



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

MEMORANDUM FROM OFFICE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

Date: November 7, 2023

RE: Conflict in the Holy Land, Ways to Help

The escalation of the conflict in the Holy Land has left many appalled and looking for ways to help. Of particular urgency is the staggering loss of life and the lack of access to basic necessities, including humanitarian aid. As we continue to navigate the challenges this situation presents, here are some options to consider in coordinating support for those impacted.

Advocate - Apply public pressure by contacting your political representatives and requesting a united call for an immediate ceasefire and urgent access to humanitarian aid in Gaza and the West Bank.

- You can find your Member of Parliament here, <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>
- You can find a template and 'how to' write you MP here: <https://cpj.ca/writing-a-letter-to-your-mp/>
- You can use the template provided by Islamic Relief Canada here <https://act.newmode.net/action/islamic-relief-canada/canada-call-immediate-humanitarian-corridor-gaza>

Humanitarian Aid: The conflict has prevented humanitarian aid from reaching Gaza and the West Bank. In addition, many agencies have sustained losses to their staff and offices. This will mean that the supply and mechanisms of support will be very limited. The following includes vetted, Catholic organizations, and those with the greatest chance of access to the front lines.

- Catholic Relief Services - <https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/where-we-work/jerusalem-west-bank-and-gaza>
- Islamic Relief Canada - <https://www.islamicreliefcanada.org/emergencies/palestine-appeal>
- The Government of Canada will match donations made to the Humanitarian Coalition Emergency Appeal until November 12, 2023 to a maximum of \$10 million. <https://www.humanitariancoalition.ca/gaza-humanitarian-emergency>
 - This coalition includes agencies such as Oxfam and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent; some of the only organizations currently on the ground in Gaza and at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.
- Development and Peace - <https://devp.org/en/please-help-families-in-need-in-gaza/>
- Catholic Agency for Overseas Development - <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help>
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association <https://cnewa.org/ca/>

"Particularly, in Gaza, may space be opened to guarantee humanitarian aid, and may the hostages be released right away. Let no one abandon the possibility that the weapons might be silenced - let there be a ceasefire," Pope Francis Oct. 29, 2023 Angelus, St. Peter's Square.