

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



PIN Bulletin for Local Organizers

Volume 4, October 2019

A Key PIN LOCAL ORGANIZING task:

Educating & Advocating for TEC Policy on Palestine/Israel

This week, years of education and advocacy by PIN activists have born fruit as our church's Executive Council voted to implement General Convention 2018 Resolution B016. The vote puts in place a Global Human Rights Investment Screen, with specific criteria for the Israel Palestine Conflict. The adoption of the screen creates a Human Rights No-Buy List for our church, to be administered by the Council's Committee for Corporate Social Responsibility. A second resolution puts three corporations, Motorola, Caterpillar and the Israel Discount Bank on that No Buy List, with a mandate to sell church holdings in those corporations without delay. [Here](#) is the PIN Steering Committee's Statement on this historic vote.

The implementation of B016 is an inspiring example of PIN's mission at work: to move our church forward in its faithful response to the Palestinian cry for justice and human rights, as we strive to promote justice and peace among all people. Putting flesh on the bones of policy resolutions through implementation is a Spirit-inspired cumulative endeavor that often stretches over many decades.

The policies of The Episcopal Church [TEC] on the Palestine/Israel conflict are expressed in Resolutions accumulating over 40 years. These resolutions were passed in both the House of Deputies and House of Bishops assembled in General Conventions. *As Local Organizers for PIN, one of our main tasks is to educate & advocate for this cumulative policy in our dioceses and parishes.*

The September *PIN Bulletin* shared a [link](#) to this poster for educational displays:

40 Years of Episcopal Church Policy on Israel-Palestine

***OUR CHURCH STANDS PRAYERFULLY AGAINST
Israel's Occupation of Palestinian territory
Israeli segregated West Bank Settlements
Israel's Demolition of Palestinian homes***

**The Israeli "Security Wall"
Israel's Blockade of Gaza
Israel's Detention and coercion of Palestinian children
Israel's use of U.S aid to oppress Palestinians**

**OUR CHURCH STANDS PRAYERFULLY FOR
Sharing Jerusalem equally
Palestinians' Right of Return
Funding UN and US Aid to Palestinians
Cutting Church Investment in Companies Profiting from Occupation**
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An EPF-PIN Fact Sheet [HERE](#) offers more background information on resolutions with dates. Studying and sharing this information with our constituency is a basic PIN goal. The poster and fact sheet can be displayed/distributed at your diocesan convention, in information packets for clergy and bishops, or at information sharing during coffee hour, etc. "This is Episcopal Church policy" can be an effective conversation starter in study groups of all kinds. Also, [HERE](#) is a useful narrative version: TEC Policy on Palestine & PIN's Mission.

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**Digging Deeper: Educating and Advocating for another
2018 General Convention Resolution B021
"Supporting Aid to Palestinian Refugees"**



Shatila Refugee Camp, Beirut

Understanding church policy and educating ourselves is a first step in effective activism. B021, a PIN sponsored resolution, was passed at General Convention 2018. It calls on Congress and the Administration to reinstate U.S. funding for UNRWA (U.N. Relief Works Agency) and lift the funding freeze on USAID projects for Palestinians.



UNRWA is the principal provider of food, health and education assistance to Palestinian refugees. The Agency was founded in 1948 to serve refugee camps for Palestinians who had fled or were forced to flee persecution by Zionist militias or Israel's military during the establishment of Israel. Today, UNRWA provides assistance and protection for over 5.5 million stateless refugees in camps located in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, the West Bank including East Jerusalem and Gaza. UNRWA is funded voluntarily by U.N. member states, with the U.S. traditionally the largest donor.

In 2018 the U.S. ended its average \$300 - \$400 million in annual aid, leading

to severe cutbacks in services and local staffing. Later, the U.S. announced further cuts of \$200 million in USAID assistance to the Palestinian Authority and slashed \$25 million earmarked for six East Jerusalem hospitals. Visit the UNRWA [website](#) to learn more.



U.S. funded UNRWA educational materials: a partnership for peace.

For a glimpse of daily life in two West Bank camps, Aida and Balata, [view](#) this Youtube edition of the *Empire Files* from 10-6-16. Abby Martin tours Aida and Balata where Palestinians live packed together, under forceful military surveillance by Israeli forces, after being ethnically cleansed from their villages just miles away.

HOW ARE TEC RESOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED SO AS TO IMPACT U.S. PUBLIC POLICY? WHERE DOES THE RUBBER MEET THE ROAD?

One way this happens is through our church's *Office of Government Relations*. Located in Washington, the *OGR* staff translates TEC policy for Episcopal legislators, relaying the content of relevant Resolutions to inform conscientious voting on bills in Congress. *OGR* also issues [Action Alerts](#) to Episcopalians on topics relating to church policy and to request calls or letters to Representatives and Senators. B021 is the basis for a recent Action Alert on *Aid to Palestinians*.

