



Canadian Ecumenical
Justice Initiatives /
Initiatives œcuméniques
canadiennes pour
la justice

Members

The Anglican Church of Canada
Canadian Catholic Organization for
Development and Peace
Canadian Religious Conference
Christian Reformed Church in
North America (Canada Corporation)
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Canada
Mennonite Central Committee
Canada
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The Primate's World Relief and
Development Fund
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
The United Church of Canada

Membres

Assemblée annuelle canadienne
de la Société religieuse des Amis
Comité Central Mennonite Canada
Conférence religieuse canadienne
Développement et Paix
L'Église anglicane du Canada
Église Évangélique Luthérienne
au Canada
L'Église presbytérienne au Canada
L'Église réformée chrétienne en
Amérique du Nord
(Société canadienne)
L'Église Unie du Canada
Le fonds du Primat pour le secours
et le développement mondial

310 Dupont Street, Suite 200
Toronto Ontario
Canada M5R 1V9
tel: 416.463.5312
toll-free: 1.877.403.8933
www.kairoscanada.org

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Canada

February 3, 2020

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Warm greetings to you in this new year.

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives and its members write to you today to urge you to publicly and unequivocally reject U.S. President Donald Trump's "Peace to Prosperity Plan" for Israel and Palestine (28 January 2020), which contravenes international law and further undermines the human rights of millions of Palestinians. We also call on Canada to urge other international leaders to denounce the notion that this "Plan" could offer a framework through which peace could be negotiated.

Our concerns are based on our long-term engagement in the region, our many church to church partnerships, and our longstanding relationships with both Palestinians and Israelis working for peace. Members of KAIROS visited Palestine and Israel as recently as November 2019, where they bore witness to the extreme suffering of the Palestinian people and the impact of the continued occupation on both Palestinians and Israelis.

KAIROS and its members recognize and support the self-determination of the Palestinian people. This "Peace to Prosperity Plan" was negotiated with Israel alone. Any arrangements for long-term, sustainable and just peace must include the **full** participation of Palestinian leaders, including Palestinian women, as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

On 25 November 2019, KAIROS wrote a letter to Minister Francois Philippe Champagne to thank Canada for its vote at the UN General Assembly affirming the right of Palestinian people to self-determination. We joined churches and civil society organizations in Canada and internationally in applauding Canada's affirmation of this position on December 18, 2019. These votes are consistent with international law and demonstrate Canada's commitment to principled leadership.

The "Plan" contravenes international law and international humanitarian law related to annexation, occupation, and the protection of human rights. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Palestine said in a release that, "This plan would turn the rules-based international order on its head and would permanently entrench the tragic subjugation of the Palestinians that is already existing on the ground." Respecting international legal instruments, including the Geneva Conventions to which Canada is a party, we call for any future peace arrangements to be undertaken in the spirit

of the equality, dignity and justice of all parties involved in this intractable conflict.

We are particularly concerned by the “Plan’s” insistence on recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. As you know, Jerusalem is a site of historical significance to both Israeli and Palestinian nationalities and of religious importance to Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths. Recognizing this, it is essential that the sovereignty of the city be shared by Israelis and Palestinians, and all faith groups must have open and free access to their holy places. Access to any part of the city must not be restricted by the illegal security wall erected by Israel nor through the “custodianship” enforced by the Israeli government.

Finally, the “Plan” entrenches the illegal Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories that are guaranteed under the 1967 peace accords. This occupation, along with the blockade of Gaza, have led to a humanitarian crisis for Palestinians which must be addressed through immediate action, including by ending the blockade and providing significant additional funding to UNRWA. The essential element in addressing the humanitarian crisis and building a sustainable, thriving Palestinian economy is ending the occupation and dismantling all the structures and systems that perpetuate it.

We urge the Government of Canada to renew its commitment to lasting peace by publicly rejecting this “Plan”, immediately addressing the worsening humanitarian situation for Palestinians and working towards a just peace agreement rooted in the spirit of international law and human rights.

Please be assured of our continued prayers for you in your critically important role of giving leadership to our nation.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Mitchell, Chair

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

C.c.:

Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca

Conservative Party of Canada

The Hon. Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Opposition

Andrew.Scheer@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Erin O'Toole, Erin.OTOole@parl.gc.ca

New Democratic Party of Canada

Jagmeet Singh, Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca

Jack Harris, Jack.Harris@parl.gc.ca

Green Party of Canada

Elizabeth May, Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca

Bloc Quebecois

Yves-François Blanchet, Yves-Francois.Blanchet@part.gc.ca

Stéphane Bergeron, Stephane.Bergeron@parl.gc.ca

Her Excellency Deborah Lyons, Ambassador of Canada to Israel,

Deborah.Lyons@international.gc.ca

Robin Wettlaufer, Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority,

Robin.Wettlaufer@international.gc.ca

Jennifer Henry, Executive Director, KAIROS

jhenry@kairoscanada.org