



December 14, 2023

The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister
House of Commons
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Dear Prime Minister,

Greetings to you from The United Church of Canada.

We write to express appreciation for Canada's joint statement with Australia and New Zealand on November 12, 2023, calling for an immediate ceasefire by the Israeli military and Hamas. We also welcome Canada's vote supporting the United Nations resolution for an "immediate humanitarian ceasefire."

After more than 60 days of death, devastation and destruction heaped on Gaza and endangering the hostages still imprisoned, we are relieved that our Government has listened to the massive outcry from Canadians. Our partners in the region are devastated that so many thousands of lives have been lost throughout these 60 days, and we share in their pain.

We appreciate the recent Canadian Government action, and we encourage further steps pressing also for an end to the occupation, in line with Canada's own foreign policy regarding Israel-Palestine, and within international law.

We urge Canada to keep up the pressure on Israel, the United States and all parties for hostilities to cease immediately, for the safe release of all hostages held by Hamas and Palestinians unjustly imprisoned by Israel, the full and safe passage of humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and vital talks involving all parties to address the root causes of the occupation and the violence of the past two months.

Canada must bring all available political, diplomatic and economic measures toward ensuring a just peace so that Palestinians and Israelis can enjoy the full realization of their human rights. We encourage the government to exercise global leadership for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis, including the internationally enshrined rights of Palestinians to life, liberty and self-determination.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss how we can further support you in this particular goal and on other issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Moderator
The United Church of Canada



Leeann Shimoda
Chair, National Indigenous Council
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