

Toward Ending the Occupation of Palestine

Social Policy Resolution

CA 250313



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Resolved, to receive with gratitude the memorials on “Stand for Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine” from the Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, Rocky Mountain Synod, Nebraska Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Southeast Michigan Synod, New England Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, and Southeastern Synod;

Resolved, to encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods, and appropriate churchwide units to advocate for human rights, justice, and peace for all Palestinians and Israelis and support policies that bring an end to the occupation of Gaza and the West Bank--while maintaining the right and sovereignty of the State of Israel to exist--and promote a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict;

Resolved, to recognize the rights of the State of Israel and a sovereign State of Palestine to exist side by side, as per the ELCA’s historic stated position, and per existing UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 1397, 1515, 2334;

Resolved, to reaffirm our deep commitment to justice, peace, and the sanctity of every human life, and join the call of the World Council of Churches for an immediate end to the mass killing in Gaza. With grief and moral urgency, we recognize the profound human toll of the violence and displacement against Palestinian civilians, which constitutes a crisis of international conscience. As we lament this unfolding tragedy, we acknowledge a distinction between our Jewish siblings and the policies of the present government of Israel. We, further, reaffirm our unwavering opposition to antisemitism and Islamophobia in all their forms;

Resolved, to direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Witness in Society Advocacy Team, to write to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the majority and minority leaders of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives calling on the U.S. government:

- to recognize and work to end the genocide against the Palestinian people, to halt military assistance to Israel used to devastate Gaza, and to investigate the use of U.S. military aid to Israel to ensure compliance with U.S. and international human rights law;
- to redouble its efforts to end human rights violations in Gaza and the West Bank, focusing on the most egregious and ongoing violations, including: indiscriminate and disproportionate bombing of Gaza resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of children, women and men; deprivation of adequate access to drinking water, food, medical care, and electricity; destruction of buildings—including hospitals, places of worship, homes, and schools—and the destruction of electricity, sewage and water infrastructure essential for survival; and, the detention of hostages and political prisoners;
- to recognize Palestine as a sovereign state, and support Palestine’s full membership in the United Nations, and
- to reject proposals to remove Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank, to address the catastrophic living conditions that could force Palestinians to leave, and to work to end the rampant settler violence and vandalism against Palestinians in the West Bank;

Resolved, to encourage prayerful response to the ongoing devastation in Gaza and the West Bank and encourage individuals, congregations, and synods of the ELCA to pray for Palestinians and Israelis, Jews, Christians and Muslims, who work to create a future of justice, equality, reconciliation, and peace for all, including our siblings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), Augusta Victoria Hospital operated by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and the World Council of Churches/Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (WCC/EAPPI) who offer comfort, support, accountability, and relief; and

Resolved, to reaffirm the ELCA's commitment to amplifying the voices of ELCA partners in Palestine and Israel and their language of justice for their own people; and the urgency and importance of the advocacy, awareness building, and accompaniment work of the ELCA through the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Desk, the Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries Desk, the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage (ALAMEH), the ELCA initiative "Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel," and the Witness in Society (WiS) public policy team.

Adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in August 2025

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