IJCIC Response to the World Council of Churches' Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

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July 14, 2025. The International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) categorically denounces the World Council of Churches' (WCC) statement of June 24, 2025, on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a profoundly biased distortion of a complex situation. Far from advancing the peace the WCC claims to champion, this statement obstructs reconciliation, fuels division, and endangers Jewish communities worldwide. Its one-sided narrative undermines the trust essential to interreligious dialogue, which requires mutual respect to thrive.

The WCC has previously stated, "What is problematic is the tendency among some groups to characterize legitimate criticism of Israeli government policies as being motivated by antisemitism." To be clear: our condemnation is not about stifling legitimate critique of government policies. Rather, the WCC's statement crosses far beyond such criticism, constructing a narrative that vilifies Israel while ignoring critical realities, thereby exacerbating conflict and hatred.

We mourn the loss of all innocent lives, Israeli and Palestinian, caught in this tragic conflict. Yet, the WCC's statement shockingly omits the barbaric attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023, which unleashed unprecedented violence against Israeli civilians. It remains silent on the hostages—men, women, and children—enduring horrific conditions in captivity, dismissing their continued suffering and the anguish of their families.

The statement further ignores Hamas's ongoing terrorism against both Israelis and Palestinians. By erasing these facts, the WCC crafts a narrative that is not only incomplete but actively hostile to any meaningful path toward peace. In fact, it lacks any concern for the welfare, safety, and security of Israel.

The WCC's reliance on inflammatory and unbalanced rhetoric—terms like genocide and apartheid that cast Israel as the sole aggressor while excusing terrorist actions—carries grave consequences. This may well be read as your stamp of approval to others, including some in your own denominations and communities, who weaponize such language to incite antisemitism. By perpetuating this skewed portrayal, the WCC fails its moral obligation to promote understanding and instead endangers Jewish lives.

The relationship between IJCIC and the WCC now faces a dire crisis, precipitated by this reckless statement, gravely undermining the foundations of our interfaith partnership and damaging the relationship we have built since revitalizing our dialogue. Authentic dialogue cannot thrive amid bias and distortion; it requires honesty, accountability, and a shared commitment to truth. We can no longer continue as if such fundamental disagreements are mere differences of opinion.

IJCIC remains steadfast in its pursuit of justice, peace, and mutual understanding. We call on the WCC to align its actions with its stated goals and work toward a framework that honors the dignity of all involved in this tragic conflict. Failure to do so will further fracture our relationship and widen the divides we seek to bridge.

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