

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, 22 – 28 September 2013

“Jerusalem, the city of peace and justice”

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

INVITATION & FACT SHEET

World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel invites 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 September 2013, in response to the Palestinians’ call to the international community to confront the continued occupation and to 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 in Jerusalem displaced and dispossessed by the ongoing conflict. The week is part of 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 and Israel
- Volunteers and veterans of the WCC’s Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme
- The Pax Christi International network, church aid agencies in Europe and North America
- Ecumenical partners 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 2013.
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, especially in Jerusalem.
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 64 years since the partition of Palestine, and more than 45 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? 22 – 28 September 2013. *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 2013,
please contact Rev. John Calhoun, the convenor of World Week for Peace 2013,
by email at calhoun.wvppi@gmail.com,
or visit www.worldweekforpeace.org.