

# ***PIN Bulletin For Local Organizers***

## ***Volume 13, July 2020***

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



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## **ARE YOU READY TO SUBMIT PIN RESOLUTIONS TO YOUR 2020 DIOCESAN CONVENTION?**

**As August approaches and summer days fly by, the various deadlines set by dioceses for submitting resolutions draw closer. In several dioceses, the deadlines have passed!**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO FINALIZE DRAFTS AND CHECK LOCAL PROCEDURES. PIN IS READY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE. HERE IS A COMPENDIUM OF INFO & TIPS TO HELP THE PROCESS.**

**#1 : What is the goal/purpose of your diocesan resolution?**

**The first goal is raising consciousness and commitment to the Palestinian human rights struggle in your diocese. Whether your resolution is approved or not, the conversation at your convention is a valuable first step toward future success.**

**The ultimate goal is to join with other dioceses and with PIN in the submission of resolutions to General Convention (G.C.) on chosen topics, representing many voices in our church. Here is a link to the official document, [Resolution Writing Guidelines](#)**

**In the document's opening section, we learn that diocesan resolutions submitted to G.C. are "C" resolutions. Note that resolutions sponsored by deputies, the submission route for PIN resolutions, are labeled "D," with different requirements for submission.**

All "C" resolutions MUST include an opening Resolve in the following format to be forwarded from your diocese to G.C.:

*Resolved, That, in light of [state the rationale based on the content of the resolution], the xxxth Convention of the Diocese of X submits the following resolution to the xxth General Convention of The Episcopal Church; and ...*

**#2 : Tips for a successful vote on your resolution:Do the work necessary for success prior to Convention!**

**The 2018 Convention of the Diocese of Rochester voted YES in 2018 on *The Right to Boycott on Behalf of Palestinian Human Rights*. Here are some factors that contributed to success, according to co-sponsor, Tom Foster:**

**(1) We had a strong group of co-sponsors, 3 or whom were priests; (2) we were fortunate to have an attentive chair of the Diocesan resolutions committee, who scrutinized the wording and offered helpful revisions; (3) it was subsequently reviewed by the Chancellor of the Diocese, who made further helpful suggestions about wording; (4) it was presented eloquently by a diocesan leader with a long history of advocacy, who had led delegations to Palestine many times, and (5) MOST importantly, we had invited with the Bishop's enthusiastic approval a member of Rochester's Jewish Voice for Peace who spoke forcefully and from direct personal experience about real anti-Semitism and the false accusations that criticism of Zionism is equivalent to anti-Semitism.**

**If possible, invite Palestinian voices to speak on behalf of your resolution. That is the most powerful witness.**

**#3 : EPF PIN has crafted three draft resolutions to submit to the next G.C. as "D" resolutions. PIN invites diocesan advocates to prepare "C" resolutions on these three topics. We hope our drafts, still in process, can serve as models for successful resolutions at the diocesan level. (Remember to add that first Resolve mentioned above to a "C" version.) Here is the current draft wording:**

***On the Theological and Political Positions of Christian Zionism***

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church reject the nationalistic theology of Christian Zionism, which provides the ideological basis for Christian Zionist leaders and politicians seeking to influence United States policy in Palestine-Israel. Christian Zionism is the belief, shared principally among evangelicals, that the establishment of the Israeli state and the "return" of Jews to the Holy Land are biblically mandated steps necessary before the Second Coming of Christ can occur. Christian Zionism's teachings arise from a literalist interpretation of Scripture that corrupts both God's promises in the Hebrew texts and the Gospel message of justice and love at the heart of our Baptismal Covenant; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention not only reject the theology of Christian Zionism but also, critically, condemn the political policy positions that it sponsors and financially supports, which include Israel's expansion across the entire land of Palestine-Israel and the displacement of the Palestinian people, including our indigenous Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters.*

### **The Right to Boycott on Behalf of Palestinian Human Rights**

*Resolved, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, that the 80th General Convention oppose legislation that penalizes companies, organizations, and individuals for their participation in and advocacy of nonviolent boycotts on behalf of Palestinian human rights. The Convention considers such legislation, at both federal and state levels, to be inconsistent with the teachings of the Church and an infringement on First Amendment rights, based on the Supreme Court's consistent definition of boycotts as protected speech; and be it further*

*Resolved, that the General Convention confirm that criticism of Israeli government policy is not anti-Semitic; and be it further*

