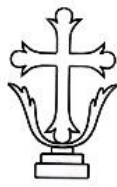




Diocese of Colombo



Church of Ceylon

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Diocese of Kurunegala

The Church of Ceylon Statement on the Conflict in Gaza

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”
Matthew 19:14

Nothing in heaven or earth can justify causing pain, hurt or death to children. Hence, to sit by in silence when infants, little children and youth are being annihilated in Gaza is both wrong and unchristian because it goes against our basic shared humanity. Protecting and nurturing children at all cost, transcends culture, ethnicity, history, geography, language, even religion. Yet, the Israeli bombs and shells do not discriminate: the youngest to die was less than a month old, and the oldest was 90. As the death toll rises, so does the travesty of our deafening silence.

The politics of the conflict are irrelevant here, as are arguments about who did what first and to whom. Silence affirms complicity in this murder of innocent people in their thousands. Our voice must be raised strongly against these atrocities, or else we are no better than the perpetrators and their active supporters, at least in part because the killings thrive on our silence and unconcern.

We must speak out for the children, and we must speak out for ourselves, our values, our belief. Our very humanity is diminished a hundredfold with the death of each child, with the loss of every parent and grandparent. We must recognise that any justification of the murder of children is as unjust as it is unfair, and makes wrong-doers of all of us who turn a blind eye. The restrictions on basic humanitarian aid, food and medicines to civilians in need is completely unjustified. If we choose not to denounce these crimes against humanity with all our strength and conviction, our Christianity will inevitably become hollow and self-seeking.

Let us today, now, raise our voice in strong and steadfast conviction against the murder and mayhem in Gaza. Let us as human beings uphold the right to life with peace and justice for the children of Gaza and their families.

There must be other ways of resolving conflict. Genocide and war can never be condoned. Peace through dialogue with mutual respect is the way forward particularly when dealing with complex political matters. While denouncing the terrible violence in Gaza, let us also, as Christians, pray to God to bring immediate and lasting relief to the children and innocent civilians there.


+ Dushantha Rodrigo



The Right Reverend Dushantha Rodrigo
Bishop of Colombo &
Presiding Bishop of the Church of Ceylon

+ Nishantha Kurunagala



 **Rt. Revd. Nishantha Fernando**
Bishop of Kurunagala
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The Right Reverend Nishantha Fernando
Bishop of Kurunagala

14th May 2025