



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

October 29, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
PM@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to express my deepest possible concern that Israel's parliament passed a law on Monday banning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) from operating in the country, and I call on Canada to condemn this action in the strongest possible terms.

As you know, much of UNRWA's work takes place in Gaza where there is a desperate need for humanitarian aid. UNRWA employs tens of thousands of workers and provides education, health and aid to millions of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. UNRWA also helps facilitate work by other NGOs. This ban will further worsen the already-dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and beyond. UNRWA has long provided vital support to refugees in the West Bank, and this humanitarian care has become even more crucial during the war.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and our partners, have consistently called for a sustained cease-fire and for the immediate flow of life-saving food, water, aid, fuel and humanitarian assistance for the millions of Gazans suffering at this time. The banning of UNRWA demonstrates a profound lack of commitment to humanitarian aid and a deadly disrespect for human rights by the state of Israel.

I implore you to call on the State of Israel to reverse this decision and to immediately open pathways for humanitarian aid.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.*