

Joint Letter from Canadian Faith Leaders on the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

July 9, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2
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Subject: Faith Leaders Call for Immediate Action to End the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

Dear Prime Minister:

As religious leaders representing diverse faith communities across Canada, we write to you with deep urgency and a shared moral obligation to speak out against the catastrophic humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza.

Across our sacred texts and traditions, we are taught that every human life is sacred, and that protecting the innocent, especially women and children, is a sacred trust. While some may believe a war may have a moral cause, no cause can ever justify immoral tactics such as starvation or the denial of humanitarian aid. Collective punishment is a grave violation of international law and an affront to the ethical foundations of all our faiths. Such acts also constitute clear breaches of the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit targeting civilians and obstructing humanitarian assistance during armed conflict.

The people of Gaza are enduring conditions no human being should face. Over two million civilians, nearly half of them children, are being subjected to mass displacement, hunger, disease, and the collapse of basic infrastructure. The systematic blocking of food, water, medicine, fuel, and humanitarian assistance has turned Gaza into what the UN has called “a graveyard for children.”

In the face of this human-made catastrophe, we urge the Government of Canada to act with courage, clarity, and compassion by:

- Working with allies to immediately lift the blockade on Gaza, ensuring full and sustained access for humanitarian aid and essential supplies;
- Publicly condemning the use of starvation, siege, and collective punishment as weapons of war, regardless of the justification offered;
- Supporting a permanent ceasefire, and pursuing a diplomatic path rooted in international law and the equal dignity of all human beings.

We believe Canada can and must be a voice of conscience in the world. This moment demands moral leadership that affirms our common humanity and refuses to stay silent in the face of mass suffering.

We call on faith leaders across the country to join us in this urgent moral appeal.

Signed by:

Imam Refaat Mohamed
President
Canadian Council of Imams

Imam Sikander Hashmi
Executive Director
Canadian Council of Imams

The Rev. Michael Blair
General Secretary
The United Church of Canada

The Most Reverend Shane Parker
Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada
and Bishop of Ottawa

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The Rev. Jeffrey Murray
Moderator
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

The Rev. Victor Kim
Principal Clerk
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Kenneth Kim
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