

The Gaza Crisis

Mission Committee

	Sarah Lane Cawte, Convenor of Mission Committee Philip Brooks
	Decision.

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Resolution 37 General Assembly Record 2016
Paper I2 General Assembly 2021.

... Representatives of Children and Youth, Education and Learning, URC Resource Centres for Learning, URC Interfaith Enabling Group, Commitment for Life, URC North Western Synod, Churches Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) Investment Management, The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), The Methodist Church of Great Britain, The Church of Scotland, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), ecumenical partners in Palestine, URC General Secretariat, URC Sabeel-Kairos, the Council for Christians and Jews (CCJ), URC ministers and members with relevant expertise such as participants of the

passed a resolution

- Many more than 10,000 people missing or trapped under building rubble
- More than 100 journalists killed
- More than 360,000 buildings damaged or destroyed
- 392 educational facilities have been damaged or destroyed
- 267 churches and mosques have been damaged or destroyed
- 15 out of 35 hospitals are partially functional
- 83% of ground water wells damaged
- 11 bakeries destroyed.¹⁴

The Israeli government continued to lay siege to Gaza in what appeared to be defiance of the rulings of the ICJ which called on them to implement provisional measures designed to prevent the crime of genocide. Food, medicine and lifesaving equipment were being held at borders. Fewer than 100 trucks of aid were being let through per day when many more than 500 trucks were required pre-7 October. Troops shot to kill starving people,¹⁵ desperate to reach the convoys that did manage to get through. Hunger, famine, and disease were set to take more lives than the bombs, with 2.2 million people at 'imminent risk of famine'.¹⁶ The UK along with the US and other countries and regions withdrew funding from UNWRA¹⁷ while continuing the sale of weapons to Israel.¹⁸ The situation was described by Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, on 4 March 2023 as the following:

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Church in its call for an arms embargo³² in the region. We worry that UK weapons may also end up in Hamas military hands. Our contention is that weapons do nothing to solve the deep political and social divisions in the region. On the contrary, they exacerbate these difficulties. Commitment for Life's partner *Global Justice Now*

Jewish communities. The URC must become allies in the task of confronting,

experience daily.⁴² Arguably, no other society or culture knows what it is like to be shaped

to the shelling for the preservation of innocent life and require that Israel abide by

representing the Muslim Council of Britain, Hassan Joudi, in what some have described as a cynical attempt to leverage the culture wars in support of short term and self-centred party-politics.⁶⁰

5.10 The IEG is encouraging all URC congregations and LEPs, where possible, to

(EAPPI). The URC Sabeel-Kairos group⁶³ has offered to share resources with congregations who wish to learn more about the root causes of ongoing conflict. URC members have marched, petitioned, prayed and protested, motivated by a desire to see an equitable and lasting peace proceeding out from the permanent

