

*Australian Christians who seek lasting
Peace for the people of Palestine and
Israel. We aim to equip and inform
Australian churches, inspired by
Christ's vision for universal reconciliation*



Vigil for Peace in Palestine and Israel

Wednesday 22 February 2017, at 6 pm

City Uniting Church

69 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City

Canberra members of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) warmly invite you to join them in a Vigil for Peace in Palestine and Israel at the City Uniting Church at 6 pm on Wednesday 22 Feb 2017. The vigil will conclude before 7 pm.

The vigil will be held while the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is visiting Australia.

Under Mr Netanyahu's leadership, the Israeli government has expanded settlements, confiscated Palestinian land and committed systematic violence against Palestinian men, women and children. In no way has Mr Netanyahu and his government displayed any genuine interest in justice and peace for Palestinians. To its shame, our own government supports Israel almost unreservedly.

Palestinian Christians can trace their roots back to the beginning of the church, 2000 years ago. In a "Kairos Palestine Declaration" in 2009, Palestinian church leaders wrote, "*We Palestinian Christians declare that the military occupation of our land is a sin against God and humanity*". They have urged the global Christian community to pray for and offer practical support towards peace and justice. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said Christians cannot stand aside "*as successive Israeli governments colonise the West Bank and advance racist laws.*"

In our vigil on 22 February, we invite you to pray with us for a lasting and just peace in Palestine and Israel, praying especially for those in both Palestine and Israel who seek a genuine peace.

We also urge you, in the likelihood of further repression by Israel, to continue in prayers for peace "without ceasing" every day.

Other practical ways to express your ongoing support for peace include

- Raising this issue regularly in your church and distributing information to raise awareness.
- Contacting your local member of parliament, and the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, telling them you expect Australia to be far more even-handed, as its current one-sided support for Israel is not a way to peace.
- Writing to your local newspaper and using social media to state your concerns.
- Whenever possible, joining public events which advocate justice and peace.
- Acting in solidarity with Palestinian Christians. Visit them if you can, write letters of support and contribute financially to aid organisations working in Palestine.
- Join a group advocating for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel.

For further information see www.pien.org.au