EFFAT resolution on ceasefire in the Middle East

Adopted at the EFFAT Executive Committee on 26-27 September 2024.

The EFFAT Executive Committee strongly condemns the use of violence and war as means of resolving international disputes and expresses grave concern over the rising geopolitical tensions, and the proliferation of conflicts across various regions. The world has started a new and extremely dangerous rearmament race. Increased military expenditure coupled with the return to austerity, means less money to invest in welfare and social progress.

EFFAT unequivocally condemns the horrific massacre carried out by the terrorist Hamas on October 7 of last year, which resulted in the deaths of over 1,200 Israelis and others, the abduction of 240 individuals, and other heinous acts. We stand in solidarity with the families affected by these attacks and with those still held in captivity. We equally condemn the Netanyahu's far right government, and the ongoing war led by the Israeli Government against Hamas, which affects all Palestinians in Gaza. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have conducted widespread attacks on innocent civilians and destroyed critical Gaza's infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, universities, libraries, humanitarian aid and agricultural sites.

We are deeply shocked by the continued violence and express deep concern at the dire and rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis in the Gaza strip which has led to the deaths of over 40,000 Palestinians, and the displacement of approximately 2 million people. Additionally, violent attacks and killings of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank have escalated dramatically, including with recent new raids.

In response, EFFAT:

- Calls on all parties to implement an immediate and permanent ceasefire, halting all forms of violence, terrorism, and military operations.
- Demands the immediate release of all hostages held by Hamas.
- Calls upon the EU and the international community to strengthen its diplomatic effort and actively support peace initiatives, facilitate dialogue, and contribute to the reconstruction and development efforts necessary for long-term stability in the region.
- Expresses solidarity with workers affected by this conflict on both side and stands in solidarity with Histadrut and workers in Israel who took part in the general strike in support of a ceasefire and a deal to free hostages on 2 September 2024.
- Offers support to all initiatives and projects in which Palestinians and Israelis work together for peace, self-determination, freedom and security for both sides. In this sense, we also support all efforts by Histadrut and the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) to resume joint projects.
- Pledges support for international and local aid organizations in their efforts to provide urgent humanitarian relief to all affected populations, ensuring unimpeded access to those in need.
- Emphasizes the importance of all parties respecting and adhering to international humanitarian law and human rights obligations, particularly in protecting civilians and providing medical and humanitarian assistance.
- Urges all involved parties to engage in open, constructive, and unconditional dialogue to strengthen the commitment to a negotiated two-state solution that guarantees the rights and security of both Israelis and Palestinians, fostering an environment of mutual recognition, respect, and peaceful coexistence.

- Warns against the rise of far-right politics and increasingly vocal proponents of war, hatred, and nationalism in Europe, and condemns all acts of war and non-compliance with UN resolutions.
- Condemns racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, religious persecution, and hatred in all forms and commits to intensify efforts to counter the rising of the far-right, the tide of bigotry to 2 prevent racism and hateful incidents directed against Jews, Muslims, as well as marginalised groups in Europe and beyond.

By adopting this resolution, the EFFAT Executive Committee reiterates its condemnation of all human rights violations worldwide and its support and solidarity with workers and trade unions in all conflict zones. We remain unwaveringly committed to peace, justice, and the protection of human dignity.