

**5 Ways You Can Act on the Crisis in the Middle East
(Using the May 2013 Church Leader's Letter)**

One month ago on 17 May 2013 The Canadian Council of Churches sent a church leaders' letter on the Crisis in the Middle East to Prime Minister Harper. Here are 5 ways you can act on the Crisis in the Middle East through promoting the letter and its message.

1. **Send your own letter to Prime Minister Harper.** Cut and paste the heart of the President's cover letter into your own letter then attach the church leaders' letter to your own message to Prime Minister Harper. Better yet, invite your community leader or representative to send the letter on your behalf. Mail, Fax and or Email it to him via the coordinates listed on the letter. Send it to the other political party leaders who are cc'd on the letter as well... check the last page for names.
2. **Spread the word using social media and email:** Post, share, tweet, retweet, and email this list of 5 things you can do together with the letter. Through your circle of friends and colleagues promote the need for the Government of Canada to respond robustly and generously to the pressured by displaced peoples and the countries that provide them refuge; lead in the protection of human rights; hold firm to the implementation of international law; and assist local peacemakers and providers of humanitarian assistance. Consider connecting with your friends and colleagues who have family in the Middle East, or who travel there from time to time.
3. **Send it to your local, neighbourhood newspaper.** Can you send your letter in as an op-ed contribution to your local, neighbourhood newspaper and journal, and bring attention to the Church Leaders' Letter? Highlight the positive role faith communities are playing in working for peace and responding to tragedy.
4. **Propose a conversation with other members of a faith community.** Bring the letter to your congregational gathering or small group meeting. Better yet, use the letter as a conversation piece and learning opportunity in a friendly meeting with another faith community, especially one that also has members in the Middle East. You might read it together and share perspectives on what you like in the letter and what might be expressed better.
5. **Thank your church leader for their efforts.** An email or letter of gratitude is always greatly appreciated. Send a letter, card, email, or facebook post. You might want to add that you are praying for them and their efforts.

The [Canadian Council of Churches](http://www.councilofchurches.ca) brings together representatives from Anglican, Evangelical, Free Church, Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic member churches to grow Christian unity and work for a more faithful and just Canada.

The Canadian Council of Churches is the largest ecumenical body in Canada, now representing 25 churches of Anglican; Evangelical; Free Church; Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox; Protestant; and Catholic traditions. Together we represent 85% of the Christians in Canada. The Canadian Council of Churches was founded in 1944.

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