



## Peace-Building: Genuine Dialogue Instead of War

### Questions for Candidates

- **In countries suffering from polarization and civil war, will you and your party favour non-violent political processes and genuine dialogue rather than confrontation?**
- **With regard to Israel and Palestine, will you and your party help to bring all parties to the table and promote a negotiated, just agreement?**
- **Will you and your party support a peace process in the Korean peninsula, lift sanctions against North Korea, and find ways to help deliver humanitarian aid to people in the North?**
- **Will a government led by your party sign the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons?**

### Why Ask These Questions?

Peace is at the heart of the gospel. Peace-makers, Jesus assures us, will be called children of God (Matthew 5:9). The United Church of Canada affirms that peace and peace-making are central to the life of Christians. We work with global, ecumenical, and interfaith partners for just and lasting peace.

Many of the conflicts in the world are rooted in injustices that are magnified by abuses of power and differences in power. Peace-building can happen only in spaces where genuine dialogue is possible, spaces where both the powerless and the powerful can speak and be heard. Creating neutral and trusted spaces for genuine dialogue is difficult but necessary work. The United Church of Canada has always supported partners who work to foster these trusted spaces.

### Background Information

In recent years, some global powers have abandoned peaceful approaches aimed at building trust, such as peace processes to end civil wars in Colombia and the Philippines. Another example is the United States abandonment of the 2016 Iran nuclear deal.

However, peace-building work continues to take place in the Middle East, the Korean peninsula, Colombia, Philippines, Central America, northeast Africa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. To work for just and lasting peace, The United Church of Canada

- has supported non-violent actions to end the occupation of Palestinian territories in support of a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

- supports the peace process in Korea, and is calling for an end to sanctions against North Korea and for humanitarian aid to be provided to the people of the North
- stands with 25 other members of the Canadian Council of Churches in calling on Canada to sign the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

## Learn More

[ploughshares.ca/pl\\_publications/canadian-council-of-churches-urges-ottawa-to-support-nuclear-ban-treaty](http://ploughshares.ca/pl_publications/canadian-council-of-churches-urges-ottawa-to-support-nuclear-ban-treaty)

[www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/join-korea-peace-now](http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/join-korea-peace-now)

[www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/unsettling-goods-choose-peace-palestine-and-israel](http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/unsettling-goods-choose-peace-palestine-and-israel)

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”*

Matthew 5:9