

Notice of Motion 2018/212: Gaza

The Conference expresses its extreme concern for the deteriorating conditions in the Gaza Strip and notes the widely recognised concern by NGOs, the United Nations and Government bodies that the two million residents of the area now face conditions that are inhumane. Water is unsafe to drink, sewage is untreated, food is insufficient for the population, eighty common medicines are unavailable and electricity is on for a maximum period of four hours a day.

In addition as a result of the huge number of casualties over the period of the “March of Return” medical facilities in Gaza – already under strain due to the blockade – are now unable to cope.

The Conference notes that the primary reason for this situation is the blockade of Gaza by the Israeli authorities, but notes also that Egypt and the Palestinian Authority also bear some responsibility for these deteriorating conditions. The Conference recognises that a violent response to this situation only makes the situation worse and therefore urges the leaders of Hamas to cease provoking Israel by its use of burning kites and rockets.

The Conference calls for the following actions:

- For a letter to be written to the Israeli Ambassador from the Conference demanding that the Israeli Army observe International Law by ceasing to fire on unarmed civilians.
- For British Methodists to contact their elected representatives and urge Her Majesty’s Government to:
 - undertake concerted efforts to bring the blockade to an end.
 - impress upon the Israeli Government the importance of adhering to International Law - especially in regard to protests on the borders of Gaza.
- For Methodists across the world to observe the World Methodist Council’s call for seven days of prayer for Gaza and the Holy Land, from the first to the seventh of July.

Proposed: The Revd John D Howard

Seconded: The Revd Rachel E Parkinson

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. Mrs Beatrice Cloke | 5. Mr Peter Mills |
| 2. Miss Jacqueline Hill | 6. Dr Stephen Leah |
| 3. Miss Andrea Sheppick | 7. Mrs Sharon Harbottle |
| 4. Mr Keith Walton | 8. Mrs Susan Marshall-Jennings |

Budgetary implications

No additional costs.