

An Open Letter to the New Zealand Government

19th March 2024

**Prime Minister Chris Luxon,
Minister of Immigration Erica Stanford,
Minister of Foreign Affairs Winston Peters,**

We urgently appeal to the New Zealand government to **grant emergency humanitarian visas** to Palestinians in Gaza who have family ties in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Additionally, we implore the government to provide the necessary **diplomatic assistance** for their safe evacuation. Once these families arrive in New Zealand, we ask that robust resettlement assistance is provided for and resourced appropriately.

Approximately **300-400 individuals** in Gaza have existing family connections in New Zealand, making them eligible for a visa similar to the one granted to Ukrainian families in 2022.

Over the past five months, more than **31,000 Palestinians have been killed** and more than **73,000 injured**. With **1.7 million (75%) internally displaced**, the humanitarian crisis is rapidly worsening. Our government must act swiftly to facilitate the evacuation of Palestinians with family members in New Zealand, without unnecessary delays.

New Zealand's humanitarian response to Ukrainian and Afghan families has set a precedent. Making the necessary arrangements to ensure the safety of Palestinian families requires the political willpower to make it happen. Our embassies in the region can be actively engaged to assist with this. The Special Ukraine Visas and Afghan Emergency Resettlement Visas were swiftly implemented within days or months. Now after more than 150 days of conflict, we call for a similar humanitarian pathway to be extended to Palestinians with family members in New Zealand.

Australia and Canada have already established pathways; it is our turn to urgently follow suit.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Foreign Minister Winston Peters and Immigration Minister Erica Stanford, please issue an urgent ministerial directive that establishes an emergency humanitarian visa for Palestinians with family members in New Zealand, and a commitment to bring these families to safety in Aotearoa New Zealand.

**(Statistics from [UN-OCHA](#), as of 15 March 2024)*

Signed by



Palestinian Youth Aotearoa



Justice for Palestine



Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa



World Vision NZ



Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand



TearFund NZ



Save the Children NZ



Greenpeace Aotearoa



Christian World Service



ActionStation



HOST International Aotearoa New Zealand



The Refugee Alliance



ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum



JustCommunity



Asylum Seeker Support Trust



Sakinah Community Trust

Alternative Jewish Voices

שמע קולנו

Sh'ma Koleinu | Alternative Jewish Voices



Aotearoa Christians for Peace in Palestine



Sudanese Society in New Zealand
الجمعية السودانية فى نيوزيلندا

Sudanese Society in New Zealand



UNESCO Chair on Dance and
Social Inclusion, University of
Auckland



Waikato Arab Social Club
نادي واياتو العربي الاجتماعي

Waikato Arab Social Club



NZ Arab Association
ARAB GENEROSITY, KIWI AMBITION, COHESIVE SOCIETY

New Zealand Arab Association



UnionAID

Better Work, Better World

UnionAID



MIGRANT ACTION TRUST
Growing Confident Communities Together

Migrant Action Trust



MAHI MIHINARE
ANGLICAN ACTION

Mahi Mihinare | Anglican Action

ANGLICAN
advocacy

Anglican Advocacy



Common Grace Aotearoa



Caritas
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace & Development

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand



Dayenu: New Zealand Jews
Against Occupation



English Language Partners NZ

Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies, University of Auckland

National Tertiary Network to Support Refugee Background Students

Te Ao o Rongomaraeroa | National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago

Kā Rakahau o Te Ao Tūroa | Centre for Sustainability, University of Otago