



Leave Behind: Calls to the Canadian Government

Across Canada, local church leaders, congregations and communities of faith have been organizing local events for the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: Canadian Churches for Just Peace.¹

The initiative - organized by KAIROS Canada and its member churches who collectively represent more than 4 million² people from communities across Canada - will culminate in a Pilgrimage to Parliament Hill on May 22.

National church leaders and representatives are bringing and amplifying to Ottawa the collective calls of their congregations, communities of faith and Canadians for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

Our calls to action:

- ❖ An enduring and sustained ceasefire.
- ❖ Immediate flow of life saving food, water, aid, fuel and humanitarian assistance.
- ❖ Release of all captives.
- ❖ End all arms transfers to Israel.
- ❖ Ending occupation so a just peace can begin.

Canada has a strong policy base to take leadership on these issues and there is a lot that Canada can and should do.

¹ We affirm the eight core convictions of the global Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage which include nonviolence, zero tolerance to antisemitism and Islamophobia, inclusivity of a people of all faiths or no faith and non proselytization. gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/core-convictions

² Over 4 million adherents based on census website and information from KAIROS & member churches.

Canada should engage with the international community to secure a ceasefire and humanitarian access. It can speak loudly about how international humanitarian law and international human rights law must be respected. Canada should highlight how an international rules-based order requires Israel to respect the provisional measures of the International Court of Justice, which calls for ceasefire and urgent safe passage of humanitarian aid.

Canada can impose a comprehensive and binding embargo on military trade with Israel, to avoid complicity in genocide. The recent Parliamentary motion is not insignificant, but it does not do enough. An effective embargo would be binding, would apply to both existing and future export agreements, would capture component parts to military equipment and would apply to goods moving through third party states, such as the United States.

Canada can help ease human suffering by increasing our aid envelope, doing more to help refugees needing access to safety in Canada (similar to the response for refugees from Ukraine) and committing to help build a lasting peace, including ensuring justice for harms and safeguarding of evidence needed for truth and reconciliation.

We urge Canada to immediately and decisively support and adopt these calls to action for long-term sustainable and just peace in the region, which is so urgently needed for the security, rights and dignity of all Palestinians and Israelis.

KAIROS Canada, The Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Canadian Religious Conference, Christian Reformed Church in North America (Canada Corporation), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Mennonite Central Committee of Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), The United Church of Canada.

May 2024