# Moderator Carmen Lansdowne’s statement for Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage press conference

## May 22, 2024, Ottawa

*Moderator Carmen Lansdowne started her remarks by thanking the government for reinstating UNRWA funding that provides a lifeline to Palestinians, for supporting Jordan and the World Food Programme to conduct air drops in Gaza that deliver essential items that Palestinian civilians desperately need, as well as for supporting the non-binding motion put forth by the NDP, amended to cease further transfer of arms to Israel and increase efforts to stop the illegal trade of arms, including to Hamas.*

There is so much more to do. Canada can speak louder; it must speak louder with the international community to secure a ceasefire and access to humanitarian organizations to bring aid to Gaza. And it must act quicker to increase our funding for aid and to help refugees to find safety in Canada sooner.

It must speak louder about how an international rules-based order requires Israel to respect the provisional measures of the International Court of Justice, which calls for ceasefire and an urgent safe passage of humanitarian aid, not to mention its obligations under international law as a military occupying power.

Canada, as a founding member of the UN, and therefore party to the seven principal United Nations human rights conventions and covenants, must keep its own commitments to the rule of law, and to uphold international human rights and humanitarian law. It must speak louder about all hostages being released safely and immediately.

Canada can do better. We can avoid being complicit in genocide by imposing a comprehensive and binding embargo on military trade with Israel. We can do better by halting further arms exports and sales of component parts for military equipment and goods moving through third-party states to Israel.

I join here with my siblings in faith and our membership gathered here in Ottawa today, to not just wish for a better world, but to actively advocate for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.