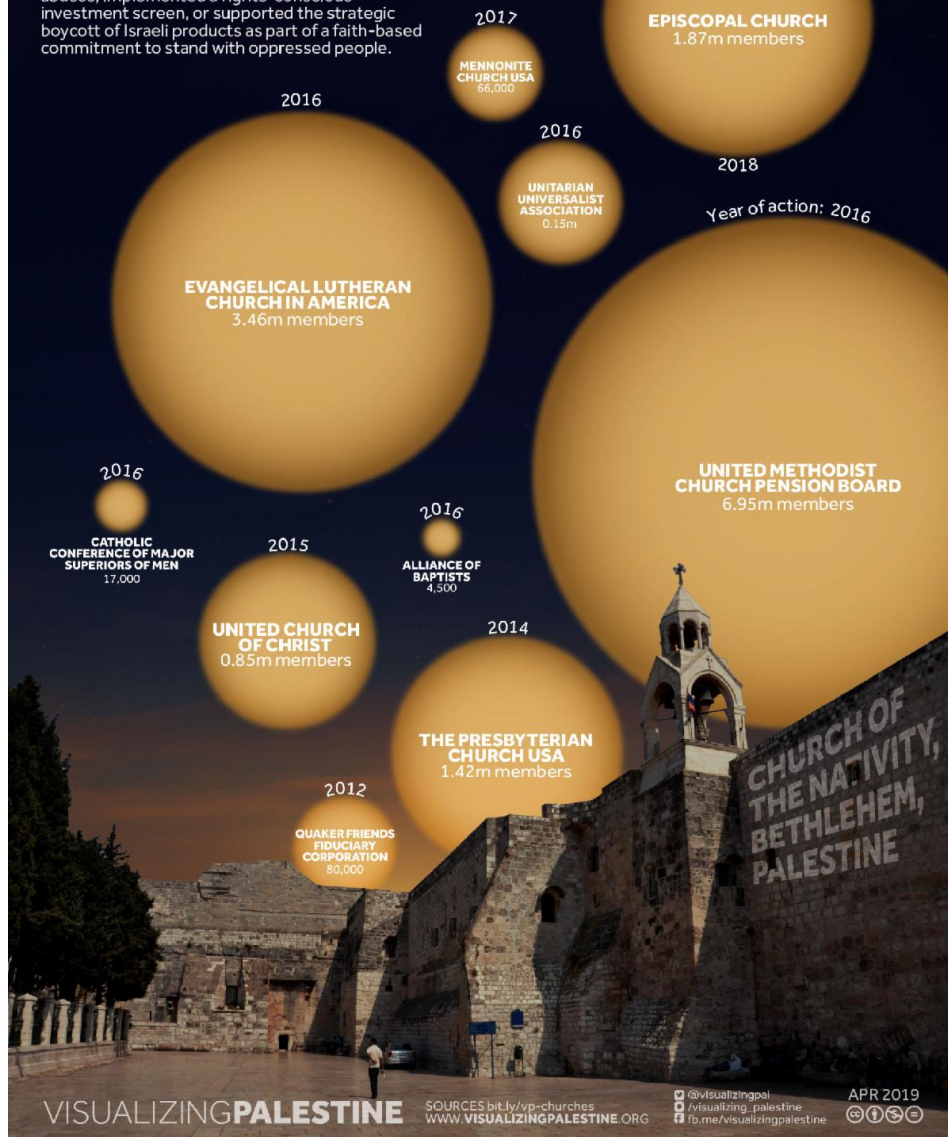
The second way that Resolutions affect public policy is through local activism -- that includes us, EPF/PIN! Social justice advocates in our church work to educate and advocate for implementation of TEC policies in many areas: gun violence, the death penalty, criminal justice reform, human/civil rights for LGBTQ sisters and brothers, anti-racism ... including, of course, human rights, including the Right of Return, for Palestinians.

A third way is through socially responsible investing by our church's money managers, guided by principles expressed in TEC's Global Human Rights Investment Screen and the No Buy List.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

BOYCOTT AND DIVESTMENT ACTIONS BY AMERICAN CHURCHES

14.87 million Americans are a member of a church or denominational group that has divested from companies that profit off of Israel's human rights abuses, implemented a rights-conscious investment screen, or supported the strategic boycott of Israeli products as part of a faith-based commitment to stand with oppressed people.



WHY IS THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THIS GRAPHIC?

At the Episcopal Church's General Convention 2018, Resolution B016 became official church policy. This week the church's Executive Council voted to implement B016 by establishing an investment screen with human rights criteria for Israel/Palestine. The investment screen will be applied during a process of corporate engagement, working with shareholding groups to encourage corporate social responsibility. When corporations refuse to change, their stock will be placed on a No Buy List and shares held by TEC will be sold. This concept extends the work of the church's Committee for Corporate Social Responsibility which has been active in corporate engagement for many decades. In taking action, Executive Council discriminated its Global Human Rights Investment Screen and No-Buy List from the International Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement, which is not formally supported by TEC policy at the present time.

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