

Dear Members of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America:

The Jewish community is under great attack in our country. From antisemitic violence to the removal of Holocaust education in our schools, we are both saddened and inspired more than ever to draw attention to the hate that is plaguing our community. In that context, we are asking on behalf of both Christian and Jewish communities that the General Assembly voting delegates of the PCUSA church take the same stand by rejecting OVT-005 titled "On Recognition That Israel's Laws, Policies, and Practices Constitute Apartheid Against the Palestinian People."

Basic human rights are being stripped away from Jewish life in the US and beyond with the constant threat of violence, intimidation, and discrimination. Unfortunately, Christianity has a history of bias against the Jewish people. Even today, people strive to undermine the Jewish right to life and self-determination. Jews are being assaulted in every way throughout society - physically, emotionally, and socially. Nazi graffiti floods our schools, synagogues are the sites of massacres, while women and children are attacked simply for looking Jewish. Reports show an average of seven antisemitic attacks reported every single day in the U.S. in 2021, and 93% of American Jews agree that antisemitism is a problem (ADL & Pew Research Center). There is an epidemic of hate plaguing our community, and the Christian community has sat by watching it happen and has done very little for too long.

We believe the Christian community has a responsibility to combat this epidemic and show American Jews that they have friends. As Christians, we are called to love one another (John 13:34) and to help those who are oppressed (Psalm 82:3). Now is the time to fulfill our Christian responsibility to our Jewish friends and stand in solidarity with them in addressing antisemitism.

This overture fuels hate in the following ways: 1. It falsely claims violations against minority communities in Israel and Palestine which spawns antisemitic activity; 2. It compares the only Jewish place for self-determination to be evil and in likeness to Nazi Germany; 3. It promotes claims of individuals who have a record of making antisemitic statements; 4. It rejects the identity of other Middle Eastern communities such as Druze, Christians, Arabs, and others; 5. It erases Jewish experiences and witness; 6. It ignores international witnesses, South African voices, and Arab leaders in Israel verifying Israel's practices do not constitute "apartheid."

On behalf of Christians and Jews, we are asking you to reject this overture and take a strong stand against any form of antisemitism. Please encourage your delegates to vote against OVT-005 (INT-02) being discussed on 6/28/2022 at the General Assembly.

Signed:

