

CHRISTIANS 4 PALESTINE



christians4palestine.org



CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Israel is on trial at the International Court of Justice for genocide against the Palestinian people, and specifically the people of Gaza.

Many human rights organisations including Amnesty International have concluded that Israel is committing genocide, and the Irish government has recently confirmed it also believes Israel is committing genocide.

Article 1 of the Genocide Convention, to which both the UK and Ireland are full signatories, designates genocide as the crime of all crimes for which there can be no justification, morally or legally. It requires states to do all in their power to prevent genocide where there is a clear danger of it occurring. The treaty has extra-territorial scope, meaning that even if the genocide happens outside a country's borders, it still has a legal responsibility to act.

As church members and leaders with influence in the public sphere, we must also do all in our power to stop the daily slaughter and starvation in Gaza.

“When churches justify a genocide or are silent watching from distance, making carefully crafted balanced statements --- the credibility of the Gospel is at stake.” **Rev Dr Munther Isaac, Bethlehem Bible College.**

We ask the question directly of you as an ordained minister or elder in PCI – have you done all in your power yet to learn about Israel's war crimes and to draw attention to them?

CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Christian Zionists say that the modern secular state of Israel is a sign of the end times and a fulfilment of God's promises, and they describe modern day Jews as God's chosen people.

Who does the Bible say are God's chosen people, and is the real Israel of the New Covenant a man-made nation state or a spiritual creation ordained by God? Christ himself and St Paul addressed this clearly:

John 14:6 *"Jesus answered: 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me'"*

Galatians 3:28,29 *"There is no Jew or Gentile. There is no slave or free person. There is no male or female. That's because you are all one in Christ Jesus. You who belong to Christ are Abraham's seed. So you will receive what God has promised."*

Galatians 6:14-16 *"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule — to the Israel of God."*

By failing to challenge the racist, sectarian and un-Biblical assumptions behind Christian Zionism, and quietly allowing Israel to portray its Jewish citizens as having more natural rights than their Christian and Muslim neighbours, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is complicit in dehumanisation, occupation, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and ultimately genocide.

It is time to end this complicity.



Rahaf Ayad, aged 12, 21st May 2025

A million children are facing starvation in Gaza, in a deliberate policy enacted by the Israeli government, aided and abetted by western states including both the British and Irish governments, who have been able to rely on the silence and inaction of British and Irish church leaders – you.

It is within the power of this 2025 General Assembly to help save the lives of little Rahaf and all of Gaza's civilians by following the clear lead given by the Presbyterian Church USA and taking these actions:

- 1. Publicly echo the Irish government's declaration that Israel is committing genocide and demand that both Ireland and the UK take action in line with the Genocide Convention.**
- 2. Immediately ensure that PCI's pension funds and other investments are fully divested from Israel-related investments and publicise these efforts.**
- 3. Pass a resolution this week condemning Christian Zionism and rejecting the dehumanising rhetoric of the Israeli state and its apologists.**