

Memorial to Conference

M9 Israel and Gaza

The East Anglia District Synod (Present: 73 voting: 66 for, 7 against) deplores both the actions of Hamas on 7 October and beyond, including the taking and holding of hostages, and the ongoing response of the Israel Defence Force.

All this has brought death, destruction, displacement and now famine to the people of the region and especially Gaza.

We request that the Conference adds its voice to those urging all parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire, and those requesting that the UK cease all arms supplies to the region. We further ask the Conference to encourage all Methodist people to pray for justice and peace in the region.

Reply

The Conference thanks the East Anglia District for its memorial and welcomes statements made by the President and Vice-President of the Conference including their public communication on 24 February and their joint statement with 140 Christian leaders facilitated by Church for Middle East Peace on 24 March and their correspondence with Ministers in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in this respect. (A list of Methodist Church statements can be found at www.methodist.org.uk/faith/prayer/israel-palestine/statements-and-briefings/) In accepting the memorial the Conference encourages Methodist people to pray for peace and justice, and with respect to arms sales, draws attention to its reply to M8 (*see below*).

M8 reply in relation to arms sales

The Conference calls on the UK Government to cease all arms sales to Israel, to remain vigilant regarding the embargo on arms to nations that might support Hamas and to honour the UK's obligations under the international Arms Trade Treaty to the full.