



A RESPONSE TO 'CRY FOR HOPE': A CALL TO THE CHURCHES AND WCC ASSEMBLY 2022

Statement by Sabeel-Kairos UK

Introduction

From the 15-17th March 2022 the Sabeel-Kairos Theology Group met to discuss the Palestinian Cry for Hope, and how this important call might be amplified within the UK Churches and worldwide. During the 3 days those present heard from many renowned international speakers on the subject of Israel and Palestine, and engaged in detailed discussion of political, theological and moral issues facing people in the Holy Land, and our response as Christians here in the UK.

The following statement was written by those present at the consultation and presented to the Sabeel-Kairos as a document to be used in the advocacy work of the organisation. To that end it was debated, finalised and then endorsed by the Sabeel-Kairos Board of Trustees.

The purpose of the statement is simple. Its goal is to call our Churches, and through them the WCC, to act much more effectively and urgently for justice, in particular by responding to the Cry for Hope from Palestinian Christians.

The full statement asserts that:

1. Israel is committing the crime of apartheid against Palestinians. This is a crime under international law, and a crime against humanity.
2. The threat to the existence and continuing presence of the Palestinian people in the Holy Land is urgent. This is true especially of the Christian community who issued Cry for Hope.
3. The support of Israel and its apartheid policies is incompatible with the Christian faith. Apartheid is a sin. Complicity with Israel calls into question the integrity of the Church.
4. Churches worldwide should be called into a state of confession (status confessionis) regarding the oppression of the Palestinian people. Those who claim to follow the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth should now declare unequivocal opposition to apartheid. To be silent is to be complicit.
5. Urgent action is required to support the Palestinian right to non-violent resistance and self-determination. This should include support for the 2005 call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against the State of Israel until it complies with international law.

The full statement is available at: [A Response to 'Cry for Hope': A Call to the Churches and the WCC Assembly 2022 | Sabeel-Kairos](#)

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