



AMRI Office:
c/o Missionaries of Africa,
Cypress Grove Road, Templeogue,
Dublin 6W, D6W YV12,
Ireland.

Tel: +353 1 531 0055
Email: info@amri.ie
Web: www.amri.ie

Michelle O'Neill (First Minister)
Emma Little-Pengelly (Deputy First Minister)
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

2 October 2025

Re: "Blessed are the Peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9)

Dear Ms O'Neill and Ms Little-Pengelly,

The Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI), representing over 140+ Religious Orders, Congregations and Societies on the island of Ireland, are appalled by the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and the global delay in responding to the suffering of the Palestinian people living in Gaza and the West Bank. Pope Francis noted that "what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of a genocide" and called for a careful investigation. Since then, a recent report by the UN Security Council, echoing months of expert analysis, concluded that four of the five genocidal acts as defined under international law have been carried out in Gaza by Israel, since the Hamas attack in October 2023. What is happening in Gaza is genocide.

We must not remain silent in the face of such devastating injustice. Silence is complicity. AMRI remains in solidarity with the people of Gaza and the West Bank and all those individuals and groups who are calling for an end to the siege, the safe return of the remaining Israeli hostages, the release of political prisoners, in particular the children illegally incarcerated, unencumbered humanitarian aid into Gaza and compliance with international law. In solidarity with the people of Gaza, AMRI and its members have marched along the streets of Dublin and other cities and towns across Ireland. We have held vigils, joined in pilgrimages, communicated our solidarity with the only Catholic parish in Gaza and have made our position clear through statements, blogs and opinion pieces. The violence must end.

Ireland knows only too well that peace is possible. Drawing from the example and lessons of our own peace process and the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, we are calling on you to take the lead in initiating a negotiated peace process that will bring all the key stakeholders to the table. To seek viable, diplomatic solutions to ensure a just and lasting peace. We urge all those concerned to ensure the dignity and identity of the Palestinian people and their fundamental right to self-determination.

ASSOCIATION OF LEADERS OF MISSIONARIES AND RELIGIOUS OF IRELAND, CLG.

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Directors: Breege O'Neill, Denise Flack, Brendan O'Rourke, Irene Balzan, Jim Noonan, Joe McGea, Barbara Murphy, Michael O'Sullivan, Ndidi Anozie

Jesus proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount, revealed through the Beatitudes, that
"Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9). This is a Prophetic call to action to us all to promote
peace, to re-build bridges, to encourage reconciliation and to restore harmony in our troubled world.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Pat Murphy

Signed:

Janet
 Marion O'Leary
 Margaret Conroy
 Cathy O'Connor, CSB
 Catherine Gorman O.P.
 Sue Dwyer
 Margaret Donovan
 Aine O'Brien
 Dr. Annette Heenan
 M. E. O'Brien
 Patricia Byrne
 Dr. Foyell
 Lian McCLASSON

Elaine A. Dawson
 Elizabeth Keogh
 Kathleen O'Donovan
 Irene Balzan
 Marie McHugh O.P.
 Sr Eileen O'Connell O.P.
 Sheila De Le
 Seamus O'Neill
 Kathleen Savage
 Mary Hoare
 Margaret Cahill
 Margaret Daly
 Catherine Nally
 Philip O'Halloran
 Annlouise Byrne
 Gerard Gallagher
 Margaret Wilson M.C.
 Phil Ryan

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Directors: Breege O' Neill, Denise Flack, Brendan O' Rourke, Irene Balzan, Jim Noonan, Joe McGee, Barbara Murphy, Michael O' Sullivan, Ndidi Anozie

Paul H

Vera Joyce

~~Bernette Hudson~~

Tom Costello

Margaret Cudney

Miriam Kerish

Pedrinis O'Donovan.

Egbert Mooney

J. Cornel Spratt

Maria M. Cunniff

Rosa Lila Areola

Auro-Maria Dixon.

Harold J. Regan

Finian Gallagher CH

Bernadette Blah

Catherine Conigan.

J. Manuel Casillas CH