

World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

22 June 2022

1. When:

During the week of 15 – 22 September 2022, after the World Council of Churches' eleventh General Assembly.

2. Theme: *Faith, Hope and Love in Action: Towards Justice in Palestine and Israel*

Israelis and Palestinians are created in God's image; and must enjoy equality, justice, and reconciliation. We believe that the occupation is a major obstacle to a better future, a key source source of pain and suffering in Palestine and Israel, and goes against the values of the three monotheistic religions.

Accordingly, the 2022 WWPPI theme is anchored in active hope; in the struggle for a better future, an end to the occupation, reconciliation among the peoples of the Holy Land, and equality and justice for all. It builds on the title of the World Council of Church's eleventh General Assembly: "Christ's Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity."

3. Guiding Framework:

The international community has been calling for a two-state solution, yet, a political plan can succeed only if based on equality and justice. What has become clear, is that efforts end up with a deadlock and loss of vision when the political plan is based on perpetuation of the occupation.

While the theme is focused on active hope towards ending the occupation, the Week's activities will include a particular emphasis on Palestinian youth and their role as the leaders of a new future and the agents of change; and that a new reality can be achieved only with the active participation of the youth. Moreover, the youth's resilience must be enhanced, so they can participate in building the better future we aspire to. The Week's activities will focus on youth who are living in remote and vulnerable conditions, and who do not normally get much attention.

Nobody should tell us that our hope of ending the occupation is too difficult to achieve, instead we need to tell the world that hope guides us to find the light at the end of the tunnel.

Congregations and individuals around the globe who share the hope of justice shall unite during the Week to take peaceful actions, together, to call for an end to the occupation.

During the World Week for Peace - which includes the UN Day of Peace and the International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21 September - church organizations, congregations, and people of faith are encouraged to bear a common witness by participating in worship services and educational events, in favor of justice in Palestine and Israel.

During the prayer Week, we will draw strength from the following Bible verses:

Psalm 82:3

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

Letter to the Hebrews 11.1

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

4. Resources:

4.1 Prayers

Preparations for the prayers are underway.

4.2 Video titled: Active Hope in Palestine and Israel

The video will raise awareness about the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, and will encourage various groups to engage with the activities. It will provide information about the website, feature stories, prayers, webinar, and why we are doing it. The video will be approximately 2.5 minutes long.

4.3 Feature stories

Three feature stories will be written on the painful impact of the occupation, but also about the resilience and efforts to build a better future.

a) Story titled: New Leaders

The story will show the challenges facing Palestinian youth and what they are doing about it. The overall aim is to show the young people in the West Bank, despite their harsh reality, are doing something good in their community that inspires change. It could be youth doing volunteer work, charity, or engaged in helping their community in one way or another. Palestinian youth from marginalized communities in the West Bank will be interviewed. We will show examples of active hope among the youth despite the occupation, and show these youth as the future leaders of a new Palestine.

b) Story titled: Active Hope, no Room for Despair

We will tell the story of a Palestinian Christian organization that is challenging the occupation. It can be Society of St. Yves, that provides free legal services to Palestinians in Jerusalem, and we will show the positive impact on vulnerable children.

c) Story titled: Not Forgotten

We will tell the story of a small Christian community in the West Bank, and what their needs are. We will interview the priest, mayor; youth and women leaders. We can tell the story of Al-Jalameh Christian community in the northern part of the West Bank, near Jenin, where 80 Christians have remained.

4.4 Webinar titled: Togetherness is the Way Forward

The World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel will end with a webinar on Palestinian youth and linkages with churches abroad. The “Salt of the Earth” organization in the

northern part of the West Bank serves as active agent of change; bringing together the youth from the 8 remaining Christian communities. During the webinar, Palestinian youth will tell their stories, and areas of cooperation will be explored between them and other youth and churches from around the world.

5. Organizers:

The World Council of Churches invites member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organizations around the world to join together for a week of prayer for an end the occupation and justice for the Palestinian people.

6. Members of the WWPPI 2022 Team:

Reverend Meghan Aylabouni, Lutheran Church.

Reverend Jamil Khadir, Anglican Church.

Father Issa Thaljieh, Orthodox Church.

Father Bashar Fawadleh, Catholic Church.

WCC Staff:

Middle East Executive, JLO Coordinator, and JLO Advocacy Officer.