



LIFE AND MISSION AGENCY
JUSTICE MINISTRIES

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."
For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.
Psalm 122: 6-9*

**20 - 26 September 2015
World Council of Churches Week for Peace in Israel & Palestine**

September 20 – 26, 2015 is the World Council of Churches' Week for Peace in Israel and Palestine. The theme this year is: *God has broken down the dividing walls*. We would encourage you to help your congregation to pray for peace and to learn more about some of the issues regarding Israel and Palestine. Here are some suggestions.

- ❖ Hold a prayer vigil in your home for peace with justice.
- ❖ Offer a prayer or preach a sermon during Sunday worship on September 20. An ecumenical liturgy is online at www.worldweekforpeace.org.
- ❖ Show a film about Israel and Palestine (e.g. the Israeli film *The Lemon Tree*).
- ❖ In social media, use the hashtag #WallWillFall to talk about this year's World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel.

The General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada has affirmed its support on a number of occasions for United Nations Security Council resolutions # 242 and # 338.

In 1967 the United Nations Security Council, "expressing its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East [and] emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security," outlined basic principles on which a viable and just peace agreement might be based. These principles are outlined in UN Security Council Resolution 242 and were approved by the Security Council following the end of the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict. Key elements of the resolution include:

1. The withdrawal of Israel from the territory occupied in 1967, and the recognition by all states in the region of Israel's right to exist.
2. The right of all states, including Israel and its Arab neighbours to live in peace with secure and recognized borders.
3. The right of the Palestinians to self-determination, including their right to establish their own sovereign state.

Resolution 338 was passed by the Security Council during the 1973 conflict and called for an immediate ceasefire, the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and the commencement of negotiations to bring about a just and sustainable peace in the Middle East.

(General Assemblies in 1978, 1983, 1984, 1989, 1990, 2002, 2008 and 2009 have affirmed support for UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338).

Programs Supported by International Ministries (Presbyterians Sharing) and PWS&D:

International Ministries provides an annual grant to the Middle East Council of Churches and to the Department of Service to Palestinian Churches (DSPR). The DSPR is a program of the Middle East Council of Churches.

PWS&D contributes to KAIROS' Global Partners Program and in particular the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees and the Jerusalem Centre for Women (see below). PWS&D works with ACT Alliance.

Partner Organizations Receiving Support from KAIROS/Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives:

Core Support:

1. Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees www.dspr-me.org
2. Jerusalem Centre for Women www.j-c-w.org
3. Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center www.alaslah.org Wi'am is Arabic for *cordial relations*.

Project Funding:

1. Coalition of Women for Peace www.coalitionofwomen.org

Additional information on The Presbyterian Church in Canada's statements and positions are online at <http://presbyterian.ca/justice/middle-east/>. Please let Katharine Masterton (Program Coordinator – Justice Ministries kmasterton@presbyterian.ca) or Stephen Allen (Associate Secretary – Justice Ministries sallen@presbyterian.ca) know of initiatives you take during the World Council of Churches' Week for Peace in Israel and Palestine, 20 - 26 September 2015.