

# Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod

## Position Statement on Peace

September 2025

Since its birth in 1977 the Uniting Church of Australia has committed to peacemaking and peacekeeping, including the rejection of nuclear weapons.

The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly's (2025) "Our Vision for a Just Australia" states its vision and hopes for peace:

***Vision:***

*Australia acts with courage and conviction to build a just and peaceful world. We are a nation that works in partnership with other nations to dismantle the structural and historical causes of violence, injustice and inequality. Our government upholds human rights everywhere, acting in the best interests of all people and the planet.*

***Hopes:***

*Australia is a good neighbour in our region and beyond, seeking the common good of people and planet alongside national interests.*

*Australia upholds its international human rights obligations and uses United Nations mechanisms to strengthen human rights at home and abroad.*

*Nations armed with nuclear weapons agree to destroy their stockpiles in accordance with a legally-binding, time-bound plan.*

*A peacefully negotiated resolution for Israel and Palestine affirming the right for both the State of Israel and the State of Palestine to live side by side in peace and security.*

The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod supports this vision and these hopes, and we adopt the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly resolutions and statements that outline our commitment to peace:

- In 1982, Militarism and Disarmament
- In 1988, Nuclear deterrence, disarmament and peace
- In 2003, Uniting for Peace
- In 2008, Statement on Israel and Palestine
- In 2015, Palestine
- In 2024, the Holy Land

In July 2025, the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly passed a resolution on the conflict in Palestine and adopted the World Council of Churches statement A Call to End Apartheid, Occupation and Impunity in Palestine and Israel as the Uniting Church's official position.

*renewal*



The Uniting Church in Australia  
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

The statement affirms the dignity of both Palestinians and Israelis and rejects all forms of racism, including antisemitism, anti-Arab racism, and Islamophobia. The Uniting Church in Australia Assembly and the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod echo its urgent calls for:

- an end to the occupation of Palestine, and the lifting of the unlawful blockade on Gaza.
- accountability, including sanctions, where international law is violated.
- the protection and affirmation of Palestinian rights and freedoms.
- justice through the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice.
- recognition of the grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including potential war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- a renewed international commitment to a just and lasting peace, and
- solidarity with the Christian church in Palestine.

The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod recognises a clear distinction between the Jewish people, who are our siblings in faith, and the acts of the Government of Israel. The Government of Israel's military campaign in Gaza has entailed grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention which may constitute genocide and/or other crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). We condemn the failure to protect the human rights of Palestinians to freedom, justice, return, and self-determination, including the failure to recognise Palestinian statehood. We reject completely acts of terrorism and call for the immediate release of all remaining hostages in Gaza.

There are many ways to bear witness to peace. The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod encourages all members to follow the example of Jesus by taking part in faithful action through caring for others, and prayer and reflection, to work towards lasting peace.

We deeply lament the ongoing violence in Palestine and Israel. We ask God to grant us moral clarity and prophetic courage: to speak truth with love and to resist dominance with non-violence. We affirm the dignity and God-given worth of both Palestinians and Israelis. We reject conflation of Jewish identity with the policies of any state and likewise reject narratives that dehumanise Palestinians.

We follow Christ who stands with the oppressed, weeps with the broken, and rises with wounds still visible. We encourage Christ's followers to walk humbly with all who suffer, and to join in the work of true reconciliation and lasting peace.

We ask that God may guide our actions—our prayers, our advocacy, our public witness—to bring about love, hope for justice that renews and peace that endures.