

RESOLUTION TITLE: On Gaza

RESOLVED, that the 234th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, calls for a permanent ceasefire to end the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. And, be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island demands Israel's immediate lifting of all blockades of food, water, and medical supplies to civilians in Gaza. And be it further,

RESOLVED, that this Convention calls on the US Government to curtail its military support for the Israeli Defense Forces' invasion, occupation, and displacement of the Palestinian populations in Gaza, and that the United States cease providing diplomatic cover to shield Israel from the consequences of its egregious breaches of international law. And be it further,

RESOLVED, that congregations in the Diocese of Rhode Island take action to stand in faithful solidarity with our siblings in Christ in the Holy Land by advocating for humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and organizing for the de-escalation of violence in the Holy Land. And be it further,

RESOLVED, that this Convention requests the congregations of this Diocese publicly pray for the coming of peace with justice to the Holy Land. And be it further,

RESOLVED, that the 234th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island submit the following Resolution to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church:

RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church calls for a permanent ceasefire to end the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. And, be it further,

RESOLVED that The Episcopal Church demand Israel's lifting of all blockades of food, water, and medical supplies to civilians in Gaza. And, be it further,

RESOLVED that The Episcopal Church call on the US Government to curtail its military support for the Israeli Defense Forces' invasion, occupation, and displacement of the Palestinian populations in Gaza, and that the United States cease to provide diplomatic cover to shield Israel from the consequences of its breaches of international law. And, be it further,

RESOLVED that the Dioceses of The Episcopal Church take action to stand in solidarity with our siblings in Christ in the Holy Land by providing and advocating for humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and organizing for the de-escalation of violence in the Holy Land. And, be it further,

RESOLVED that the Executive Council request the congregations of The Episcopal Church publicly pray for peace with justice in the Holy Land.

EXPLANATION

On April 20th, 2024, The Episcopal Church's Executive Council with the with the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem passed a resolution on Gaza ([MB013](#)) "calling for 'the speedy distribution of humanitarian aid; the release of all captives; [and] the unimpeded access of fully equipped doctors and medical staff to tend to the sick and injured.'" The Executive Council also affirmed the call of the Presiding Bishop over 140 other leading clergy that "We, as global Christian

leaders, stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Palestine and around the world and say the killing must stop, and the violence must be brought to an end,” and further that “The horrific actions Hamas committed on October 7th in no way justify the massive deaths of tens of thousands of civilians in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli military.” ([Statement](#))

Repeatedly, Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem has stated that “Advocacy is urgently needed for Israel’s adherence to the Geneva Conventions, as its current practices are unacceptable.” All major denominations (Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran Church, International Society of Friends, Presbyterian Church USA, United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist, and Mennonite organizations) except The Episcopal Church have stated that the situation in Gaza is a genocide, a statement supported by such scholars as Dr. Omer Bartov, professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Brown University.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, the Gaza Health Ministry and the United Nations report that Israeli military forces have killed at least 64,000 Gazans, 80% of whom are civilians, and at least 70% women and children. Record-breaking numbers of journalists, medical personnel, and humanitarian workers are among the dead, and countless numbers of Gazans have suffered lifelong injuries.

On August 22, 2025, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (the IPC), the world’s leading authority on food crises, declared that large sections of Gaza are officially suffering from famine while Israel denies entry of thousands of truckloads of food at the border.

Major medical facilities, including Al Ahi Hospital, an institution of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, as well as churches offering shelter, have been attacked, before and during the major assault on Gaza City currently taking place.

The United States continues to be complicit in the destruction of Gaza and its people by providing essentially unlimited supplies of weapons and \$174 billion in military support, and by using its veto in the UN to prevent Israel from being held accountable for its actions.

US public opinion, including that of many Jews, is now expressing firm opposition to the unprecedented carnage unleashed in Gaza, calling for an end to the US government issuing a blank check to Israel for its actions in Gaza and the Occupied Territories of the West Bank.

Other supporting documents include the resolution from General Convention [D007 HB Committee #06 Report #17](#), and the recent [statement](#) from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe.