

*The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum  
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المطران حسان إلياس نعوم  
رئيس الاساقفة الانجليكاني في القدس  
الاسقف الخامس عشر لمطراينة القدس الاسقفية العربية

**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."  
(Matthew 5:9, NRSV)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Grace and peace to you all from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Once again we find ourselves living through hard times in the Land of the Holy One, where we are surrounded by war, violence, hatred, and destruction. Many in our region now live with great fear and uncertainty.

Nevertheless, from Jerusalem, the City of the Resurrection, I send you all hope for the assurance of a better life: one with a brighter future, more blessed circumstances, and freedom from bloodshed, injustice, and death.

We condemn all acts of violence and killing, especially of civilians and the innocent. And we advocate for a just and comprehensive peace for all living here. In order to stop the vengeful cycle of violence, we exhort everyone to exercise self-control. Since everyone loses in war, we also call for all parties to pursue peaceful, diplomatic solutions towards a just and lasting agreement for both peoples in a two-state solution. Only in this way can we all enjoy freedom, justice, and peace.

To this end, we pray without ceasing for justice, reconciliation, peace, and an end to hatred and war. We also pray for God to change the hearts of all leaders and decision-makers in our countries and around the world. For we are in dire need of hearts that love, show mercy, and are willing to live in unity with others—hearts that respect human dignity and choose life rather than death.

We therefore call upon all our congregations, institutions, and parishioner families to join with our sister Churches in the Land of the Holy One in observing this coming Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> as a day of Fasting and Prayer for peace, reconciliation, and an end to the war. We suggest organizing prayer services and/or joining with other congregations in their services so that we can pray together with one heart and spirit.

We entrust the countries of our Lord's earthly home into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, asking him to have mercy on us and to give us his peace and blessing. *Amen.*

++ Hosam E. Naoum  
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem  
The Primate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East

St. George's Cathedral – Jerusalem, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

