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Simon Harris TD
Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
Government Buildings
25 Merrion Street Upper
Dublin 2
D02 R583

2 October 2025

Re: **“Blessed are the Peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9)**

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Association of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland (AMRI), representing over 100+ Religious Orders, Congregations and Societies 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. This was recently asserted by Taoiseach Micheál Martin at the UN General Assembly in New York. 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 the country. 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.

AMRI acknowledges the efforts undertaken to date by the Irish Government in calling out the genocide and the gross violations of international law. Commendably, Ireland was one of the first countries to recognise a Palestinian State and we look forward to the passing of the much anticipated, Occupied Territories Bill. 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 the Irish government 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.

AMRI is a registered charity. CHY9301. CRA 20023263. Registered in Dublin, Ireland. CRO 529508.

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

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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 as a nation, 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:

Joseph McGee NSC
PRESIDENT.

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Margaret Conroy

Ellen Canty CSB

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