

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, 29 May-4 June 2010

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 late May and early June 2010. 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. (See full text of action week message, next page.)

How? Participants lobby their 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.

- Engage in prayer, education and advocacy to raise local and national church voices for peace.
- Join parishes around the world in prayer with Palestinian Christians on Sunday, 30 May, using prayers from the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, Palestinians and Christians worldwide. (Prayer and other resources are available at 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' (next page). Spanish, French, Dutch, German and other versions are available.
- **For further information, or to share details about your plans for World Week 2010**, please contact Rev. John Calhoun, the convenor of World Week 2010, by email at calhoun.wppi@gmail.com.

When? 29 May-4 June 2010. *It's time for Palestine. It's time for peace.*

'World Week' is part of the PALESTINE ISRAEL ECUMENICAL FORUM

This annual week of action was called 'International Church Action for Peace in Palestine and Israel' from 2006 to 2008

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MESSAGE

It's Time for Palestine

It's time for Palestine.

It's time for Palestinians and Israelis to share a just peace.

It's time to respect human lives in the land called holy.

It's time for healing to begin in wounded souls.

It's time to end 60 years of conflict, oppression and fear.

It's time for freedom from occupation.

It's time for equal rights.

It's time to stop discrimination, segregation and restrictions on movement.

It's time for those who put up walls and fences to build them on their own property.

It's time to stop bulldozing one community's homes and building homes for the other community on land that is not theirs.

It's time to do away with double standards.

It's time for Israeli citizens to have security and secure borders agreed with their neighbours.

It's time for the international community to implement 60 years of United Nations resolutions.

It's time for Israel's government to complete the bargain offered in the Arab Peace Initiative.

It's time for those who represent the Palestinian people to all be involved in making peace.

It's time for people who have been refugees for 60 years to regain their rights and a permanent home.

It's time to assist settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to make their home in Israel.

It's time for self-determination.

It's time for foreigners to visit Bethlehem and other towns imprisoned by the wall.

It's time to see settlements in their comfort and refugee camps in their despair.

It's time for people living more than 40 years under occupation to feel new solidarity from a watching world.

It's time to name the shame of collective punishment and to end it in all its forms.

It's time to be revolted by violence against civilians and for civilians on both sides to be safe.

It's time for both sides to release their prisoners and give those justly accused a fair trial.

It's time to reunite the people of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

It's time for all parties to obey international humanitarian and human rights law.

It's time to share Jerusalem as the capital of two nations and a city holy to three religions.

It's time for Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities to be free to visit their holy sites.

It's time in Palestine as in Israel for olive trees to flourish and grow old.

It's time to honour all who have suffered, Palestinians and Israelis.

It's time to learn from past wrongs.

It's time to understand pent-up anger and begin to set things right.

It's time for those with blood on their hands to acknowledge what they have done.

It's time to seek forgiveness between communities and to repair a broken land together.

It's time to move forward as human beings who are all made in the image of God.

All who are able to speak truth to power must speak it.

All who would break the silence surrounding injustice must break it.

All who have something to give for peace must give it.

For Palestine, for Israel and for a troubled world,

It's time for peace.

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