

1 **R-4s –Resolution Regarding War Between Israel and Hamas**

2 **Resolved**, by the 229<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, that Convention:

3 Urge our congregations, clergy, and lay people to take the following actions to respond to the outbreak  
4 of war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, and the significant chance of wider warfare in the Middle East:

5 Pray fervently for peace, James 5:16, as urged by our Bishop in his October 18, 2023 statement,  
6 [https://www.episcopalvirginia.org/news/a-message-from-bishop-stevenson-regarding-violence-](https://www.episcopalvirginia.org/news/a-message-from-bishop-stevenson-regarding-violence-in-the-holy-land/)  
7 [in-the-holy-land/](https://www.episcopalvirginia.org/news/a-message-from-bishop-stevenson-regarding-violence-in-the-holy-land/) with particular focus on the ongoing fighting in Israel, Gaza, and the West  
8 Bank;

9 Donate to the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem <https://afedj.org/> and other  
10 reputable charities to address the acute medical needs in Gaza, particularly through the Ahli  
11 Arab Hospital operated by the Diocese of Jerusalem, which has suffered many dead and  
12 wounded in artillery strikes there over the past two weeks, consistent with Executive Council  
13 Resolution MB 011,  
14 [https://extranet.generalconvention.org/governing\\_and\\_interim\\_bodies/executive\\_council/resol](https://extranet.generalconvention.org/governing_and_interim_bodies/executive_council/resolution?id=526)  
15 [ution?id=526](https://extranet.generalconvention.org/governing_and_interim_bodies/executive_council/resolution?id=526)

16 Strongly oppose and act to respond promptly to acts and expressions of religious bigotry in our  
17 communities, whether such acts or expressions are directed against Jews or Muslims;

18 Advocate, as opportunity and individual conscience may allow, for:

- 19 (a) A two-state solution for Israel and Palestine as noted in General Convention Resolution  
20 2018-D018, [https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-](https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_generate_pdf.pl?resolution=2018-D018)  
21 [bin/acts/acts\\_generate\\_pdf.pl?resolution=2018-D018](https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_generate_pdf.pl?resolution=2018-D018)
- 22 (b) Swiftly bringing to justice the perpetrators of the October 7, 2023 massacre in Israel of over  
23 1,400 people, almost all of them noncombatants, and the taking of over 200 hostages,  
24 consistent with Executive Council Resolution’s condemnation of the October 7 “atrocities  
25 committed by Hamas,” Ex. Council Res. MB011;
- 26 (c) Steps to minimize civilian casualties, including (1) the prompt provision of sufficient  
27 humanitarian aid, (2) evacuation of noncombatants, especially children and those wounded,  
28 to safe areas, (3) ceasefire(s) long enough to accomplish these aims, and (4) stopping the  
29 targeting of locations known to contain numerous noncombatants, steps stated in part by  
30 Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on October 25, 2023 in his remarks to Executive Council.  
31 [https://anglican.ink/2023/10/30/presiding-bishop-michael-currys-opening-remarks-to-](https://anglican.ink/2023/10/30/presiding-bishop-michael-currys-opening-remarks-to-executive-council/#:~:text=People%20of%20faith%20and%20goodwill,West%20Bank%20and%20East%20Jerusalem.)  
32 [executive-](https://anglican.ink/2023/10/30/presiding-bishop-michael-currys-opening-remarks-to-executive-council/#:~:text=People%20of%20faith%20and%20goodwill,West%20Bank%20and%20East%20Jerusalem.)  
33 [council/#:~:text=People%20of%20faith%20and%20goodwill,West%20Bank%20and%20East%](https://anglican.ink/2023/10/30/presiding-bishop-michael-currys-opening-remarks-to-executive-council/#:~:text=People%20of%20faith%20and%20goodwill,West%20Bank%20and%20East%20Jerusalem.)  
34 [20Jerusalem.](https://anglican.ink/2023/10/30/presiding-bishop-michael-currys-opening-remarks-to-executive-council/#:~:text=People%20of%20faith%20and%20goodwill,West%20Bank%20and%20East%20Jerusalem.)

35 *Originally submitted by The Rev. Marian Windel and the Very Rev. Kathleen Murray*

36 *Substitute by the Resolutions Committee*