

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, 28 May - 3 June 2012

“Pray, educate, and advocate for justice in Palestine”

An initiative of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) of the World Council of Churches

INVITATION and FACT SHEET

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel invites WCC member churches, faith-based communities, civil society organizations, and other groups working for justice to join a week of prayer, education, and advocacy for an end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine and a just end to the conflict. Participants will help make a common public witness in late May and early June 2012, in response to the Palestinians' call to the international community to confront the continued occupation and act for a just and peaceful settlement to the conflict. Those who share the hope of justice are invited to unite and take peaceful actions.

What for? Our aim is to promote an end to the illegal Israeli occupation and a just peace in Palestine. During one week, churches in different countries will send a clear signal to policy-makers, community groups, and local parishes about the urgent need for justice for the Palestinians, especially those displaced and dispossessed by the ongoing conflict. The week inaugurates a year-round effort to rally churches, communities, and individuals to work for justice in Palestine.

Who are you joining? Churches, community organizations, specialized ministries, and local parishes on six continents will join together to speak out and act for a just peace. Leadership for this initiative is being provided by:

- Jerusalem's churches and related church and peace organizations in Palestine
- Volunteers and veterans of the WCC's Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme
- The Pax Christi International network, church aid agencies in Europe and North America
- Ecumenical networks and civil society groups in South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia

How? Participants are requested to plan their activities around these points:

1. Pray with churches living under occupation, using a special prayer from Jerusalem and contemporary liturgies to be issued in early 2012.
2. Educate others, and be further educated, about the crippling effects of the illegal occupation, including displacement, family separation, land confiscation, and denial of basic human rights.
3. Advocate with political and church leaders, encouraging them to support and enact public policies that will lead to a just end to the occupation.

Why? We join the call of Palestinians for an end to the occupation, so that both Israelis and Palestinians can finally live in peace. It is now more than 63 years since the partition of Palestine, and more than 44 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.

When? 28 May - 3 June 2012. *It's time for Palestine. It's time for peace.*

For further information, or to share details about your plans for World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 2012, please contact Rev. John Calhoun, the convenor of World Week for Peace 2012, by email at calhoun.wppi@gmail.com, or visit www.worldweekforpeace.org.