



**WORKING TOGETHER:**  
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is Possible.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# CMEP issues a statement of support for HLCC Trip to the Holy Land

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is grateful to have participated in this year's Holy Land Coordination pilgrimage and to stand alongside the bishops who have issued this powerful and timely [statement](#). As an organization committed to amplifying the voices of those most directly impacted by conflict, we were honored to bear witness to the realities described: communities living under threat, families yearning for safety and dignity, and courageous leaders working tirelessly for justice and reconciliation.

Throughout the visit, we encountered Palestinians and Israelis who, despite profound trauma and uncertainty, continue to call for equal rights, security, and a just peace for all who call the Holy Land home. Their testimony reinforces the urgency of sustained international engagement, principled advocacy, and faith-rooted solidarity.

CMEP's Senior Advocacy Director, Kyle Cristofalo, who participated in the delegation, says, "CMEP affirms the bishops' call to uphold the universality of human rights, to reject violence in all its forms, and to pursue meaningful negotiations toward a just and lasting resolution. We remain committed to working with church leaders, policymakers, and partners across faith communities to ensure that those who feel unseen are not unheard. In this moment of deep fracture and fragile hope, we echo the call to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world", standing in solidarity with all who seek peace with justice in the Holy Land."

You can read the full statement and see the full signatories [HERE](#).

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*Formed in 1984, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of more than 30 national church communions and organizations, including Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical traditions that works to encourage US policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. CMEP works to mobilize US Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East.*

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Recent CMEP Statements and Press Releases:

**Feb 11, 2026: [A Time for Peace](#)**

“Today the human family is ensnared in armed conflicts that engender despair, anxiety, and the unending slaughter of innocents. We are a group of religious leaders from the United States and Iran. With profound sympathy for all victims of war and oppression, we together implore our governmental leaders and those of other countries to take concrete steps towards reconciliation before even greater catastrophes befall us.”

**Jan 17, 2026: [A Statement From The Patriarchs And Heads Of The Churches In Jerusalem On Unity And Representation Of The Christian Communities In The Holy Land](#)**

The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in the Holy Land affirm before the faithful and before the world that the flock of Christ in this land is entrusted to the Apostolic Churches, which have borne their sacred ministry across centuries with steadfast devotion. Recent activities undertaken by local individuals who advance damaging ideologies, such as Christian Zionism, mislead the public, sow confusion, and harm the unity of our flock. These undertakings have found favor among certain political actors in Israel and beyond who seek to push a political agenda which may harm the Christian presence in the Holy Land and the wider Middle East.

**Jan 5, 2026: [Churches for Middle East Peace joins 53 International NGOs in warning that Israel’s recent registration measures will impede critical humanitarian action](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace join international humanitarian organizations in warning that Israel’s recent registration measures threaten to shut down life-saving aid operations across Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. If allowed to proceed, these measures would force dozens of INGOs to cease operations, cutting off food, healthcare, shelter, and nutrition assistance to millions of civilians facing extreme need. Humanitarian access is not political or optional; it is a legal obligation under international humanitarian law that must be protected.

**Dec 18, 2025: [Public Statement: CMEP Supports the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches’ Appeal for Children with Cancer in Gaza](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) elevates and stands in solidarity with the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem in their statement of Support for the Work of Augusta Victoria Hospital in Treating Children with Cancer from Gaza. We echo their urgent humanitarian

appeal to the relevant Israeli authorities to grant permits allowing children in Gaza diagnosed with leukemia to travel to Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives for life-saving, specialized treatment that is unavailable in Gaza. These are young and vulnerable patients whose survival depends on timely access to care. Delays in treatment for childhood cancer can mean the difference between life and death.

**Dec 17, 2025: [Press Release: UNRWA USA Leads 104 Organizations Urging Trump Administration to Include UNRWA in Gaza's Recovery](#)**

UNRWA USA National Committee (UNRWA USA) led a national coalition of 104 civil society organizations, including Churches for Middle East Peace, to urge the Trump Administration to include the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in its plans for Gaza's recovery. In a joint letter to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, refugee, human rights, and humanitarian organizations called on the Trump Administration "to re-open lines of communication with UNRWA and allow the Agency to continue fulfilling its mandate in accordance with international humanitarian principles, until a just and lasting solution to the plight of Palestine refugees is secured."

**December 15, 2025: [Public Statement: CMEP Condemns the Terrorist Attack at Bondi Beach](#)**

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins the Council of Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem in strongly condemning the horrific terrorist attack at Bondi Beach in Australia, which targeted the Jewish community on the first night of Hanukkah. We echo their unequivocal rejection of this violence and stand in deep solidarity with the Jewish community in Australia and across the world.

See all of our [public statements](#) and [press releases](#).

## Contact Us

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