



You may choose to look the
other way but you can never
say again that you did not know.

William Wilberforce



"The food and aid depots should be bombed in order to create military and political pressure"

Itamar Ben-Gvir, Minister of National Security of Israel

"I'm interested in starving the Gazans and imposing a siege to the max. Whoever wants to leave will leave to a humanitarian zone that we will administer."

Moshe Saada, Member of the Knesset

"Gaza is doomed. 2.6 million terrorists in Gaza deserve death!! They deserve death!! They deserve death! Men, women and children. In every way possible, a Shoah should simply be done upon them- yes, read that again - S-H-O-A-H ! As far as I'm concerned, gas chambers. Train cars. And other cruel types of death for these Nazis. No fear, no weakness, just squash. Eradicate. Slaughter. Flatten. Take apart. Smash. Crush."

Elad Brashi, News Producer, Channel 14

"What we are doing in Gaza is a war of extermination: the indiscriminate, unrestrained, brutal, and criminal killing of civilians. We are doing this not because of an accidental loss of control in a particular sector, not because of a disproportionate outburst of fighters in some unit — but as a result of a policy dictated by the government, knowingly, intentionally, viciously, maliciously, recklessly. Yes, we are committing war crimes."

Ehud Olmert, 12th Prime Minister of Israel

"Everyone got used to the idea that you can kill a hundred Gazans in one night, in a war, and nobody in the world cares."

Zvi Sukkot, Member of the Knesset

As lay members of the Irish Presbyterian Church and other Christian churches, we are often told that our desire to hear our ministers speak out more strongly and take action on Gaza is inappropriate. We have been told that praying quietly is what we as Christians should do in the face of the Gaza genocide. We are told that the church's role is not political.

Yet none of us have ever heard our minister or priest preach a sermon criticising William Wilberforce for his activism to abolish slavery, or Eric Lidell who campaigned to keep Sunday Holy, or Bishop Desmond Tutu who campaigned against South African apartheid, or Dr Martin Luther King for his 'I have a dream' speech. There is no criticism of the Presbyterian General Assembly of 1843, which passed a resolution condemning slavery, or of PCI's recent statement in March 2025 challenging UK government moves on foreign aid.

No criticism either of the Good Samaritan, who set aside his self-interest and risked his reputation with his own community to help a stranger from a different tribe. The Priest and the Levite, who walked by on the other side, no doubt praying for the man as they walked, are not held up by you, our church leaders, as exemplars to follow.

As Israel implements its final solution on the people of Gaza, we ask at what point the Presbyterian Church in Ireland will recognise their humanity, speak up for them and take action.

"A private faith that does not act in the face of oppression is no faith at all"

William Wilberforce