

“Reorientation and Commitment” Summary

January 2026



As the 10th anniversary of the Mennonite Church Canada’s 2016 resolution on Palestine and Israel approaches, we in the MC Canada Palestine/Israel network (PIN) are renewing our mandate to help fulfill our denomination’s commitment to peace and justice in the Holy Land.

Israel’s massive destruction of Gaza and stepped-up ethnic cleansing and oppression in the West Bank since October 2023 have put enormous strain on our Palestinian siblings in faith, and on the people of Palestine more generally. On November 14, 2025, Palestinian Christian leaders issued a fresh call entitled “A Moment of Truth—Faith in a Time of Genocide.” This statement urges both the Palestinian churches and the global church to reflect and act more decisively in this time of crisis.

The following is a summary of a more comprehensive statement of the PINs response and commitment—a guide for our own work, but also for our congregations and leaders.

REVIEW: PIN’S FORMATION, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND CHALLENGES SINCE 2016

The PIN was born in the wake of the [Palestine and Israel resolution](#) passed at the July 2016 General Assembly of Mennonite Church Canada. That fall, denominational leaders appointed a national working group to guide the church in following up the resolution. Its mandate was the resolution itself, particularly the six-part “Be it Resolved” section. In the following year, the PIN changed its composition to follow the restructuring of the denomination, organizing regional working groups and representatives, guided by a national steering committee. This structure has been in place ever since and has grown in size and reach.

Please see the full document to review the **activities of the PIN**—awareness-building and education in our churches, political advocacy, partnerships with parallel groups, and partnerships with Christians in the Holy Land. Our **lessons and challenges** are also reviewed in the document: reactions from supporters of the state of Israel; relationships between advocate groups and church structures; and navigating the distinction between criticism of Israel and antisemitic racism.

THE KAIROS PALESTINE CALL OF 2025

The eruption of Israel’s devastating destruction of Gaza sparked a significant plunge in Palestinian hopes for a just path to peace in the Holy Land. Palestinian Christians were shocked and disheartened to see western churches either expressing support for Israel’s destructive campaign or remaining silent or hesitant to condemn what the International Court of Justice would, by early 2024, label “a plausible genocide.”

Deep soul-searching led Kairos Palestine to release “Moment of Truth—Faith in a Time of Genocide” on November 14, 2025. This statement, representing a broad coalition of Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant and evangelical leaders and academics, was an even clearer, more anguished, and more broadly owned than the 2009 Kairos Palestine “Moment of Truth” statement. Like the earlier statement, this one was addressed to both Palestinian churches, and to the global church. It included four sections:

I: The Reality: Geocide, Colonization, and Ethnic Cleansing

II: A Moment of Truth for Us. (directed to the Palestinian Church)

III: A Call to Repentance and Action (directed to the global church)

IV. Faith in a Time of Genocide. A reflection of theological grounding and hope

PIN'S COMMITMENTS TO ACTION IN 2026 AND BEYOND

The following imperatives express the commitments of MC Canada PIN, building on the 2016 resolution and responding to the 2025 “Moment of Truth” call of Kairos Palestine:

- **Articulate biblical and Anabaptist foundations for our justice work.**
- **Expose and oppose the theologies of Christian Zionism, and the ideology of political Zionism.**
- **Build on relationships of solidarity with Palestinians Christians,**
- **Amplify Palestinian voices in our advocacy.**
- **Exert economic pressure on Israel through Boycotts Divestment, and Sanctions** in our personal and collective economic practices.
- **Pressure the government of Canada**--through letters, petitions, meetings with legislators, and public demonstrations--to uphold international law and human rights in Palestine/Israel through actions (sanctions, trade measures). not just rhetoric.
- **Use clear language:** name *genocide, ethnic cleansing, settler colonialism, racial supremacy, and apartheid*, as the realities endured by Palestinians; avoid minimizing terms such as *conflict*.
- **Spread awareness of the realities of Palestine** through educational and media events, social media, and liturgical and prayer resources for our churches.
- **Own our Mennonite history of racism and injustice** toward Jewish and Indigenous peoples, while remaining resolute in advocacy for Palestinian freedom.
- **Resist the urge to confuse criticism of Israel with antisemitism.**
- **Resist the temptation of “both-sidesism,”** expressing sympathy or justification for oppressive actions of Israel.
- **Collaborate with kindred groups**—not only within the Mennonite and broader Christian community, but also with other religious and non-religious groups where our goals and vision coincide with theirs.