

World Day of Prayer for Peace in Sudan

Booklet for
Faith Leaders

11 April 2025





1. Why This Booklet?

As faith leaders, you hold a unique and powerful role in guiding your communities toward compassion, justice, and peace. This booklet is a resource to help you lead your congregations in prayer, reflection, and action for Sudan on 11 April 2025, as part of the Pax Christi International Campaign. On this day, we invite faith communities worldwide to unite in intercession and advocacy for an end to the suffering in Sudan.

May our prayers and actions light the way to peace.

2. What is happening in Sudan?

Sudan is currently facing one of the most severe and under-recognised humanitarian crises in the world. Since April 2023, the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has plunged the country into devastation. This conflict has led to mass displacement, economic collapse, widespread hunger, and the breakdown of healthcare and education systems. The situation has been exacerbated by targeted attacks on civilians, ethnic cleansing in Darfur, and the systematic obstruction of humanitarian aid. International bodies, including the United Nations and the African Union, have labelled Sudan as the worst humanitarian crisis globally.

The scale of human suffering is staggering. A conservative estimate suggests that between an estimated number of 145,000 and 150,000 civilians have been killed (U.S. Congressional Research Service, 2025; The New York Times, 2025; Médecins Sans Frontières, 2024). At least 15 million people have been displaced, and 8.7 million are on the brink of famine. Over 18 million Sudanese face acute food insecurity. The economy has collapsed, millions are unemployed, and access to essential services has nearly vanished. More than 70% of Sudan's healthcare facilities are inoperable, leading to the spread of diseases and a lack of medical care for the injured and sick.

Women and children are disproportionately affected by this crisis. Gender-based violence, including sexual violence as a weapon of war, has been systematically and widely used. Reports document mass rape, forced marriages, and human trafficking as part of the conflict's brutal tactics (Action Against Hunger, 2024).



Sudanese men are also subjected to torture and public humiliation. Meanwhile, children are growing up in a warzone, their drawings shifting from depictions of hope to images of guns and blood (Waging Peace, 2023). Schools remain closed, depriving an entire generation of education and stability, and many children suffer from severe malnutrition and trauma.

The international community has acknowledged the unprecedented scale of Sudan's humanitarian emergency. The United Nations has described it as the biggest humanitarian crisis ever recorded, and the African Union has declared it the worst humanitarian disaster in the world today. Reports detail the systematic destruction of communities, the widespread use of hunger as a weapon of war, and the relentless violence targeting civilians. The displacement crisis continues to grow, with millions seeking refuge in neighbouring countries that are struggling to accommodate the influx of Sudanese refugees.



3. Our Response: A World Day of Prayer for Sudan

On 11 April 2025, Pax Christi International calls on all faith communities to dedicate this day to prayer, reflection, and action for Sudan. Inspired by the legacy of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese woman who overcame enslavement and became a symbol of resilience and faith, we reaffirm our commitment to peace and justice. Inspired both by the legacy of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese woman who overcame enslavement and became a symbol of resilience and faith, and by the suffering, courage, resilience and faith of all women in Sudan today who are supporting their communities and working for peace, we reaffirm our commitment to peace and justice.

3.2 Materials

Symbol of the Campaign: The Candle of Peace

The dove is a universal symbol of peace, hope, and unity, inspiring communities to stand together in solidarity for Sudan. Faith leaders play a vital role in guiding their communities in prayer, reflection, and meaningful action for Sudan. By embracing the dove as a symbol of peace within worship and spiritual practices, congregations can express their solidarity and commitment to a just and peaceful future.

While the dove is a powerful symbol, it is not compulsory: you may choose another symbol that resonates more with your congregation.

You can make sure to include the dove symbol on April 11th in different way. Here below we propose you a few suggestions:

- Incorporating the dove into teachings: Draw on the dove's symbolic significance within your faith tradition, whether in sermons, prayers, reflections, or study sessions. Use it to inspire messages of peace, reconciliation, and solidarity with the people of Sudan.
- Creating a space for reflection and prayer: Set up a dedicated area in places of worship or community spaces featuring the dove, where people can pause, reflect, or leave written messages and prayers for Sudan.
- Strengthening interfaith and community bonds: Collaborate with other faith traditions to hold interfaith vigils, dialogues, or peace gatherings, using the dove as a unifying emblem of shared hope and solidarity.



