

June 24, 2020

H.B. Michel Sabbah

Patriarch Emeritus, Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem
President: Kairos Palestine

Rifat Kassis

General Coordinator,
Global Kairos for Justice

Dear friends,

On July 1, 2020, Kairos Palestine and Global Kairos for Justice issued a world-wide call: “Cry for Hope: A Call to Decisive Action.”

We, the undersigned Canadian churches and church agencies, hear that Cry as a call for decisive action. We recognize “the word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering.”

It is our commitment to the Creator, our love and the depth of our relationships with you—people, churches and communities in Palestine—that cause us to oppose the oppression of Palestinians. We strive to have Micah 6:8 govern our response “to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.”

In that light, we will share your Cry with our communities so that they hear, in your own words, the strength and urgency of your call. We will work alongside churches and communities in Palestine as you seek to resist occupation, and to advocate for the human rights of Palestinian people. We will work alongside others in our country to address violations of human rights by the Israeli government, including our recent advocacy against the annexation of the West Bank by the newly formed coalition government.

We will engage our communities in discernment and study on the pressing need for justice for Palestinian people, including by reflecting critically on theologies and biblical interpretations that have created barriers in our churches to the robust engagement in justice-seeking for Palestinian people. We will continue to support interfaith partnerships and promote opportunities for our communities to “come and see” and to learn about the reality on the ground. We will continue to oppose antisemitism, Islamophobia and other oppressions that intersect to prevent peace with justice.

In our humility, we acknowledge that we do not have agreement within our churches and organizations to fully endorse (or take on for ourselves) all of the non-violent strategies for resistance and advocacy that you have proposed. We do, however, support your right to engage in non-violent resistance and will support those strategies that we can.

It is our hope that your Cry will be heard, that it will echo around the world, that it will take root in hearts, that it will stir the change so desperately required. God's promise of a reign of justice and peace is so far away from the current reality of your day to day struggle and oppression. Our efforts cannot stop until we see the peace with justice in your home which is also our heart's home.



Rev. Michael Blair,

Executive Minister, Church in Mission, The United Church of Canada



The Rev. Susan C. Johnson

National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Anne Michell

Chair, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls,

Primate, Anglican Church of Canada