



DARFUR: A Call To Action Lessons from Faith Leaders



Guide for Event Organizers

Organize a one-hour screening event for your congregation. Consider inviting other faith groups to join you and consider incorporating it into regular social justice or religious education activities.

***DISCLAIMER:** The video “Darfur: A Call to Action – Lessons from Faith Leaders” contains graphic content that may not be suitable for all audiences. Please watch the video prior to screening it with larger audiences.

- Before the Screening:**
- Advertise the event using the included bulletin/newsletter/program insert. Ask your faith leader to announce the event during services and include it in congregation publications.
 - Photocopy the sample prayers, discussion guide, action guide and extra postcards if necessary for your event participants.
 - Review the Congregations of Conscience initiative and run it by appropriate congregational leaders.
 - Designate discussion leaders for after the film viewing.
 - Set up two action tables: one for prayer writing and one for postcard signing.

- At the Screening:**
- Distribute the discussion guide, action guide and sample prayers.
 - Show the DVD – 20 minutes.
 - Lead a discussion using the discussion guide – 15 minutes.
 - Direct people to the action tables to write prayers and sign postcards for Darfur – 10 minutes.
 - Bring the group together to determine next steps using the action guide, such as signing up as a Congregation of Conscience and pledging to collect Darfur advocacy postcards – 10 minutes.
 - Lead the group in prayer, either from the included sample prayers or prayers written at the event – 5 minutes.
 - Adjourn.

- After the Screening:**
- Sign your community up as a Congregation of Conscience at www.savedarfur.org/faith.
 - Collect postcards – use Sunday Schools, youth groups, clubs and events at your congregation to gather them.
 - Send in the first 100 postcards for a free “Call to Your Conscience” banner to hang at your place of worship.
 - Use your group’s discussion and the action guide included in this packet to pick next steps.



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Action Guide

You've heard the call to action from our religious leaders, and you've discussed our shared responsibility to respond. Now you can take action to help the people of Darfur.

Right Now: Visit the two Darfur action tables after viewing the film. Sign postcards to the U.S. President and U.N. Secretary-General, and write prayers that your congregation can use.

This Week:

- Become a part of the Save Darfur community. Sign yourself up on the Save Darfur Coalition's e-mail list at www.savedarfur.org/faith for regular updates and opportunities to take action.
- Pass "Darfur: A Call to Action – Lessons from Faith Leaders" on to another place of worship.

This Month: *Become a Congregation of Conscience*

Designate someone to sign up your faith group as a Congregation of Conscience, and advocate for Darfur as a community of faith. Pledge to collect more postcards that press world leaders to work for peace and protection in Darfur. Here's how:

- Visit www.savedarfur.org/faith to sign up as a Congregation of Conscience.
- On the signup form, pledge the number of postcards you expect your congregation to collect. Your goal can be based on your congregation size, such as 20 percent of membership, a round number like 100, or another number that makes sense for your community.

FREE BANNER: *Send your first 100 postcards to us, and we'll mail you a free "Call to Your Conscience" Save Darfur Coalition banner to hang at your congregation.*

Down the Road:

- **Advocacy:** Meet with your member of Congress, and ask them to advocate for peace and protection in Darfur. Visit www.savedarfur.org/lobby for legislative updates.
- **Fundraising:** Raise money for relief programs or Save Darfur Coalition advocacy efforts by placing a fundraising jar at your house of worship, designating a day at Sunday School for Darfur donations or organizing a fundraising auction, concert or dinner. Direct people to donate online at www.savedarfur.org.



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Sample Prayers

Dear God,
In the matter of Darfur, help me to
be concerned without cynicism
involved without fear
speak without rancor
pray without ceasing
live without complicity
so that with my brothers and sisters in Darfur we may
live with hope
act with confidence
speak truth with strength
and become your loving presence on this earth. Amen.

—*From the Covenant Community Church in Raleigh, N.C.*

O God of peace, who commands us to seek peace, send peace to the people of Darfur.
O God of compassion, who hears the cry of the afflicted, hear the cry of the victims, the bereaved, the injured, and all those who live their days in fear.
Rouse the hearts of the leaders of the world to put an end to the bloodshed, the violence, the rape, the starvation, and the terror that has ravaged and endangered an entire population.
Be with those who are working for peace, or tending the sick, or bringing food to the hungry, or shelter to the homeless, or hope to those who are close to despair.
O God of justice and love, let us not be indifferent to the cry of the persecuted and the ears of those who have seen their homes, their families, and their communities destroyed.
And may their plea and their plight reach the ears and hearts of those who have it in their power to bring peace to a troubled region and aid to a devastated people.
Oseh shalom bimromav—may You who makes peace in Your high places help us make peace down here on earth.
—*A Prayer for the People of Darfur by Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks*

O Allah, thou art Peace and Peace emanates from thee. Allow us to live and to subsist in Peace. O Most Merciful of those who show Mercy.
O Compassionate One, O Companion to every lonesome one, we implore you to comfort the hearts of the people of Darfur with your magnificence.
Lord of all Humankind, from what we have witnessed, grant us the grace to have a greater understanding and empathy for the suffering of innocent victims of the war in the Sudan, no matter their, ethnicity, color or religion. All-wise and All-mighty God, Grant the leaders of the Sudan wisdom and guide them to use their power to serve the good of all and to fashion a more just and caring world.
Amin.
—*Dua/Prayer for the People of Darfur, Sudan by Imam A. Rasheid Omar*



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Bulletin/Newsletter/Program Insert

Use all or parts of the text below to promote your screening of “Darfur: A Call to Action - Lessons from Faith Leaders”

For the Darfur Event:

Join us for a special one-hour event about the faith-based responses to the conflict in Darfur. We will screen a 20-minute documentary called “Darfur: A Call to Action – Lessons from Faith Leaders,” followed by a discussion and action tables. Come learn about Darfur and the hope-filled, faith-powered anti-genocide movement in the U.S.

DATE:

TIME:

LOCATION:

CONTACT:

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Darfur’s Genocide

Responding to a rebellion in 2003, the regime of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and its allied militia, known as the Janjaweed, launched a campaign of destruction against the civilian population of ethnic groups identified with the rebels. They wiped out entire villages, destroyed food and water supplies, stole livestock and systematically murdered, tortured and raped civilians. The Sudanese government’s genocidal, scorched earth campaign has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives through direct violence, disease and starvation, and continues to destabilize the region. Millions of people have fled their homes and live in dangerous camps in Darfur, and hundreds of thousands are refugees in neighboring Chad. Violence continues today. Ultimately, the fate of the Darfuri people depends on establishing a lasting and just peace in all of Sudan and in the region.

Congregations of Conscience

The persistence and determination of moral people to stop past genocides never matched the persistence and determination of perpetrators to enact them. But, today, people from all over the world are joining together to demand an end to genocide in Darfur. We have an opportunity to become part of an unprecedented, international constituency of conscience with the power to stop genocide while it is still in progress rather than mourn it when it is complete.

The Save Darfur Coalition is signing up “Congregations of Conscience” – communities of faith that can take action and add to the growing movement to end genocide. If we gather 100 postcards that press world leaders to work for peace and protection in Darfur, we will get a free “Call to Your Conscience” banner and take a first step to inspire our community to help change the world’s response to genocide. To collect and sign postcards, CONTACT:



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Discussion Guide for Interfaith Groups

After the film, use the texts and questions below with the entire audience, or break into small groups first and then return to the larger group to share ideas. You may distribute this sheet before the film to acquaint the audience with these texts, or wait until after the viewing. We hope this discussion will lead your group to think about ways you can help solve the crisis in Darfur.

- Text:** In the film, Bishop Ricard says: “One of the first questions in the Hebrew Bible was ‘Where is your brother?’ when God asked Cain where his brother Abel was. And he says, ‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’ And throughout the remainder of the scripture is an answer to that question – yes you are!”

Questions: Who are your “brothers and sisters?” What responsibilities do we have to those beyond our “families?” How might you partner with people of other faiths, of other “families,” to help alleviate the pain and suffering in Darfur?
- Text:** In the film, Moheamed Dafalla Ishag talks about his brother, who was like a father to him, and was shot five times in the back by the Janjaweed militia. He says, “If I have a chance to say something for my brother, I’m praying all days for you.”

Questions: What role does prayer play in healing the wounds in Darfur? What role does it play in sustaining you in this work?
- Text:** In the film, Dr. Mattson says: “There is a rule in Islamic law that if you keep silent, you are consenting to an action.”

Questions: Do you feel you are speaking loudly enough for Darfur? If not, what is stifling your voice? How can the people in this group help you?
- Text:** “We change the world one life at a time, one day at a time, one act at a time. There really is no other way,” Rabbi Sacks says in the film.

Questions: Please share one relationship or interaction from your past where this concept applies, whether you were helping someone or they were helping you. How might this experience apply to your work for Darfur?