*Resolved, the Convention is directed to distribute this resolution to the President of the United States, the House of Representatives and the US Senate, and to the Governors and legislators of states where anti-boycott measures have been enacted, and to prepare letters in support of possible future court challenges to existing measures.*

### **On Apartheid**

*Resolved, that the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church view with alarm recent events that deny the legal rights of Palestinian people in the Holy Land, specifically Israel's 2018 Nation State Law that grants the right to self-determination only to the Jewish people; and be it further*

*Resolved, that such events create **[a condition similar to that in apartheid South Africa OR an apartheid-like condition]** that is abhorrent to our Gospel values and our Baptismal Covenant to "strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being"; and be it further*

*Resolved, that the people of The Episcopal Church, as individuals and congregations, urge their members of Congress to withhold funding to Israel that supports Israeli apartheid, is used to restrict Palestinian rights, or violates international law; and be it further*

*Resolved, that the 80th General Convention urge Episcopal pilgrims and visitors to Israel and Palestine to bear witness to injustice and observe frankly and without prejudice whether the policies of the Israeli government toward Palestinians contribute to a state of militarization and apartheid, and whether such conditions are consistent with our Baptismal Covenant; and be it further*

*Resolved, that we here in this country, acknowledging that we also*

*continue to struggle for racial equality, extend the hand of love and encouragement to Palestinians in the Holy Land, especially our fellow Christians, and to all the people of good will in the region.*

**#4: What is the rationale that shaped these drafts? Or, in other words, where are the Explanations?!**

**PIN leadership would like to hear from you personally and share the Explanation attached to each of these drafts. Your "C" resolutions on any of these three topics can help PIN's own drafting process as we all move toward the next G.C.**

**Please get in touch with us!**

**Linda Gaither (lgaither@sonofyork.com)**

**Harry Gunkel (harry.gunkel@gmail.com)**

**Let's create some powerful resolutions together in PIN!**

**A MESSAGE FROM CAF :** Communications with Friends & Allies

The opportunity for group endorsements of actions or justice initiatives multiply in times of stress and rapid social change. CAF invites EPF PIN members who feel PIN should consider endorsing an action or initiative to send the request and information to Randy Heyn-Lamb, convener of the CAF work group. The work group will consider and then make a recommendation to the EPF PIN steering committee. This will help regularize the process for everyone. Contact Randy at (rheynlamb@gmail.com).

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## **INVITATION FROM JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE BOSTON**

**Register today for this 4-part webinar:  
"A Palestinian Perspective on Annexation"**

**This informative webinar will take place over the course of four Sunday mornings throughout July and August. We are happy to partner with the Palestine Community of Boston to have Lubnah Shomali, the executive director of BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, with us to discuss the impending annexation of Palestine. Lubnah is a Palestinian-American activist based in Bethlehem with much to share. Below are descriptions of each session. You must pre-register at:**

**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScon-PpeE1oY8qHCuXAcK6tR\\_wIb9HeG8cqRP\\_27tOWjSuuSA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR0QFTP4AVw2ssVhPzjqN79Zt9mq8encZrQugmBtEk\\_uuWjL-zk997Y1FUIY](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScon-PpeE1oY8qHCuXAcK6tR_wIb9HeG8cqRP_27tOWjSuuSA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR0QFTP4AVw2ssVhPzjqN79Zt9mq8encZrQugmBtEk_uuWjL-zk997Y1FUIY)**

**DATES AND TIME FOR EACH SESSION:**

**July 26th, August 2nd, 9th, and 16th, each at 10:00 AM Eastern.**

**This time was chosen because of the time difference between Palestine and Boston, to accommodate Lubnah's schedule. We will record the series so that those on Pacific time are able to view the webinar later.**

**Session #1 will focus on Israeli annexation of the West Bank more broadly. It will explore the histories and realities of annexation as well as delve into the issue through a legal lens.**

**Session #2 will focus on Trump's foreign policy in regard to Israel, namely the supposed "Deal of the Century" and his policy's consequences for Palestinian refugees' rights and realities.**

**Session #3 will focus specifically on three key ideas: Segregation, Fragmentation and Isolation. It will explore how Israel has entrenched its Apartheid regime over the Palestinian people throughout decades of duplicitous policies and actions.**

**Session #4 will address the developments in and the escalation of conditional funding for Palestinian NGOs – particularly the new conditions applied by the European Union.**

**We hope that this series will be enlightening and will give you the knowledge to discuss this issue with your family and others. We hope it will inspire you to learn more and to take action in standing in solidarity with Palestinians.**

[Visit our website](#)

