christians. We can decry the destruction of Gaza, and the expansion of Israeli settlements and settler violence on the West Bank. We must not allow anger at the actions of the Israeli government to degrade into anti-Semitism. The immoral actions of a nation state must not be allowed to be turned into the hate of an ethnic group or a religious community. Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia are both sinful.

As Episcopalians (like our sibling Anglicans in the Church of England), we must support the Church in the Holy Land and “hear” the voice of the Palestinian people.

As I have in the past, I urge your personal support of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through:

- [The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem](#)

Two groups with strong local ties to our Diocese are:

- [The Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Justice Network](#)
- [Friends of Sabeel North America \(FOSNA\)](#)

There are no simple solutions to the conflict in Palestine/Israel. The voice of our Christians is often lost in the cacophony of voices. The notion of competitive victimhood becomes the reality when trying to understand the suffering of different peoples – especially if they share the same land.

I urge you today to begin by listening to these voices.

I would also suggest checking out voices of the groups advocating for peace:

- [The Parents Circle-Families Forum](#): A joint organization of over 800 bereaved families who have lost immediate loved ones to the conflict, dedicated to reconciliation and peace
- [Combatants for Peace](#): An organization where former Israeli soldiers and Palestinian fighters have laid down their weapons to campaign for non-violent change and an end to the occupation
- [Standing Together](#) (Omdim Beyachad): The largest Jewish-Arab grassroots movement in Israel, mobilizing citizens around the country to push for peace, equality, and social justice
- Women Wage Peace & Women of the Sun ([Global Sisters Report](#)): Two partner movements of Israeli and Palestinian mothers who frequently organize joint campaigns and marches demanding a peaceful, negotiated resolution

- [Alliance for Middle East Peace](#) (ALLMEP): A coalition of over 200 civil society organizations involving hundreds of thousands of Israelis and Palestinians focused on peacebuilding and coexistence

The Episcopal Church is preparing for the 82nd General Convention of The Episcopal Church to be held from Saturday, July 3, to Thursday, July 8, 2027, in Phoenix, Arizona. Our Church will be asked to hear the same cries as the Church of England.

Finally, I hope this prayer from the Most Reverend Hosam Naoum, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, will be on our lips and in our hearts:

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths—Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call to you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.

Aloha ma o Iesu Kristo, ko mākou Haku,

+Bob

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