

## GENERAL SYNOD 2009

### MOTION No 8 – ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Seconded by Mr A Gilbert, 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.*

We as a Church, as practising Christians, holding the responsibility of a moral and ethical, living Church, cannot hide in the face of a turbulent world. We cannot pretend the pastoral role will suffice, to heal the wounds inflicted by, racism, sectarian strife, and blind political arrogance. The Church must not be reduced to a talking shop. Our mission is to influence our political leaders, to strive where possible to bring the Sympathetic Christian Ethos to bear on all situations of conflict. We cannot do this by continually picking up the broken pieces of humanity, offering humanitarian aid and clean drinking water. We must bring our influence to bear on the leaders of the EU the US and Russia. Churches are separated from their Secular Sovereign. Show we as a Church exist, **with an attitude, with an opinion**. Offer moral guidance to a secular minded society. The Churches are not weak, just confused about their role in the modern World. The World Council of Churches, on its web site offers an opportunity to take action on the Palestinian/ Israeli conflict, let us explore these opportunities.

This week is by coincidence,

“A **World week for peace in Palestine Israel**” We are encouraged to,

**Pray** with Churches living under occupation,

**Educate** about actions that make for peace, and those that do not.

**Advocate** with political leaders using ecumenical policies that promote peace with justice.

Cashel, has formed an affiliation with the Diocese of Lund in Sweden explore the opportunities – present united front.

When do we as individuals, as serving members of the Church of Ireland, lobby our MP's or TD's on any aspect of International policy?

***The time has come for Palestine*** but the time has also come, to show our leaders that we are no longer cringing Christians. We do not see ourselves purely, as Good Samaritans, picking up the broken pieces of humanity, - No, we are Good Christians, using all the resources at our disposal, to free the captives from the injustices of political arrogance, territorial disputes, and a forced apartheid.

God has no other Divine plan for the land; we have so often called Holy, but the one final plan and that is, **Peace**. There is no other grand design, no prophetic Armageddon, except **Peace**, - the Deity has remained indifferent, except when we invoke the Power of the Holy Spirit to help us strive for a peaceful, ecumenical solution, sharing the treasures and heritage of the land, considered Holy by three Great Religions.

The Church of Ireland, our beloved Church of Ireland, is free to make decisions; we have a democratic, parliamentary system which gives us the decision making power to influence the International Community. We know, democracy, is not perfect, we understand, as indeed our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ in his Divine Wisdom knows, the World is not a fair and equitable place, therefore I hope, and I pray, in seconding the motion.