

Caritas Australia launches urgent pledge as restrictions further threaten aid delivery in Gaza.

Caritas Australia has today launched an urgent public pledge calling on the Australian Government and international community to prevent a possible catastrophic drop in humanitarian aid to Gaza – with levels already life-threatening low.

The pledge acknowledges new restrictive conditions for international NGOs (INGOs) that require them to breach the safety and security of their staff or face deregistration. These conditions are due to come into effect on the 9th of September and will likely hinder critical humanitarian assistance reaching Palestinians.

Caritas has confirmed that its own partners do not stand to be impacted due to their longstanding local presence, with the pledge being launched in simple recognition of the devastating consequences of any action that further reduces aid in Gaza.

As a result of the conflict over 60,000 lives have been lost, including more than 18,000 children, with the entire population of Gaza now in the grip of a starvation crisis. In response, Caritas Australia is urging supporters to sign the pledge and amplify the call for increased aid access and a ceasefire.

“The people of Gaza cannot eat less than they already are,” said Caritas Australia’s CEO Kirsten Sayers. “Every signature helps protect innocent lives and ensure vital aid reaches those who need it most.”

The pledge, which can also be printed with signatory sheets, will be delivered to the Australian Foreign Minister’s office on Monday the 1st of September, calls for:

- Safe, unhindered, and large-scale humanitarian operations
- An immediate and unconditional permanent ceasefire
- Protection of civilians and aid workers
- The release of all Israeli hostages and Palestinians arbitrarily detained by Israel

In addition to signing the pledge, Caritas Australia is offering a range of resources and actions for Catholics and all Australians who wish to stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza. These include:

- Writing to your MP using Caritas Australia’s letter-writing guide to advocate for peace and humanitarian access
- Praying in solidarity, with downloadable prayer resources for parishes, schools, and homes
- Lighting a candle in remembrance or sharing a simple meal as a symbolic act of solidarity
- Donating to provide urgent food, water, shelter, and medical support

Caritas Australia also encourages supporters to read powerful statements from the Churches of Jerusalem and hear directly from partners working on the ground in Gaza.

“This is not just a crisis—it is a test of our shared humanity,” said Kirsten Sayers. “As an agency of the church we are called to amplify the voices of our those in need, and to act with compassion, courage, and hope.”

To sign the pledge and explore all the ways to act, visit: <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/gaza>

ENDS

Media contact: Tara Harvey 0484 002 021 tara.harvey@caritas.org.au or caritasmedia@caritas.org.au