

**World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, 4-10 June 2009**  
*Joint action for a just peace convened by the World Council of Churches*

## *INVITATION & FACT SHEET*

The World Council of Churches is inviting member churches and related organizations to join a week of advocacy, education and prayer for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. Participants will help make a common international public witness in June 2009. The tragic events in Israel and Palestine continue to call people of faith and goodwill to respond. Those who share the hope of justice are invited to take peaceful actions, together.

**Who are you joining?** Churches, specialized ministries and parishes in some 40 countries, plus the Pax Christi International network and World Vision International. Jerusalem's churches and related organizations in Palestine and Israel are at the center of the initiative. Volunteers and veterans of the WCC's Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme are involved. Sabeel is a member of the planning group. A growing circle of participants now reaches five continents – Australia, Philippines, South Africa, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Canada, United States and Israel-Palestine. More are welcome and needed.

**What for?** To promote a just peace, together. During *one week*, churches in different countries send a clear signal to policy-makers, interested publics and their own parishes about the urgent need for a peace settlement that secures the legitimate rights and future of both peoples. Participants are requested to plan their activities around these points:

1. **Pray** with churches living under occupation, using a special prayer from Jerusalem
2. **Educate** about actions that make for peace and about facts on the ground that do not, especially, settlements in occupied territory.
3. **Advocate** with political leaders using ecumenical policies that promote peace with justice

**Why?** To seek justice for Palestinians so that both Israelis and Palestinians can finally live in peace. It is now more than 60 years since the partition of Palestine hardened into a permanent nightmare for Palestinians. It's more than 40 years since the occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza overwhelmed the peaceful vision of one land, two peoples. Yet the dream of one nation cannot be fulfilled at the expense of another. The action week's message is that now [It's Time for Palestine](#): It's time for Palestinians and Israelis to share a just peace; time for freedom from occupation; time for equal rights; and time for the healing of wounded souls.

**How?** Participants lobby legislators, visit foreign ministries, hold public forums and plant olive trees. This world week for peace includes prayer vigils, special services, and meetings with Muslim and Jewish people on the urgent shared need for a just peace.

- Prayer, education and advocacy that raise local and national church voices for peace.
- Parishes around the world are invited to pray with Palestinian Christians on Sunday, June 7, using a prayer from the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem. (The Jerusalem prayer and other resources are available at [www.worldweekforpeace.org](http://www.worldweekforpeace.org)).
- Educate your parish, community and/or public officials about the reality of the conflict and the need for peace. Make use of the action week message 'It's Time for Palestine'. French, German, Spanish, Dutch and other versions are available.

**When?** 4-10 June 2009. *It's time for Palestine. It's time for peace.*