

Resolution PA2505 – 11

Jewish–Catholic Relations

The 17th Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Jerusalem on 18–20 May 2025,

RECALLS the World Jewish Congress’s longstanding engagement with the Catholic Church as part of its broader interfaith dialogue efforts, including the establishment of close working relationships with successive pontificates since the adoption of *Nostra Aetate* sixty years ago, in 1965, and the Second Vatican Council;

PAYS TRIBUTE to the memory of His Holiness Pope Francis upon his recent passing, honoring his papacy and expressing appreciation for his efforts to strengthen Catholic–Jewish relations, his clear stance against antisemitism and his commitment to peace;

FONDLY RECALLS the WJC’s longstanding relationship with the Catholic Church, including the important meeting of the WJC Executive Committee in November 2022 in Vatican City, where it was received in a private audience by Pope Francis and launched the historic *Kishreinu* (“Our Bond”) initiative to celebrate and strengthen ties between the Jewish people and the Catholic Church;

WELCOMES the establishment of the WJC Representative Office to the Holy See on Via della Conciliazione, just steps from St. Peter’s Basilica, which seeks to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between Jewish communities and the Catholic Church;

NOTES the importance of continuing the respectful, honest, and principled dialogue between the WJC and the Catholic Church as a means to deepen mutual understanding and constructively address differences;

CALLS for a common understanding of the impact and responsibility of religious leaders in promoting coexistence, with mindful use of historical and legal terminology;

ENCOURAGES continued cooperation with the Catholic Church, particularly with regard to the welfare of Jewish Communities and the Catholic Church, combating hate and antisemitism, and protecting religious freedom around the world;

AFFIRMS that the relationship between the Jewish people and the Catholic Church is vital to advancing interreligious understanding and reconciliation, and must remain grounded in mutual trust and respect, while fostering both high-level engagement and everyday cooperation;

PROMOTES educational and youth-focused initiatives that foster mutual understanding and acceptance, including the removal of ambiguities in school curricula and religious texts;

ENCOURAGES the Catholic Church to deepen its engagement with the global Jewish community, especially in joint efforts to combat antisemitism, eradicate superseded anti-Jewish myths, and uphold the dignity of all faith communities;

INVITES Catholic communities, during the Jubilee Year and as part of the 'Pilgrimage of Faith,' to explore the Jewish roots of Christianity by engaging with Jewish communities and visiting the Holy Land;

WARMLY WELCOMES His Holiness Pope Leo XIV and his pledge made to the WJC in the first week of his pontificate to continue and strengthen the Church's dialogue and cooperation with the Jewish people and his acknowledgment that he studied under Rev. John T. Pawlikowski, a pioneer in Jewish-Catholic relations during his seminary years in Chicago. We express our sincere hope that under his leadership, the Catholic Church will continue to strengthen its bond with the Jewish people and champion a relationship rooted in respect, and common purpose.

Adopted by the 17th Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress, Jerusalem, 19 May 2025.