

PIN Bulletin For Local Organizers

Volume 12, June 2020

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



WORKING WITH OUR EPF PIN ALLIES

US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Friends of Sabeel North America Jewish Voice for Peace Code Pink American Friends Service Committee Adalah Legal Center Eyewitness Palestine

Collaboration with allies, some of whom are named above, is an important aspect of PIN's work for Palestinian human rights. Local PIN activists amplify the impact of our message by working together with allies. PIN's Steering Committee includes a Work Group, Communications with Allies and Friends (CAF), whose focus includes both communication strategies as well as endorsements of allied action initiatives. PIN's primary mission is to nurture a more robust support for Palestinian human rights in the Episcopal Church. Two Work Groups, Education and Local Organizing, focus strategically on that mission. The work of CAF is also integral, building up relationships with supportive allies for witness at General Convention and to our culture at large.

Randy Heyn-Lamb, the convener of CAF, shares his view of some of the Work Group's challenges:

"It's not very glamorous, this Palestine Israel justice work. We compete against the state of Israel, which has a special branch dedicated to "hasbara" (literally, "explanation" or "propaganda"), with access to millions of Israeli tax shekels and a stable of well placed apologists with access to print and digital media shouting out their message. And Zion's supporters, many of them Christian and others not, are further underwriting these efforts with millions more

in US tax deductible contributions.

Facing that juggernaut is a ragtag group of mostly volunteers, together with a few underpaid professionals in faith based and humanitarian nonprofit organizations who feel called to stand with and speak for the oppressed. What we do is done on a shoestring. How we do it is by working together to amplify media sources and each other's voices.

Let me use EPF PIN as an example. I believe that, for a coterie of volunteers, with a minuscule working budget, we do a good job keeping our followers informed. There is the regular "PIN on the GO," featuring "Third Thursday" & "Voices for Justice." And while our website is a more static communications tool, our Facebook page is updated on a daily (or even more frequent) basis. Because Episcopalians are still trying to find our voice on Israel and Palestine, what is posted frequently comes from independent news sources and nonprofits who are uniquely positioned to report news or give a perspective which would not otherwise be apparent. By re-posting, we amplify their voices.

*CAF receives requests each month from partnering organizations to publicly promote a program they are offering or to endorse a position statement. That is what happened last week. We received in inquiry from leaders at **CODEPINK**, asking PIN to consider adding our organizational name to an open **letter addressed to the presumptive presidential candidates calling for change in US policy toward Israel and Palestine.***

Because the request was time sensitive, I reviewed the letter and immediately reached out to the other members of our workgroup. Despite the the late sending hour, almost all of the workgroup responded by morning and I forwarded their enthusiastic support to our Steering Committee, recommending that we add EPF PIN to the growing list of signers. In similarly rapid fashion, the Committee members approved our recommendation and we informed our allies at CODEPINK.

What is the ultimate value of this action? Will the letter make a difference in US policies? Will the lives of Palestinians and Israelis be improved by our name being present? It is, perhaps, impossible to say and hard to measure. We know that in the long term, the slow drip of water can carve and break the rock. In the short term I was encouraged to keep struggling by being asked to add our name to the letter, and I think CODEPINK was pleased to have us sign. What will it do in the hearts of those who read the letter and see our name attached? I don't know. Will you carry the message further? If recent events on our streets tell us anything, they say that it only takes a spark. You just have to be ready, and you have to show up."

READ CODE PINK's LETTER to the Presidential Candidates with list of signatories [HERE](#) The opportunity to sign as an individual is still open.

PIN ENDORSES:

Divest from Violence: Invest in Justice for All

Sign [**HERE**](#)

This past weekend, CAF Work Group received a request for PIN endorsement of this initiative sponsored by the U.S. Campaign, Adalah, FOSNA, Eyewitness Palestine and others.

The initiative supports three requests:

- Defund police departments across the U.S. > transfer funds from bloated police budgets to address other urgent needs
- Divest from militarism, starting with ending \$3.8 billion in military funding to Israel every year.
- Invest in community-led safety initiatives and community needs that create safety such as housing, healthcare, and education instead.

It's time to say "no" to paramilitary policing and the training of U.S. police forces in Israel. Deconstruct and Reconstruct. And pass laws to get the guns off our streets. The time is NOW!



COUNTER CUFI
INVEST IN JUSTICE BY LE
FOSNA.ORG/COUNTERCUFI

FOSNA
FOR ORIENTAL STUDIES
A Christian Voice for Palestine

WORSHIP 12 PT • 3 ET
ACTION 4 PT • 7 ET
JUNE 28 • 2020

Finally, PIN is an endorser of this FOSNA event on June 28:

Christian Zionist Lobbies like Christians United For Israel (CUFI) leverage their political power to ensure the US gives moral and political cover to Israeli **colonization, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing.**

This Sunday, June 28th, we are launching a nationwide effort to counter this deadly lobby and challenge their undue influence on American politics. Join us for a powerful day of action as we raise our voices in opposition to CUFI's annual summit!

12 pm PT | 3pm ET Worship Service

Enough! God Demands Justice and Righteousness

Ezekiel 45:9; Matthew 23:23

All over the world, God's people are crying out for liberation and rising up for justice. We join our voices in the prophetic tradition of decrying false prophets who have co-opted religion in the name of power, greed, and exclusion. God demands justice and righteousness and together we say "Enough" to white supremacy, apartheid, and by Countering CUFI.

The service will be lead by Rev. Graylan Hagler, Naim Ateek, and others.

4 pm PT | 7pm ET Digital Action

Join with hundreds of people of conscience and people of faith as we rise up against the racist ideology of CUFI. Take part in creative digital direct action that Counters CUFI's hate with a message of justice for all.

Nyle Fort will MC the event, and we will hear from inspiring activists including:

- **Sandra Tamari of** Adalah Justice Project
- **Erica Williams of the** Poor People's Campaign
- **Taher Herzallah of** American Muslims for Palestine
- **Allison Tanner of FOSNA's** Clergy and Seminary Action Council
- **Professor** Anne Joh
- **And poet,** Azmera Hammouri-Davis.

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