

**GENERAL SYNOD 2009**

**MOTION No 8 – ISRAEL/PALESTINE**

**Proposed by Mr J Couchman, Diocese of Cashel**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**This General Synod of the Church of Ireland urges the international community to intensify its efforts to facilitate dialogue between elected representatives of Israel and Palestine, in order to secure the internationally recognized territorial integrities of Israel and Palestine, and to ensure peace and justice for all the people of the region and a permanent cessation of hostilities.**

The purpose of this motion is to encourage the EU, The United States, & Russia, to exert a realistic approach to a democratic permanent resolution to this dangerous, interminable & bloody conflict. The Christian Churches cannot remain passive on lookers, we are bound by Christ's example to do more than provide well meaning platitudes. It is imperative that the equality of the electoral processes of the Palestinians & Israelis must be honoured. The moral justification for violence could be removed by the fearless application of International Law. Now that American Foreign Policy is taking a more diplomatic approach to Middle Eastern realities, the Churches are provided with a matchless opportunity to ensure that the Palestinian electoral process is recognised.