

**Palestine Network, Shining Waters Region
United Church of Canada**

**Cry for Hope: A Response by Shining Waters Region
March, 2021**

Context

Kairos Palestine issued the *Cry for Hope* document in July 2020 in response to the ongoing oppression of the Palestinian people. *Cry for Hope* calls on Christians and churches around the world to:

- a. Begin processes at all levels so we recognize the requirement for action
- b. Theological study – from the point of view of colonizer and colonized
- c. Affirm the right to resist and join in nonviolent resistance, using BDS* as a framework
- d. Demand government action
- e. Oppose anti-Semitism
- f. Support interfaith and Israel Palestine partnerships
- g. Encourage Come and See visits to Palestine

The United Church of Canada has committed to respond in several ways. The Palestine Network, Shining Waters Region, commits to assisting the Region to respond.

Mission

- Our primary **focus** and our sphere of influence are the communities of faith and individual members of Shining Waters Region of the United Church of Canada.
- We **partner** with those who focus more generally on all Canadians- with UNJPPI, with groups in other Regions, and with international and ecumenical groups.
- We **seek to change attitudes** and increase commitment to action by individuals and communities of faith to further the path towards a just peace in Palestine and Israel.
- We **seek public leadership** from Shining Waters Region and the United Church of Canada on human rights for Palestinians through economic pressure on multi-national businesses operating from or enabling illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Goals

1. Education

Raise awareness among the people and communities of faith in the Shining Waters Region about the issues affecting Palestinians under occupation and **encourage them to take actions** to restore and uphold the human rights of Palestinians.

2. Advocacy

Work to encourage the courts of The United Church of Canada to give public leadership on restoring and upholding the human rights of Palestinians by a) adopting a **human rights investment lens** for church groups holding trust funds and b) by divesting from multi-national businesses operating in or contributing to the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories.

*Boycott, divestment, and sanctions are strategies employed successfully in the 1970s and 80s to convince the former apartheid government of South Africa to adopt human rights for all citizens.