



Date: June 27th, 2025

**Mr William Nye
The Secretary General
General Synod of the Church of England
Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3AZ
United Kingdom**

Subject: A Call to Prophetic Witness: Restore the Carlisle DSM to the July 2025 General Synod Agenda

Dear Secretary General,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, from the steadfast and sorrowful heart of Bethlehem, Palestine.

We, at Kairos Palestine, write to you with deep concern and heartfelt disappointment regarding the decision to omit the Carlisle Diocesan Synod Motion (DSM) from the agenda of the upcoming July 2025 General Synod.

This omission of the Carlisle Diocesan Synod Motion at a time when the Palestinian people are enduring an ongoing genocide represents a profound moral and spiritual failure. If this is not a *Kairos* moment for the Church - particularly for the Church of England - then when is it the right time? This is a time for truth-telling, repentance, transformation, and decisive action.

The Church of England bears a deep moral, theological, and historical obligation toward the Palestinian people. As part of the global Body of Christ, it is bound to care for humans, especially those who are oppressed, silenced, and crushed under all forms of injustice. As Christians and as a Church who is committed to the Gospel, we cannot afford to delay our pursuit of justice or remain silent in the face of immense suffering.

Britain - and by extension the Church of England - has long-standing historical ties to Palestine. During the British Mandate, the UK played a decisive role in shaping the political future of our land. The long-term consequences of that era continue to be felt by Palestinians today, including in the catastrophic realities that has been unfolding more extensively in the past 2 years. The Church of England cannot morally detach itself from the legacy of these policies, or from the suffering that persists in their wake.

Kairos Palestine, the most extensive Palestinian Christian ecumenical non-violent movement, is based on Kairos Palestine document: A Moment of Truth, launched in 2009, affirming that the Palestinian Christians are part and parcel of the Palestinian nation, calling for peace to end all suffering in the Holy Land by laboring for justice, hope and love, embraced by the Christian community, signed by all historically recognized Palestinian Christian organizations, and endorsed by the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.

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The Carlisle DSM, drafted in 2020 in response to the Kairos Palestine “[Cry for Hope](#)” call to action, was a faithful and courageous expression of solidarity from within the Church. It sought to amplify Palestinian Christian voices and to hold the Church accountable to the values of justice, compassion, and integrity. The motion was passed unanimously by Carlisle Diocesan Synod in 2021 and was later endorsed by the Diocese of Sheffield in 2024, therefore carrying the clear weight of ecclesial support.

Moreover, The Bishop of Gloucester, the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek said in an [article](#) published early this month upon her return from a visit to The West Bank that “*she found it “quite shocking” that a diocesan-synod motion relating to Israel brought by the diocese of Carlisle had not been chosen as an item of business for the General Synod in York. [The motion](#) calls on the Church’s investment bodies to review their policies, and to ensure that there is no investment in “any entity or corporation with a persistent, on-going, and direct business involvement in severe human rights violations or violations of international law as part of Israel’s military occupation”.* Her comments reflect a growing concern within the Church’s own leadership regarding the failure to engage faithfully and courageously with this pressing matter.

The rationale given for its continued exclusion - namely, “significant financial business and a large number of legislative items” - fails to resonate especially considering the everyday worsening situation and the scale of death, displacement, and destruction in Gaza and the West Bank. The Synod rightly found time to address the war in Ukraine in 2022. Yet, as the war in Gaza enters its second year, the Church now appears hesitant to even debate a motion rooted in faithful witness and human solidarity.

This hesitation not only damages the credibility of Christian witness; it communicates to Palestinian Christians - already struggling to survive - that their suffering is less worthy of recognition. It undermines the Church’s calling to uphold the dignity of every person made in the image of God.

We are grieved and disappointed by the Business Committee’s decision not to prioritize this motion. If the Church cannot find the time or courage to debate justice for Palestinians now, amidst such devastation, when will it?

The international Church must recover the courage of prophetic faith - the kind embodied by Jesus, and proclaimed for generations. Now is a Kairos moment.

“The mission of the Church is prophetic, to speak the Word of God courageously, honestly and lovingly in the local context and in the midst of daily events. If she does take sides, it is with the oppressed, to stand alongside them, just as Christ our Lord stood by the side of each poor person and each sinner, calling them to repentance, life, and the restoration of the dignity bestowed on them by God and that no one has the right to strip away.” Kairos Palestine §3.4.1

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Neither history nor future generations will forgive the silence of the Church. If the Church of England does not stand where Christ stands, alongside the oppressed, the voiceless, and those who cry out for justice, then its silence will be remembered as complicity. The voice and action of the Church must not be absent in this moment of history.

In light of all the above, we respectfully urge you to reconsider your decision and to restore the Carlisle Diocesan Synod Motion to the agenda of the July 2025 General Synod, so that the Church may bear faithful witness in this urgent Kairos moment.

In faith, hope, and a longing for justice,

Kairos Palestine

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