



Advocacy in Advent 2024



Advocacy in Advent 2024

As Advent approaches, people of faith and goodwill may find themselves in a quandary. How do we anticipate the ancient wonders of Christmas without ignoring the realities of life and death in the occupied Palestinian territory and Lebanon?

In this document you'll find lots of resources to help you Learn, Act and Pray about the ongoing situation in the Middle East. We, the Iona Community Israel/Palestine Common Concern Network, hope these videos, liturgical responses and advocacy actions will help you and your community become more aware and act for justice for all.

Disclaimer

Please note that we have, in good faith and in consultation with learned peers, referred to many resources in this document. Do not hesitate to contact us if you are concerned about any of the information provided here.

Contents

29 NOV: the UN Day of Solidarity	3
ADVENT	3
Liturgical ideas for your church	3
Take part in events	3
WRITE TO POLITICIANS	3
In the UK.....	4
In USA	4
VIDEOS	4
Short videos.....	4
Longer videos	5
Video collections	6
MORE INFORMATION.....	6



29 NOV: the UN Day of Solidarity

In 1977 the UN called for observance of 29 November as the [International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#).

How to mark the Day of Solidarity?

- **Host a video** and discussion using the list below.
- **Plant a tree**: [Al-Makhrou](#) is a West Bank area [under threat](#). The ‘[Save al-Makhrou](#)’ [campaign proposes](#) that from 29th November to 1st December, we join a global “Planting peace” weekend in remembrance of all stolen Palestinian lands.

ADVENT

Liturgical ideas for your church

- **Leave the second Advent candle unlit** throughout Advent and Christmas. This symbolic action was adopted by many churches in 2023 to stand alongside our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land
- **Plan a thought-provoking nativity scene**. You might wish to recreate the [example of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem](#) with Christ under the rubble.
- **Sing social justice-themed carols and liturgies**. Check out [Wild Goose Publications](#) for inspiration.
- **Preach Palestine**. You’ll find sermon starters in resources provided by [Friends of Sabeel North America \(FOSNA\)](#).

Take part in events

- [Palestine-Longing for Peace](#) is a four-part Advent series facilitated by Sabeel-Kairos.
- [Amos Trust Christmas Tour 2024](#). An evening of music, film, poetry and conversation with special guests from Palestine from 29th November to 6th December.

WRITE TO POLITICIANS

There is no shortage of urgent reasons to write to or meet with your elected representative. You can:

- Demand an end to all arms supply to Israel
- Call on governments to join Norway in asking the UN to [clarify Israel’s obligations](#) under international law.



In the UK

- **Ask MPs** to sign the [Early Day motion on settlement and sanctions](#) and congratulate those who do.
- **Write to Keir Starmer** to demand the he uses every lever to pressure Israel to [halt its liquidation](#) of the north of Gaza

In USA

- **Petition your lawmaker about HR 9495.** On 12th November 2024, the House of Representatives voted on a bill that would have allowed the Treasury Secretary the ability to effectively shut down any nonprofit organization they deem “terrorist supporting” by removing tax-exempt status. The motion failed. Use this [template letter](#) to influence your elected representative before the next vote.
- **Campaign with FOSNA.** You’ll find more advocacy options at Friends of Sabeel North America.

VIDEOS

Watch-along videos can be a great way to stimulate discussion, prayer and action. For a fuller list or other resources contact ccnpalestine@iona.org.uk

Short videos

Israel/Palestine: A Very Short Introduction from Jewish Voice for Peace	6:27 mins
---	-----------

Wala – Susan Abulhawa	4 mins
---------------------------------------	--------

Oceans of Injustice	11:14 mins
-------------------------------------	------------

The Jerusalem Closure Policy: Separating Nativity From Resurrection	6 mins
Explains the barrier and permit system between Bethlehem and Jerusalem 6 years ago (in 2024 all permits were cancelled, but this shows the context for Palestinians for years), with scenes from both cities.	

The Holy City, Daughters of Jerusalem and the Princeton Girl choir	5:20 mins
Pause with this for breath and hope!	



Longer videos

[From Balfour to Banksy](#) (2020)

1hr 11mins

UK artist, Banksy, created murals on the separation barrier and refurbished the Walled Off Hotel near Bethlehem.

“The long term-effects the British Empire's colonialist enterprises in the modern day region of Israel and Palestine and its role in creating the legacy of division that remains there today”.

[Law and the Prophets](#)

1hr 54mins

Even just the first 7 minutes conveys the simple basis of the situation in Israel/Palestine.

[Stone-cold justice](#)

45 mins

This video reports the treatment and detention of children, showing life in the West Bank through the voices of Israelis and Palestinians.

[How Israeli Apartheid Destroyed My Hometown](#)

24 mins

Dena spends a day in Hebron retracing the footsteps of her father, who was born and raised in Hebron. She talks to Palestinians who are subjected to daily harassment from the Israeli military and settlers. And she is guided through the city by former Israeli soldiers, who tell her why their conscience is now forcing them to speak out against the occupation.

[War crimes in Gaza](#)

1hr 20mins

Al Jazeera exposes Israeli war crimes in the Gaza Strip through the medium of photos and videos posted online by Israeli soldiers themselves.

[The humanitarian situation in Gaza - International Development Committee, UK Parliament](#)

2hr 23mins

Professor Nizam Mamode, a British surgeon, gives testimony from 15mins. Representatives of UNRWA, HRW, Red Crescent, MAP also bear witness to the ongoing atrocities.

[Silence Is Complicity: Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac Calls Upon U.S. Churches](#)

2 hr

Beautiful music, powerful prayers and insightful wisdom from Munther Isaac..



Video collections

Some key partners and organisations provide video and audio resources about Israel/Palestine. Below is a small selection.

[Recordings from KumiNow](#)

KumiNow meets at 4pm each Tuesday (UK time) to reflect on issues affecting Israel/Palestine. You can watch the recorded sessions on their website or register for the live [webcast](#).

[Sabeel-Kairos You-Tube channel](#)

Sabeel-Kairos - a Christian charity in the UK - support, advocate and promote the work of Sabeel Jerusalem and Kairos Palestine. Both organisations are Palestinian Christian movements of liberation and justice for all.

[Balfour project webinars](#)

The Balfour Project acknowledges Britain's historic and continuing responsibilities, and works through education and advocacy to advance equal rights for Palestinians and Israelis.

[The Society of St Yves videos](#)

The Society of St. Yves is the Catholic Center for Human Rights of the Latin Patriarchate in the Holy Land.

MORE INFORMATION

To see this online, and to find out more about our position on Israel/Palestine scan the QR code to go to:

iona.org.uk/our-resources/common-concerns/#israel-palestine-ccn



Website: iona.org.uk

Facebook: @ionacommunity

Instagram: @ionacommunity

The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian movement seeking new ways of living the gospel in today's world through working for peace and social justice rebuilding community and in the renewal of worship.

Company No: SC096243 Charity No: SC003794

