

Statement on the USCCB's Adoption of the "Translate Hate" Document

We, Catholics for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land, express our deep concern and strong opposition to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) adopting the "Translate Hate" document authored by the American Jewish Committee.

This decision is especially troubling amid the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people, including Palestinian Christians, who are enduring a genocidal war and systematic ethnic cleansing that has persisted for over 15 months in Gaza and the West Bank, alongside active plans for further forced displacement. This war has resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands, the injury of hundreds of thousands, and the forced displacement of millions.

We urge the USCCB to immediately retract its adoption of this document. Furthermore, we call upon the Catholic Church in Canada to take a principled stance by engaging with the USCCB and advocating for withdrawal from this declaration. Such an action would reflect a commitment to justice and peace and a meaningful solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The "Translate Hate" document has been strongly contested by Palestinian theologians and scholars, as well as many others across the United States and Europe. Kairos Palestine has issued a letter emphasizing that the document was formulated without consulting Palestinian Christians—the living stones and salt of the earth—whose voices are essential in any honest conversation about their homeland and lived experiences.

As Catholics in Canada, we believe we have a moral responsibility to stand with our Palestinian partners in the face of the atrocities they are enduring. We must also stand with our Christian siblings in the Holy Land in their struggle for justice, dignity, and freedom.

We call on all Catholic communities, faith leaders, and advocates for justice to raise their voices in opposition to this document and to work toward a genuine peace and reconciliation rooted in truth, inclusivity, and compassion.

Catholics for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land