

**Resolution: Response to the Destruction of Palestinians**

WHEREAS the ceasefire in Gaza requires Christians to take urgent steps toward recovery and healing,<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS the church calls all disciples to be advocates for peacemaking that strives for human rights, political alternatives to war, social justice, control of the arms trade, and creative means of working for peace in God's world, and

WHEREAS 2024 was the deadliest year on record for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and the displacement of millions of people in Gaza and Lebanon occurred even while the ELCA has called for an end to unconditional aid to the State of Israel,<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS some definitions of antisemitism equate opposition to policies of the State of Israel with antisemitism, target political criticism of Israel on college campuses, and enable false claims of antisemitism making it difficult to identify real incidents of antisemitism,<sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2016 voted (with 90% in favor) to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen to apply to investments in the State of Israel, and voted (with 82% in favor) for the U.S. to link financial and military aid to Israel to Israel's compliance with internationally recognized human rights standards and other criteria<sup>4</sup>; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) acting in assembly reject silent complicity with destruction of Palestinians, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Assembly ask the Bishop of the MAS to speak out for the value of all lives in the Holy Lands – Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Arab and Middle Eastern – and to communicate to the MAS area members of Congress and Minnesota U.S. Senators that the MAS asks them to stop using our U.S. tax dollars to fund weapons that potentially harm Palestinians and other civilians in adjacent countries, and instead prohibit providing weaponry and military assistance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MAS reject definitions of antisemitism that do not distinguish between hatred of Jews and criticism of the State of Israel, and all Islamophobia and antisemitism which harms our Muslim and Jewish neighbors locally and globally, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Assembly ask the MAS and its congregations, in accordance with the 2016 screening decision, to review current and future investments that profit from Israel's violations of Palestinian human rights.

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**Adopted by:** Central Conference in assembly February 8, 2025; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, at a congregational meeting February 4, 2025; and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, at a congregational meeting February 9, 2025.

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**References:**

- 40   <sup>1</sup> 2025 Statement on ceasefire from Lutheran Disaster Relief, [https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-](https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response/our-impact/middle-east-crisis)  
41   development/lutheran-disaster-response/our-impact/middle-east-crisis
- 42   <sup>2</sup> ELCA Churchwide Assembly, August 2016; CA16.05.13
- 43   <sup>3</sup> 2023 Curriculum on Antisemitism from a Framework of Collective Liberation,  
44   <https://www.antisemitismcurriculum.org>
- 45   <sup>4</sup> ELCA Churchwide Assembly, August 2016; CA 16.06.31, CA16.05.13 ("the 2016 screening decision")