



## Israel

The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) believes that justice and a sustainable peace must be based upon the right for self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians. Israel has been a sovereign state since 1948 and its continued right to exist free from attacks on its existence must be beyond question. Self-determination for Palestinians is also likely to include a sovereign state alongside Israel, with both being economically and legally sustainable and with secure recognised borders.

CCJ believes that this must include mutual respect across all faiths and access to the numerous religious sites. CCJ is particularly concerned to encourage support for the minority Christian communities.

CCJ acknowledges the intense centuries-old relationship of the Jewish people with the land of Israel, just as we recognise the tragedy of the Palestinian people who left their historic homes. Each group must seek to understand the other's history. We believe that future peace and security in the region will be based on looking forward and recognition of the human rights, civil liberties and religious freedom of all.

We abhor violence and the abuse of human rights, whoever the perpetrator and whatever the pretext. Neither can act as a building block to a just and sustainable peace.

To bring about a just and sustainable solution in the region CCJ promotes a strategy of positive engagement, investment and dialogue. CCJ opposes **and deplores** boycotts: these hinder the opportunity for dialogue. We welcome links with institutions and organisations which encourage cooperation and co-existence between all faiths. We support initiatives designed to increase understanding and respect for the individual.