

# **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate use

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## **Council of Christians and Jews comments on the Anglican Communion Statement regarding Israel**

Israel is currently preparing for disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. It is a very difficult and sensitive time, and both Israelis and Palestinians need support from the international community to try to ensure that peace and justice for all involved may prevail.

Wherever possible, there should be international investment in projects which alleviate suffering, lower tension and promote economic co-operation.

It is of singular importance for Israel to feel that they have the understanding of the wider world and in particular from religious institutions whose *raison d'être* is the peaceful resolution of violent conflict, as they prepare their withdrawal.

Negative or hostile gestures can confirm extremists, on all sides, in their intransigence and make it more difficult for people to play an effective rôle in mediation.

The Anglican Communion statement is based upon a profound desire for peace and justice to be embraced in the region, but events have already overtaken some of its analysis – as happens in all situations where the political situation is complex and fast-moving. It raises questions for discussion and the Resolutions invite all Provinces of the Anglican Communion to give consideration to their investment strategies. There can be no doubt that ethical investment is an important matter for all Christian churches.

On the back of this a greater international understanding needs to be built concerning the complex political, theological, social and cultural elements of the Israel/Palestine situation.

CCJ, committed as it always has been to the creation of Christian-Jewish understanding will continue to work in this area offering its expertise and knowledge to all parties involved.

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### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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