



Pilgrims on the Path to Peace

Bethlehem, 13-17 May 2015

Pax Christi International 70th Anniversary

Time	Programme	Description
Wednesday – 13 May 2015		
17h00 – 19h00	Welcome	<p>Welcome by the Pax Christi International Co-Presidents and local political and religious leaders.</p> <p>Presentation of the programme and introduction to the reality of life in Bethlehem.</p>
19h30 – 20h30	Dinner	
Thursday – 14 May 2015		
9h00 – 12h00	Reflecting on Pax Christi's history	Presentation of the story of Pax Christi, its milestones, witnesses and achievements.
12h30 – 13h30	Lunch	
14h00 – 18h00	Six simultaneous pilgrimages to see different realities of life in Palestine	<p>Pax Christi's vision of peace, based on the Gospel, is one in which the dignity of every human person is unconditionally respected and in which their human rights are fully guaranteed.</p> <p><i>Before the Assembly, all participants will have chosen a "Walking Path".</i></p> <p><i>These walking paths are designed to help us reflect on the challenges to peace in our world. The first phase of the walking paths is a pilgrimage to see some of the realities of Palestinian life.</i></p> <p>There will be six simultaneous pilgrimages on six different issues:</p> <p>1. Human Rights: Promoting the Dignity of Each Person</p> <p>Pax Christi believes that we must work for human rights and good governance in order to eradicate human rights violations, racism and discrimination.</p> <p>Refugees and internally displaced people around the world are a reminder of how conflict disrupts the lives of millions of people, creating levels of vulnerability and insecurity that affect their whole life.</p> <p>Participants will visit Aida and Dheisheh Refugee Camps.</p>

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		<p>2. Ecological Justice: Promoting Sustainable Peace</p> <p>Pax Christi believes that there is no peace without ecological justice and works to promote social, economic, cultural and ecological rights.</p> <p>Armed conflicts and irresponsible natural resource extraction have a significantly negative impact on the way communities interact with their environment – and affect us all.</p> <p>Participants will visit the Jordan Valley and meet communities affected by eviction and water scarcity.</p> <p>3. Justice and Reconciliation: Restoring Dignity after Violence and Injustice</p> <p>Pax Christi believes that justice and reconciliation are essential to the peacebuilding process.</p> <p>The violence suffered by prisoners, who are abused and tortured by oppressive regimes and unjust structures leads to individual and community conflict.</p> <p>Participants will meet former political prisoners, as well as the relatives of political prisoners and victims of torture.</p> <p>4. Demilitarisation and Disarmament: Turning Swords into Ploughshares</p> <p>Pax Christi believes that it is vital to campaign for the reduction of militarisation and the abolition of conventional and non-conventional weapons.</p> <p>Participants will visit Hebron and meet communities affected by violence.</p> <p>5. Peace Education: Walking with Young Peacemakers</p> <p>Pax Christi believes that young people have an essential role in the work for peace. The challenge is to listen to them and engage in multi-generational peace initiatives.</p> <p>Participants will meet young Palestinian peace builders.</p> <p>6. Women as Peacemakers: Listening to Essential Voices</p> <p>Pax Christi believes that women make a vital contribution to peacemaking and that their voices must be heard.</p> <p>Many women are marginalised, exploited and suffer from domestic, religious and political violence. This is an important challenge for us.</p> <p>Participants will meet Palestinian women and hear their stories of resilience and creative initiatives.</p>
19h – 20h	Dinner	
20h30 – 21h30	Debriefing	Reflections on the afternoon's pilgrimages.

Time	Programme	Description
Friday – 15 May 2015		
9h00 – 12h00	Three Simultaneous Sessions: Deepening the Discussion	Walking Paths – Part Two Participants will analyse the global realities of the walking path issues. They will exchange experiences and expertise and consider ideas for shared commitments to future action. Each group will have contributors from global, as well as Palestinian, partners to help with the analysis. 1. Human Rights: Promoting the Dignity of Each Person Participants will look at how Member Organisations are working for peace through the promotion of the rule of law and the respect for human rights, including those of groups most affected by forced displacement. 2. Ecological Justice: Promoting Sustainable Peace Participants will look at how Member Organisations are supporting communities as they face conflicts over natural resources and will consider how to promote sustainable peace. 3. Justice and Reconciliation: Restoring Dignity after Violence and Injustice Participants will reflect on how Member Organisations are promoting reconciliation and empowering processes for dealing with the past.
12h30 – 13h30	Lunch	
14h00 – 17h00	Three Simultaneous Sessions: Deepening the Discussion	4. Demilitarisation and Disarmament: Turning Swords into Ploughshares Participants will look at how Member Organisations are addressing demilitarisation and disarmament. They will share lessons learned and consider how to strengthen their advocacy at national and international levels. 5. Peace Education: Walking with Young Peacemakers Participants will consider the many expressions of violence that affect young people. They will discuss ways to identify and promote alternatives to violence and extremism. 6. Women as Peacemakers: Including Essential Voices Participants will look at the ways in which women experience and respond to violence. They will consider how to learn from and support women in personal, religious and political peace making.
17h30 – 18h30	Towards 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keynote Speaker on the challenges and hopes for the future of Pax Christi - Pax Christi's Path to Peace 2015 - 2020
19h30	70th Anniversary Dinner	

Time	Programme	Description
Saturday – 16 May 2015		
9h00 – 16h30	70th Anniversary Peace Festival	<p>This will be open to Member Organisations, partners and local peacemakers, with opportunities for shared prayer and an exchange of peace-making resources and experiences.</p> <p>This festival will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market Place - Workshops and Presentations - Space for prayer and Reflection - Exhibits - Crafts - Entertainment
17h30 – 18h30	Pax Christi Peace Award Ceremony	<p>Pax Christi International will present its annual Peace Award.</p> <p>This will take place in the presence of local people, including political and religious leaders, and Pax Christi partners.</p>
18h30 – 19h30	Reception	
19h30 – 21h	Dinner	
Sunday – 17 May 2015		
8h00 – 13h00	Closing	The World Assembly will end with a pilgrimage along the wall to pray at the checkpoint and the celebration of Mass. We will reaffirm our commitment to be peacemakers, as individuals and as a global movement, as we continue our journey on the path to peace.
13h00 – 14h00	Lunch	
Afternoon	<i>Optional visit to Jerusalem with an opportunity to meet Israeli peacemakers.</i>	