

In His Image – Women for Change  
Statement against Violence

We, women serving in ministry from within the Messianic Jewish and Palestinian Christian community, publicly affirm our unity in Christ/Messiah. Together we raise our voices against the use of violence in the context of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The use of violence is an affront to the image of God and a sin against the sanctity of life. We affirm seeking peaceful means to respond to or resolve the conflict. We denounce the following forms of violence as a response to and/or an effort to control or solve the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

**Physical Violence**

- The ongoing Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian people and land (based on 1967 borders).
- The stabbing of Israeli civilians or any physical violence against Israelis
- Shooting with intent to kill in order to “neutralize” suspects. [1]
- Any damage of private property.
- Collective punishment for the acts of individuals.

**Verbal and Psychological Violence**

- The use of demeaning or racist language that dehumanizes or demonizes.
- Cyber defamation and slander.
- Intimidation, threats, withholding of information, and social isolation to silence dissent.

**Spiritual Violence**

- The use of spiritual authority to ignore, disengage or dishonor others created in the image of God.
- The use of scripture or theology to exclude one another.

As women, we are particularly concerned for the children in our region. Children are being exposed to violence on an ongoing, regular basis. The lack of formal and/or informal peace education and tolerance contributes to the ongoing cycle of violence.

We affirm our commitment to seek peace, justice and security for all in Israel and Palestine.

We commit ourselves to continue to:

- Speak out on issues of mutual concern
- Stand for biblical principles
- Pray regularly for non-violent resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict

We encourage you to [join us in prayer](#) during the first weekend of every month for a non-violent resolution of the conflict.

Shireen Awad, Bethlehem Bible College  
Ira Ben-Chaim, Bet Asaph Congregation, Netanya  
Angela Hersch, Light to Israel  
Dina Katanacho, Arab Israeli Bible Society  
Lisa Loden, Israel Firstfruits Center  
Madlyne Sara, Bethlehem Bible College  
Rasha Saba, Fellowship of Christians Students in Israel  
Samar Tanous, Assemblies of God Church, Haifa  
Shadia Qubti, Musalaha

We invite you to join with us in endorsing this statement.

[1] “It has been taught by R. Jonathan ben Saul: If one was pursuing his fellow to slay him, and the pursued could have saved himself by maiming a limb of the pursuer, but instead killed his pursuer, the pursued is subject to execution on that account.” (Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Sanhedrin on Self-Defense,73b)