

## **7<sup>th</sup> National Forum of the National Council of Churches in Australia, 9-13 July 2010**

### **Palestine & Israel**

*Moved by the Uniting Church*

*Seconded by the Anglican Church*

It was resolved that the 7th National Forum

1. Reiterates the decisions of the NCCA Executive in March 2008 to “affirm the right of the state of Israel to exist, and to exist within secure internationally-recognised borders”(2) and to “affirm the right of the people of Palestine to be freed from more than 40 years of military occupation by Israel, (and) to live within secure internationally-recognised borders”.(3)

2.

a) Welcomes the Kairos Palestine document of December 2009 prepared by Palestinian Christians and supported by the 13 Jerusalem Heads of Churches as the “Christian Palestinians’ word to the world about what is happening in Palestine”.(4)

b) Notes that the Kairos Palestine document provides a serious theological reflection on the situation facing the Palestinian people, and on the basis of that reflection addresses requests to Christians and churches throughout the world, to the international community, to Jewish and Muslim religious leaders, and to Palestinians and Israelis; and concludes with a cry of hope, believing that “God’s goodness will finally triumph over the evil of hate and of death that still persist in our land”.(5)

3. In a spirit of repentance for past silence and indifference:

a) adds the voice of the National Council of Churches in Australia to Christian voices throughout the world calling for an early end to the occupation of Palestine through a freely and peacefully negotiated solution in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions; and

b) adds the voice of the National Council of Churches in Australia to Christian voices throughout the world condemning all acts of terrorism.

4. In particular the National Council of Churches in Australia:

a) affirms the solidarity of the National Council of Churches in Australia with Palestinian Christians and assures Palestinians that the National Council of Churches in Australia will continue to advocate and act for an end to the occupation and for an end to the injustice and suffering borne by the Palestinian people;

b) in response to the requests in the Kairos document, calls on the member Churches of the National Council of Churches in Australia and the wider

Australian community to consider a boycott of goods produced by Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;

c) requests member Churches to advise the NCCA General Secretary of the outcome of their consideration;

d) requests Act for Peace to provide regular information to the member Churches to assist ongoing actions on the boycott; and

e) welcomes the easing of the Israeli blockade of Gaza in recent days and calls for an immediate end to the blockade.

5. Requests Christians involved in inter-faith conversations among Christians, Jews and/or Muslims to include the subject matter of these resolutions in those conversations.

6. Requests the General Secretary to convey these resolutions to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Leader of the Opposition, the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, all members of Federal Parliament, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils and other individuals and groups as the General Secretary and the President so decide.

7. Requests the General Secretary to issue a media release relating to these decisions as soon as possible.

2 Minute 08.03.06.03 of the Executive of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

3 Minute 08.03.06.04 of the Executive of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

4 *A Moment of Truth, a word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering*, Kairos Palestine, first print 2009, first distributed: 11 December 2009, p. 3.

5 *Ibid*, p. 16.