

*Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect
the dignity of every human being?*



PIN Bulletin for Local Organizers

Welcome to EPF-PIN's new monthly *Bulletin!*

The Bulletin is dedicated to building a network of local organizers in the Episcopal Church whose mission is to educate and advocate on behalf of Palestinian human rights in our parishes and dioceses, to prepare us for successful advocacy at General Convention.

The ***Bulletin*** will share stories and strategies from organizers working on diocesan and/or parish educational projects. As dioceses pass Pal/Is resolutions at conventions, we will share them. PIN resources will be featured regularly: do you know about PIN's Toolkit? Or our Bookmarks presenting the 6 PIN-sponsored Pal/Is Resolutions at General Convention 2018? Would you like a PIN 'swag bag' to present to your Bishop when you visit on behalf of Palestinian rights? Want to hear about PIN activists collaborating locally with allies, like the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights or Jewish Voice for Peace?

We want to hear from you about local organizing in your parishes and dioceses. What's happening? What works? Send us your stories and "how to" info, along with questions or requests for materials. Are you ready for it? Let's built a network.

Please note the 'safeunsubscribe' option at the end of this email. Also, encourage your fellow Episcopal activists to join this listserve!

HERE IS AN OFFERING FROM THE DIOCESE OF VERMONT:

**A Step-by-Step 'HOW TO' from PIN
activists in the Diocese of Vermont :
Shepherding Diocesan Resolutions**



Three Resolutions focused on Palestine/Israel were passed at the Episcopal Diocesan Convention in Vermont, 2018, including a resolution on free speech in the context of BDS. The process successfully overcame a lack of basic information of 'facts on the ground' in Palestine/ Israel. John Heermans, who serves on the PIN Local Organizing Work Group, shares a step-by-step account of the organizing process which was carried out in phases.

Local organizing began with a letter to all the clergy in the Vermont diocese in April, 2018, inviting parishes to engage in an educational series using the DVD from *Steadfast Hope*. The snail mail letter was accompanied by educational materials on the history of Zionism and the illegal occupation, including maps and pamphlets, available at IFAMERICANSKNEW.ORG. More than forty packets were mailed by John, but he did not receive a single reply or even an acknowledgement of the mailing.

Undaunted, John's next step was to find experienced allies to sponsor resolutions at the fall 2018 Diocesan Convention: "Following the mailing of the letter, I met regularly with Reverend Craig Smith who was experienced in the convention process (I had never attended an entire convention before 2018). Reverend Smith was also a co-sponsor of the resolutions and we met several times with Neil Richardson, a fellow Episcopalian, who had unsuccessfully attempted to pass a resolution on the same issue during a previous convention. I was also advised and supported by the dedicated people at *Vermonters for Justice in Palestine (VTJP)*, a Vermont-based group of people who have been working for justice in Palestine for many years. With one of the Palestinian members of *VTJP*, I met with Bishop Tom Ely who is very familiar with the conflict but also realistic in terms of how far he could go without attracting a negative reaction from synagogues and other Jewish Zionist individuals and groups."

Follow this [link](#) to John's step-by-step account of successful organizing.

[Note: the topics and wording of the Vermont Resolutions will be shared in the August Edition of the Bulletin. The theme will be "How to Organize on behalf of Palestinian Human Rights at your Diocesan Convention."]

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What IS the Episcopal Church's Policy on Palestine/Israel?



The General Convention of The Episcopal Church, meeting every three years, is the authoritative body responsible for setting the policies in our church. Structured as a bicameral legislature, the House of Deputies and House of Bishops debate and adopt resolutions that form the basis for specific policy positions and actions.

Resolutions relating to Palestine and Israel have shaped our church's policy since 1979, beginning with this statement: *Convention affirms the right of Israel to exist as a free State within secure borders, expresses support for the opportunity to establish a free and independent Palestinian state which recognizes the State of Israel, recognizes the uniqueness of the city of Jerusalem and urges a solution which would guarantee free and secure access to the Holy City by people of all faiths.*

You can read the Palestine/Israel resolutions on the PIN website [HERE](#).

At the 79th General Convention in 2018, six Resolutions supported by PIN were adopted. The full text is available [HERE](#).

Resolution B016: adopting the Evangelical Lutheran Church's actions, directs TEC's Committee on corporate Social Responsibility to develop an investment screen for Israel and Palestine based on human rights and past actions of the General Convention and Exec. Council of the church.

Resolution B003: affirms Jerusalem as the shared capital of Israel and a future Palestinian State; supporting respect for civil rights & religious interests of Christians, Muslims and Jews, with free access to holy sites.

Resolution B021: Supporting aid to Palestinian refugees: calling for reinstatement of U.S. funding to UNRWA; urge Administration to reverse its funding freeze on USAid projects for Palestinians.

Resolution C038: Safeguard the Rights of Palestinian Children: Convention seeks assurances from Israel & Pal. Authority that existing policies all rights and protections for children under 18, adhering to Art. 37 of U.N. Convention on Rights of the Child. Israel must stop night arrests, blindfolds & hoods, separation from parents, physical & psychological violence, isolation, coerced confessions and unlawful transfers.

Resolution D027: Pursuing Justice in Gaza: urges the U.S. to support the U.N. in investigating Israeli & Palestinian use of lethal force against civilians, noting that the Leahy Amendment prohibits U.S. from providing arms to foreign military

forces who violate human rights.

Resolution D018: On Negotiating the Israel/Palestine conflict: recognizes the rights of Israelis and Palestinians to self-determination and to live as sovereign peoples in their homeland, with full civil and human rights and democratic one-person, one-vote rule.

PIN mailed a set of six Bookmarks, detailing each Resolution, with a cover letter to all the active bishops in our church. The Bookmarks are an educational tool: use them in your parish, at your diocesan convention, or in a visit to your bishop on behalf of Palestinian human rights. Contact our office to order a set today: shannon@epfnational.org

THE NAKBA

BY THE NUMBERS

750,000+

DISPOSSESSED

400+

VILLAGES DESTROYED

2 DOZEN+

MASSACRES

4.2 MILLION+

ACRES OF LAND CONFISCATED

7 MILLION+
PALESTINIAN REFUGEES TODAY

PHOTO: UNRWA

IMEU Institute for
Middle East
Understanding

STAY CONNECTED:

