



EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, GENEVA



HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH GENEVA

26 May 2025

As leaders of the English-speaking churches in Geneva, we write to express our continued dismay at the horrors unfolding in Gaza, the West Bank, and other territories in the Holy Land.

The horrific attacks of 7th October 2023, the murder and death, and the subsequent torture through the holding of hostages to both the victims and their families, cannot be excused. We call on Hamas to release all hostages without harm immediately.

However, neither can the State of Israel's reaction to the events of 7th October be excused. The destruction of people, livelihoods, homes, food supplies, jobs, medical facilities and the continued restrictions on access of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians, suffering so much, is unacceptable. The credible reports of starvation are deeply concerning¹.

The UN estimates that well over 50% of the dead are non-combatant women and children².

We reaffirm that all people are created in the image of God. We all carry the imprint of our Maker, and for that reason are precious and unique.

As has been widely reported, the Israeli Defense Forces have twice bombed Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, and in 2024 forcibly closed the hospital during intense bombardment, depriving Palestinians of a critical source of medical care in the midst of war. Al-Ahli Hospital is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a sister Anglican church to us.

When hospitals are bombed, children disabled for life, and families murdered, we degrade ourselves as well as the other, deprive all humanity of the potential that was in the lives destroyed, and behave in the same ways that we claim to deplore.

We support the international organisations based in Geneva, many employees of which worship in our churches. We recognise that the United Nations institutions do their best to alleviate the suffering of the people in Gaza.

We express support for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA), which was independently investigated resulting in only 9 staff being dismissed³. We note that Israel had not expressed any concerns over UNRWA staff since 2011⁴ before suddenly banning the Agency.

We stand with UN staff at this distressing time in history and call upon all the Missions of the UN's member states to redouble efforts for peace, to support the churches and NGOs still working in Gaza to deliver aid and medical care, and to ensure state capitals are being presented with the true picture of the horrors of what is being allowed to happen to the people of Gaza.

We welcome the fact that some aid is finally getting in but we call for aid to be provided in full under the aegis of the UN.

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163131> ; <https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/cwyn9291yv0o>

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn5wel11pgdo>

³ <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/at-the-un/humanitarian-aid-to-gaza-unrwa.aspx>

⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148821>

We will be holding a vigil and service of prayer for the Holy Land on 27th May at 19h30 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and money donated will go towards supporting the work of Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

Rt Rev Mark Eddington, Bishop of The Episcopal Church's Convocation in Europe

Rev Michael Rusk, Rector, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Geneva

Revd Canon Dr Daphne Green, Chaplain, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Geneva

Rev Deacon Richard Cole, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Geneva

Revd Glen Ruffle, Curate, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Geneva

Revd Canon Carolyn Cook, Chaplain, La Côte Anglican Church.

Revd Daniel Darcey, Campus Pastor, Hillsong Geneva