



Ecumenical Accompaniers - working for a just peace in Palestine and Israel

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is an international programme coordinated by the World Council of Churches. It brings people from around the world to the West Bank to serve for three months as human rights monitors. We call them Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs).

EAs are ordinary people, ranging in age from 25 to 70 years old and from many faith and secular backgrounds. They work alongside

Palestinians and Israelis for a future in which the military occupation of Palestine (the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza) has ended and both Palestinians and Israelis enjoy a just peace with freedom, dignity and security based on international law.

How it began

EAPPI was founded in response to a call from the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem. In a meeting with the WCC, local Christians in the Holy Land proposed establishing EAPPI as “an accompaniment programme [including] an international ecumenical presence...closely linked to the local churches”.

Since 2002 over 1,500 international volunteers from 22 countries have served as EAs. In the UK and Ireland [British Quakers](#) were asked to take on the management of the programme on behalf of [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#) and other ecumenical partners. Now there are 16 [partners](#) including CTBI and the Quakers:

- ❖ [Baptist Union of Great Britain](#)
- ❖ [CAFOD](#)
- ❖ [Christian Aid](#)
- ❖ [Church of Scotland](#)
- ❖ [Church Mission Society](#)
- ❖ [Churches Together in Britain and Ireland](#)
- ❖ [Council of Lutheran Churches](#)
- ❖ [Iona Community](#)
- ❖ [Methodist Church](#)
- ❖ [Pax Christi UK](#)
- ❖ [Presbyterian Church of Wales](#)
- ❖ [Quaker Peace & Social Witness](#)
- ❖ [Scottish Episcopal Church](#)
- ❖ [Trócaire](#)
- ❖ [United Reformed Church](#)
- ❖ [Us](#)

In addition, we are supported by a number of Anglican bishops in the UK and Ireland who endorse the programme.

What EAs do

Witness: First and foremost, EAs witness life for Palestinians under the Israeli military occupation. They are on the ground 24/7 and are often the first to respond to human rights violations. EAs live with local communities and participate in daily activities. EAs monitor and report human rights violations, bringing eyewitness accounts to the world's attention. EAPPI has more international human rights monitors on the ground than any other organisation in Israel and Palestine.



“When people come...and drink tea with me, and listen, it gives me the power to stay.”

Sabri, local contact

Engage: EAs provide protective presence. Our presence deters the Israeli military and armed settler groups from violating the human rights of civilians, and makes local communities feel safer. Our EAs stand in solidarity with local churches and both Palestinian and Israeli peace activists, upholding them in their nonviolent resistance to the occupation. EAs are also hosted by a synagogue in Haifa to enable them to meet Israeli families and hear different perspectives.

“The international component is critical for peace in the Middle East. You are coming to do something very important and we in the peace movement in Israel are very grateful to see you”

Gila Svirsky, Israeli peace activist

Change: Having been asked by Palestinians and Israelis to make known the injustice of the occupation and having been eyewitnesses to it, EAs can speak with authority and authenticity. When they return home, EAs use their witness to open the eyes of the world to the realities of occupation. They campaign in their local communities and at a national level for a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on international law.

"It is an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I hope I will become an advocate worthy of the many Palestinians and Israelis I met during my term."

Veronica, EA from the UK



Learn More

Read some recent eyewitness accounts from EAs.



"That the wall will fall into a bridge that we can use for reconciliation; that we can shake hands and say 'Shalom'."

This is the prayer of a Palestinian Christian called Clemence. [Read](#) her story to learn about the ecumenical Wall Prayer walk in Bethlehem.



"We laugh and joke but we are crying inside. The occupation is inside our lives. It is inside our jokes."

Rafi is a leader with the Jerusalem Evangelical Youth group. [Learn](#) about his experience at a Palm Sunday procession in Jerusalem.



"The government is taking my son for three years, after I've invested so much love in bringing him up. It's out of our hands. I'm scared for his life because many soldiers do not come back home."

[Read](#) about Tanya and her teenage son Dan, who will soon enter the Israeli army.

Apply to be an EA

We believe that everyone can take action to help end the occupation and bring about a just peace for both Palestinians and Israelis. We need a movement of people who can take action for peace. Will you join us? Can you help us get the word out?

We are currently recruiting for EAs to serve in 2020. The application pack and essential documents are live on our website www.quaker.org.uk/applyeappi

Please spread the word in your networks and communities.



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www.facebook.com/eappiukireland

<https://eyewitnessblogs.com/>

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/international-work/eappi/partners>

[Find information](#) on applying to be an EA

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The WCC EAPPI programme is managed in Britain and Ireland by the Quakers in partnership with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). www.ctbi.org.uk