



May 29, 2025

Rt. Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Anita Anand
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Carney & Minister Anand,

I'm writing to you today in my role as the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, but also as a mother who is deeply concerned about the safety of children and women in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. I join with other [United Church Women](#) from across The United Church to thank your Government for its recent statement on Gaza, and to ask the Government of Canada to uphold its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law, including under the Genocide Convention, and to hold the State of Israel accountable to its unique obligations under international law as a military occupying power. Too many mothers and children are being lost, and the killing simply must stop. As Christian women we pray for God's peace that surpasses all human understanding, and we also urge you to take concrete action to end this war.

The United Church of Canada has written to our government many times in the last two and half years. This week a delegation from our denomination returned from a solidarity visit, and staff who have travelled there for decades say the situation on the ground is much, much worse than they feared. [Palestinian Christian women](#) issued an urgent call this past week for women and people of conscience around the world to act to end starvation in Gaza, and to speak up for justice and life.

Recently I was awarded a lifetime membership in the United Church Women (UCW) organization. Founded in 1962, the UCW was the United Church successor to the Women's Missionary Society. Today, that spirit of generosity continues in active UCWs in Communities of Faith and regions of our church from coast to coast to coast, united in expressing their devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service. In September 2024, when I met with the UCW presidents from across the country, there was significant shared concern for the plight of women and children affected by the military violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel, and now Lebanon, Iran, and Syria. Experts on the issue of genocide, including Amnesty International, are clear that Israel is waging a genocidal war on Palestinians in Gaza, specifically.

Canada has an obligation to prevent genocide and hold those responsible for it to account. United Church Women reiterate The United Church's repeated calls to the Canadian government to take immediate steps to end Canada's complicity.



Last fall, I attended a regional Caribbean and North American council meeting of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). The Rev. Najla Kassab, President of the WCRC, is one of the very first ordained women in the Presbyterian Church in the region. At our meeting, she challenged us to acknowledge that this conflict has always engaged us in positional arguments of who is right and who is wrong, but that the bottom line is this: people must stop killing each other.

Praying in faith with hope-filled expectation that peace will come,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Lansdowne".

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Moderator, *The United Church of Canada*