

Show your support for the people of Palestine

The situation in Gaza is a humanitarian catastrophe. Families are enduring horrific conditions as hostilities escalate and basic necessities for survival disappear. Caritas Australia continues to pressure the Australian Government to ensure aid flows, while also pushing for a ceasefire and long-term peace. Our partners on the ground are working tirelessly to provide urgent assistance to people displaced and affected by the war in Gaza. Caritas Jerusalem and CRS continue to provide aid and support to people in Gaza and the West Bank, despite restrictions. They continue to adapt their programs to reflect current needs, restrictions and context.

One way to show your solidarity with the people in Gaza and hope for their better future is to organise a group to make and fly kites. Kites have long been a symbol of hope in Palestine, including when Palestinian children set the world record with almost 15,000 kites flown in Gaza on 28 July 2011. A global solidarity movement aligned with this has grown, inspired by the final poem of Palestinian poet and professor Refaat Alareer. In his work, "If I Must Die," Alareer asked for his clothes to be made into a white kite with a long tail, to be flown by a child in Gaza after his death. This poem, written before his murder in December 2023, has been widely shared, and flying white kites has become a symbol of hope, resistance, and remembrance for the people of Gaza.

Through this activity, we show the people of Gaza that we care for them while letting our leaders and communities know that we want peace.

Make your kite

Building a kite involves creating a strong, lightweight frame and attaching a durable sail with a flying line. Many online guides and videos show how to make kites using common household materials—simply search "how to make a kite" to find suitable instructions. When selecting materials, choose sustainable options by reusing items destined for landfill or choosing recyclable materials that won't contribute to litter.

Consider decorating your kite with symbols representing the people of Gaza, such as Palestinian flag colours, watermelon motifs, keffiyeh patterns, or messages about peace, access to aid, or upholding human dignity. This transforms your kite into a meaningful tribute while creating an engaging activity. By combining thoughtful material choices with symbolic decoration, your homemade kite becomes both an environmentally conscious craft project and a powerful expression of solidarity and hope. Building and decorating kites makes an excellent group activity.



Fly your kite

After checking local regulations, you can fly your kites whenever the weather is suitable. When deciding when and where to fly your kite, remember there are legal restrictions, including how close to an airfield you can fly a kite and how high you can fly it. You should also ensure it is safe to fly, considering both weather conditions—never fly during an electrical storm—and location—avoid power lines, roads, and busy footpaths.

NOTE: Victoria has laws that prohibit flying kites in public spaces "to the annoyance of any person". There are plenty of suggestions online about how to safely fly your kite in Victoria. Please ensure you aren't breaking any laws before flying a kite.

Make it an event

Flying kites

- Welcome people to the event.
- Reflect on the situation in Gaza. Talk about why peace is important to you and your faith.
- Share information from [Caritas Australia](#) and stories from [Caritas Jerusalem](#).
- Go to your safe and legal flying spot and check the safety of the location. Double-check the weather and wind forecast.
- Fly your kite, ensuring it doesn't get tangled with other kites from your group.
- Take photos and/or videos to share and inspire others.
- Conclude with a reflection and read the [prayer for peace in Gaza from our website](#).

After the Event

- To show the scale of this movement, share photos or videos online and tag Caritas Australia and any leaders you want to see your message.
- Use the hashtags #Gaza #LetAidIn #Kites4Gaza #StarvingGaza #CeasefireNow
- Let us know you have flown kites by emailing us at act@caritas.org.au
- Visit the [Caritas Australia Gaza page](#) for more activities and resources, including:
 - Prayers for peace
 - A guide on writing to or calling your local member of parliament (MP)
 - Statements about Palestine

