

## Moving Stories

Responding to the crisis in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories

### Threatened Annexation

Israel has threatened to annex large portions of the Jordan. This move has challenged the international consensus for a two-state solution. It will also render UN Resolution 2334 – which affirms the illegality of settlements and calls for differentiation between them and Israel – meaningless.

William Bell, Christian Aid's head of Middle East has called on Boris Johnson to respond. Bell calls on the government to end all trade with illegal Israeli settlements. The UK must demonstrate unequivocally that it considers these settlements, and any further annexations, unlawful and contrary to peace.

The United Reformed Church (URC) has a long history of informed interest in and practical partnership with Christian people and projects in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Mission Committee is deeply concerned by the proposals of annexation, and has strongly endorsed the Early Day Motion (#464) tabled on 11 May 2020, which was signed by 79 MP's (at the time of writing) drawn from all political parties. This motion states:

That this House notes with concern the plans of the new Israeli coalition government to annex part of the occupied West Bank [and highlights that any such annexation of territory occupied in 1967 is a breach of international law which rejects any acquisition of territory through force and that it would be a major threat to peace; notes that when Russia illegally annexed the Crimea in 2014, the UK joined EU partners in imposing sanctions on that country; calls on the Government to make clear to the Israeli Government that such a step will have severe consequences for the UK-Israel relationship; and further calls on the Government to introduce sanctions similar to those imposed on Russia in the event that an annexation of occupied territory takes place.

The early day motion can be found here:

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/56954/proposed-israeli-annexation-of-part-of-the-west-bank>

Commitment for Life is calling on everyone in the United Reformed Church to write to their MP, asking them to support Early Day Motion #464.

Please make contact, whether you MP has signed up yet or not. Each letter – in the mind of your MP – is multiplied many times! We are determined to show solidarity with all those suffering injustices in the Holy Land.

You can use this handy website to find, and write to, your MP. Put in your postcode, and scroll down to 'MP.'

<https://www.writetothem.com>



Picture by Kevin Snyman in Sept 2019

This barrier was placed illegally by the Israeli Defence Force. Angela (right) explains to the URC group that its purpose is to push the local Bedouins off their land