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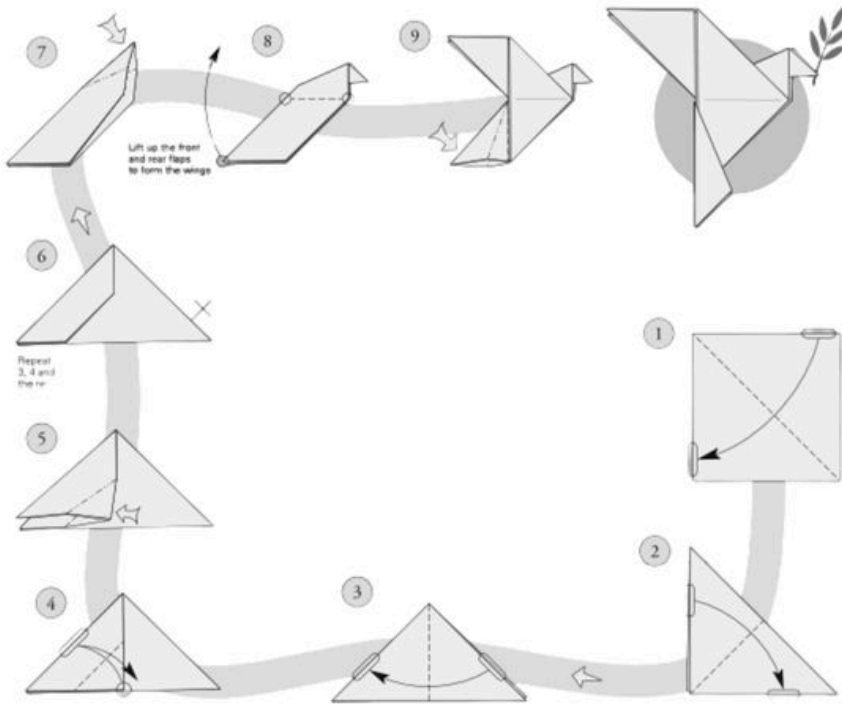
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How to create an origami dove





Prayers for Sudan

Here below a selection of prayers that participants may find useful for individual or group prayer.

- A Prayer by the Imam of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Sudais: "Allah, grant safety to our people in Sudan. Allah, secure and protect Sudan. Allah, shield it from strife. Allah, help it overcome hardships. Allah, keep it away from wars. Allah, we ask You to safeguard it with Your protection. Allah, we ask You to safeguard it with Your protection. Allah, guide those who intend good for Sudan to all that is good, and for those who intend harm, turn their plots against them and bring their schemes to ruin, Lord of the Worlds."
- Allah, be there for our people in Sudan, for they have no one but You.
- Allah, we entrust to You everyone in Sudan—its youth, men, women children, and elders. Protect them with Your ever-watchful care, for You are capable of all things.
- Prayer of St Francis of Assisi
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
O Master, let me not seek as much
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love,
For it is in giving that one receives,
It is in self-forgetting that one finds,
It is in pardoning that one is pardoned,
It is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.



Additional Resources

- [Concern grows over ongoing fighting in Sudan: In his appeals for peace in the Angelus, Pope Francis prayed for countries facing violence, particularly the devastating civil war in Sudan.](#)
- [Darfur Women Action Group](#)
- [Agents of Change: Women's Leadership in Peacebuilding and Social Transformation in Abu-Shouk Camp, by Mawa and Shamsia Ramadhan](#)
- [Sudan: United Nations Denounce Biggest Humanitarian Crisis Ever Recorded](#)
- [Sudan war is world's 'worst humanitarian crisis', African Union says Mohamed Ibn Chambas, chairman of an African Union panel on Sudan, said the war is 'the worst humanitarian crisis in the world'](#)