



The Church of Scotland

Church and Society Council

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Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

Tuesday 9 August 2011

Dear Mr Clarke

Church of Scotland General Assembly 2011

The Church of Scotland General Assembly met in May. As usual, the Assembly received a report and agreed various resolutions connected with the work of the Church and Society Council. The Church and Society Council is responsible for the Church of Scotland's engagement with and comment upon political and social issues, and leading the development of theological, ethical and spiritual reflections in the formulation of policy on such issues. The Church and Society Council is also charged with building relationships with leaders and influence-shapers in society and exchanging ideas with them.

For many years the Church has had a presence in Israel and, as such, we have maintained a longstanding interest in the country. The political difficulties in Israel and the unresolved matter of the Occupied Palestinian Territories remains a very high profile concern in the Church.

This year the Assembly received a report on illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territory and asked for the Church to continue to push for the introduction of labelling of products in the UK which clearly identify whether they are from an illegal Israeli settlement.

I enclose the section of our report that deals with Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. I would like to ask you to earnestly consider how your ethical and corporate responsibility policies fit within the context of settlement produce. What we are asking for is that consumers are fully aware of the provenance of the products they are buying, in order for them to make an informed choice about whether to avoid purchasing something which supports illegal settlement activity. There are those who at present simply avoid buying any goods labelled 'Israel' because it is not clear whether they are

from Israel proper or the Occupied Palestinian Territories. And if they are from the OPT, it is necessary to know whether the products are from settlements or Palestinian land.

I would be grateful for your response to this important matter. Please note that as I am writing on behalf of the Church's General Assembly, we may choose to publish your response on our website in order that our members might also be able to read your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Galloway', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ian Galloway
Convener

Enclosed: Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, May 2011