

FAQ: Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage

We are excited to be joining 17 countries and 125 cities participating in this global pilgrimage! Many thanks to the Illinois pilgrimage team for [their own FAQ page](#) that inspired ours.

What is a pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is a sacred journey, a prayer with one's body – be it by foot, or wheelchair, by car or bike, or on an animal – to a destination, with the desire to turn one's heart to the Divine, and share in Divine connection with all of creation- particularly the vulnerable. People of all faiths are welcomed.

Why are we doing this pilgrimage?

We want to map Gaza onto our own cities, walking from north to south together for a total of 22 miles, marking the distance between Gaza City and the Rafah refugee crossing. As a community, we hope that the geography/distance will help us be mindful of the Palestinian “Nakba” – catastrophe, past and present.

Meditatively, we can enter the suffering of what the Palestinian people are experiencing in Gaza (30,000 killed and the majority of Gazans displaced) including the Palestinians living in the West Bank that are daily being attacked and killed by the illegal settlers and military.

As a way to acknowledge our deep grief and the horrors of mass violence, we walk together prayerfully, holding the stories, the suffering, and the needs of our Palestinian kin while we walk.

How did this event get established?

The global [Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage](#) was launched January 14th by Palestinian Christians and international Christians as an act of solidarity and Christian repentance for complicity in genocide. We seek to work with and be led by Palestinian Christians who are in agreement with these [core convictions](#) in each of the contexts of where the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimages are happening

In the East Bay, the vision for the Gaza Ceasefire pilgrimage merged with the ongoing work of interfaith organizers, including a network of faith communities who have raised banners advocating for a ceasefire.

Our intention is both 1) to walk in prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza through the global pilgrimage endorsed by Palestinian Christians, and 2) to walk intentionally in interfaith partnership as invited by the organizers. We recognize the power of a collective witness from

various faith traditions, all joining in a chorus for sustained ceasefire and a just peace.

What do we want?

Our collective demands are:

1. Enduring and Sustained Ceasefire.
2. Immediate flow of life saving food, water, aid, fuel, and humanitarian assistance.
3. Release of all hostages – both the Israeli hostages held by Hamas – and the Palestinian hostages held in the Israeli prison system.
4. End of occupation so a just-peace can begin.

Do I have to do the whole walk?

No. You can join us for as little or as much as you want or are able.

Our pilgrimage will include scheduled prayer stops where you can begin or conclude your journey, and each leg will be around 5-6 miles. You are welcome to do as many legs as you would like. Each stop will include transportation support for those who need to return to their starting point.

Is there a leg I should choose if I can only do one?

We have created a 1.5 mile communal walk at noon, from Buddhist Church in Oakland to First Congregational Church in Oakland - culminating in a community ritual and press conference. If you'd like to join for only one portion, we encourage you to consider this leg.

Are there ways to participate without walking?

Yes! We recognize that not everyone who supports our pilgrimage can participate by walking, so we welcome participants who might join us at scheduled stops for collective prayer and action. We also welcome participants who'd like to support these efforts by serving as a volunteer in some capacity.

What do I need for the day?

We will share recommendations but encourage you to use your judgment for that day on what to wear pending on weather and your needs. Make sure to bring water, snacks as needed, first aid and of course - friends. There will be public restrooms available along the route. Signs and flags are welcome, but hateful speech will not be tolerated.

Do I have to be silent as I walk?

No, you are not required to be silent while walking. However, we do ask that you conduct yourself in such a way that is respectful of those around you and is conducive to honoring the

lives lost and some people's possible desire to be in silent prayer. In short, do unto others, both on the pilgrimage and those who you pass, as you'd want them to do unto you.

Our prayer stops will include opportunities for collective chants, singing, and louder declarations.

Can I bring my own sign/banner?

We will be creating a collection of signs and banners for the event, but you are also welcome to bring your own. However, we make a clear stand against any form of hatred including antisemitism and Islamophobia and hate speech of any kind will not be allowed.

Is this a fundraiser?

It can be, but does not have to be. If you choose to use this pilgrimage as an opportunity to raise funds, we encourage you to choose an organization supporting one or more of the following

- 1) Relief:** Humanitarian relief in the form of food, water, medical supplies etc.
- 2) Refugees:** Supporting those who are seeking safety.
- 3) Arrival of Relief and Refuge:** Groups working to make sure the relief is arriving to those in need and refuge is being provided to those seeking safety.

Some suggested organizations you could give to include:

- MECA- <https://www.mecaforpeace.org/>
- ANERA: <https://www.anera.org/>
- Palestinian Children's Relief Fund: <https://www.pcrf.net/>
- Medical Aid for Palestinians: <https://www.map.org.uk/donate/donation-details/484>
- Mutual aid funds from [Operation Olive Branch](#)
- Donate for e-sims: [Crips for E-sims for Gaza](#)

Who I can contact with other questions?

Our pilgrimage is being organized by a group of interfaith leaders from a range of organizations and congregations

For immediate questions, you can email our coordinating team at: GCPEastBay@gmail.com