

# **VIRCS STATEMENT ON ONGOING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN PALESTINE AND OTHER GLOBAL CONFLICTS**

**January 17, 2024**

As a multi-ethnic, organization that reflects a global diaspora of immigrants, refugees and new Canadians, and the provincial lead of the Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network, the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) stands in solidarity with Palestine, and Palestinians and firmly condemns the ongoing Israeli air strikes and blockades which have killed, displaced, and scattered tens of thousands of Palestinians. We condemn any kind of hatred, abuse or harmful sentiments towards Arab, Muslim, and Jewish communities which have increased since the beginning of October. We stand united with millions, including those within our communities, in BC, in Canada and worldwide, calling for a permanent ceasefire and bringing an end to the suffering of Palestinians. We acknowledge that currently over 30 conflicts are occurring worldwide. We affirm our support, service, and care for those impacted most by these global conflicts. We will continue to empower our staff, our clients, and the international community in Victoria to ensure the care, health, and well-being of all global citizens. We call on Settlement Agencies and community organizations that provide services to those impacted by trauma and those who have close ties to Palestine, to issue their own statements of support, and Calls to Action for their clients, staff, and communities.

Signatories:

VIRCS Board of Directors