

37 CALLS TO ACTION

FOR IMAMS & COMMUNITY LEADERS ON THE PALESTINIAN CRISIS

1. Understand the true narrative of the Palestinian crisis and relay it to your congregations.
2. Educate your congregations that this life is a test from Allah, and tests take different forms.
3. Inform your congregations that Allah wants this Ummah to be in a position of leadership, and for that reason Allah tests the people of this Ummah to examine their faith, affirm their belief and prepare them for a leadership role.
4. Educate your congregations that the Muslim Ummah is entrusted by Allah to establish justice and to enjoin good and forbid evil.
5. Emphasise that the whole Muslim Ummah must stand together with Palestine.
6. Educate yourself on Palestine and its history.
7. Be aware of not limiting your own study to sources from only a select few academics and writers, including those that solely represent a Western-centric worldview.
8. Instil confidence that believers are going to be successful eventually.
9. Regularly remind your congregations that it is from Iman to be positive, as the Messenger of Allah ﷺ loved positivity in all his affairs.
10. Make it clear to your congregations that support for the people of Palestine transcends nationalistic sentiments.
11. Stress that support for the people of Palestine should not mean that we forget the plight of other oppressed people.
12. Emphasise that voicing opposition to any wrongdoing and injustice is an obligation on everyone according to their capacity, with wisdom and according to the guidelines of the Shari'ah.
13. Call for an immediate end to the brutal attacks on the people of Palestine and their living places.
14. Call for aid to get through to the people of Palestine.
15. Unite and put pressure on those who represent your voice in government until a ceasefire is in place.
16. Be careful not to let anger and strong feelings lead you into saying things that you may later regret.
17. Challenge a biased narrative or a media bias.
18. Inform your congregations that protests, demonstrations and marches have many benefits, such as giving hope to the people of Palestine.
19. Encourage your congregations to support the Palestinian resistance.
20. Warn your congregations not to betray their fellow brothers and sisters in Palestine by denying that they have a right to resist the Israeli occupation forces aggression and apartheid.
21. Encourage your congregations to do everything that will help fellow Muslims and abstain from anything that will lend support to acts of injustice and aggression.
22. Know that the least a boycott will achieve is empowerment of the Ummah and an exhibition of loyalty towards it.
23. Encourage families to empower their children and teach them that Palestine is also their issue, and that it does matter.
24. Inform parents to spend time with their children and help them through this secondary trauma, instil hope and channel feelings towards positive actions.
25. Showcase positive community actions.
26. Advise parents that children may pick up ideas that might be contrary to the teachings of Islam and that these should be addressed around the dinner table.
27. Stress the importance for families to ensure that they include their children in discussions around Palestine.
28. Be clear that the people of Palestine have every moral and legal right to resist, including the use of armed force.
29. Work with the charities on the ground to help raise and channel financial aid to the people of Palestine that need it the most.
30. Encourage your congregations to raise funds for advocacy groups and organisations seeking to empower the community and advocate for feasible political solutions for the people of Palestine and towards raising awareness about their plight.
31. Encourage your congregations to cut out some of their unnecessary expenses - in order to continue giving Sadaqah to the Palestinian cause.
32. Talk about the dangers of doomscrolling and the negative impact that spending too much time on social media has on mental health.
33. Stress that younger children should have media consumption monitored to protect them from unnecessary trauma.
34. 34 Remind your congregations that getting closer to Allah through increased dhikr, seeking His forgiveness, Reciting the Qur'an and performing the Salah is the best cure for the consequences that come about from witnessing these atrocities.
35. Remind your congregations that Du'a is the weapon of the believer it is their ability to talk to Allah and is something that anyone, however strong or weak, is able to do.
36. Encourage families to regularly remind each other of times when Du'a should be made.
37. 37 Do the Qunoot Nazilah as prescribed by the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in his sunnah during such times.

