

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



PIN Bulletin for Local Organizers

Volume 5, November 2019

PIN'S PALESTINE ISRAEL TOOL KIT



It's User-Friendly and Ready to Go!

This "tool kit" is designed to help users learn more for themselves and offers resources to prepare for discussions with others, such as clergy, friends, or colleagues. There is an overwhelming amount of information

available about Palestine and Israel and it may be tempting to give up before beginning, so PIN's Education Work Group tried to make the information more manageable and accessible by limiting it to a few essentials. The resources are offered in various formats and organized to be versatile and adaptable to each user's needs. Take a look:

<https://epfnational.org/pin/palestine-israel-tool-kit/>

You'll notice that the resources are grouped into four sections, according to the level of interest, understanding, and previous involvement in the subject:

The Basics. These resources provide basic background information and facts emphasizing the Palestinian perspective.

Going Deeper. These resources build on basic knowledge, to

expand understanding and explore lesser known but important phenomena, such as Christian Zionism.

Why It's Important. These resources are for someone who has studied the situation but has not yet been moved to action or involvement. You will be encouraged to visit Palestine and to find the connections between Palestine/Israel and justice movements at home, for example, Black Lives Matter.

Time To Take Action. These are action-oriented items to encourage the user to "step out" and become more vocal in church and community.

In every section, items in **bold** can be viewed and downloaded from the links provided.

The PIN *Bulletin* will feature items from the Palestine Israel Tool Kit in future editions. Please put this marvelous resource to good use.

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Our readers have been requesting links to the documents related to Executive Council's action on Resolution B016. The documents are now posted:

Comm. for Corporate Social Responsibility's [Report](#) to Council.

Resolutions: 061, 062, 063 [HERE](#) Scroll down to view resolutions establishing and applying a Global Human Rights Investment Screen with Criteria for Israel Palestine. On the way, you'll get an interesting glimpse of Council's work, including an overview of CCSR's recent corporate engagement activity.

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New EPF Chapter in Rochester NY Guides a PIN Resolution Through Diocesan Convention!

The successful Resolution was patterned on one passed in the Diocese of Vermont in 2018 and circulated in the PIN *Bulletin*. Here are some factors that contributed to success, according to co-sponsor, Tom Foster:

(1) We had a strong group of co-sponsors, 3 of whom were priests; (2) we were fortunate



Rev. Dr. Melanie Duguid-May, Rev. Peter Peters,
Rev. Ruth Ferguson,
Sarah Peters and Hannah Sommers

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 Rev. Dr. Melanie Duguid-May, who has a long history of advocacy and who has led delegations to Palestine many times, most recently this spring, and (5) MOST importantly, we had invited

with the Bishop's enthusiastic approval a member of Rochester's JVP to speak in support of the resolution. David Sperber spoke forcefully and from direct personal experience about real anti-semitism and the false accusations of the anti-BDS Zionists that criticism of Zionism is equivalent to anti-semitism. Here is the wording of the Resolution:

The Right to Boycott on Behalf of Palestinian Human Rights

Sponsors: The Rev. Dr. Melanie Duguid-May, The Very Rev. Ruth Ferguson, Thomas Foster, The Rev. Peter Peters

Resolved, the 88th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester urges the President and the Congress of the United States and the legislature and Governor of the State of New York to reconsider legislation that penalizes companies and organizations for their participation in nonviolent boycotts on behalf of Palestinian human rights. The Convention considers such legislation, at both federal and state levels, to be an infringement on our First Amendment rights, based on the Supreme Court's consistent definition of boycotts as protected speech; and be it further

Resolved, the Secretary of Convention, in consultation with Diocesan Council, is directed to distribute this resolution to the President, Governor, and state and federal legislators of this diocese, and to provide a letter in support of possible future court challenges to the existing New York State laws or Governor Cuomo's Executive Order.

Congratulations to the new Rochester Chapter! They hope this account of their experience will be encouraging for activists in other dioceses.

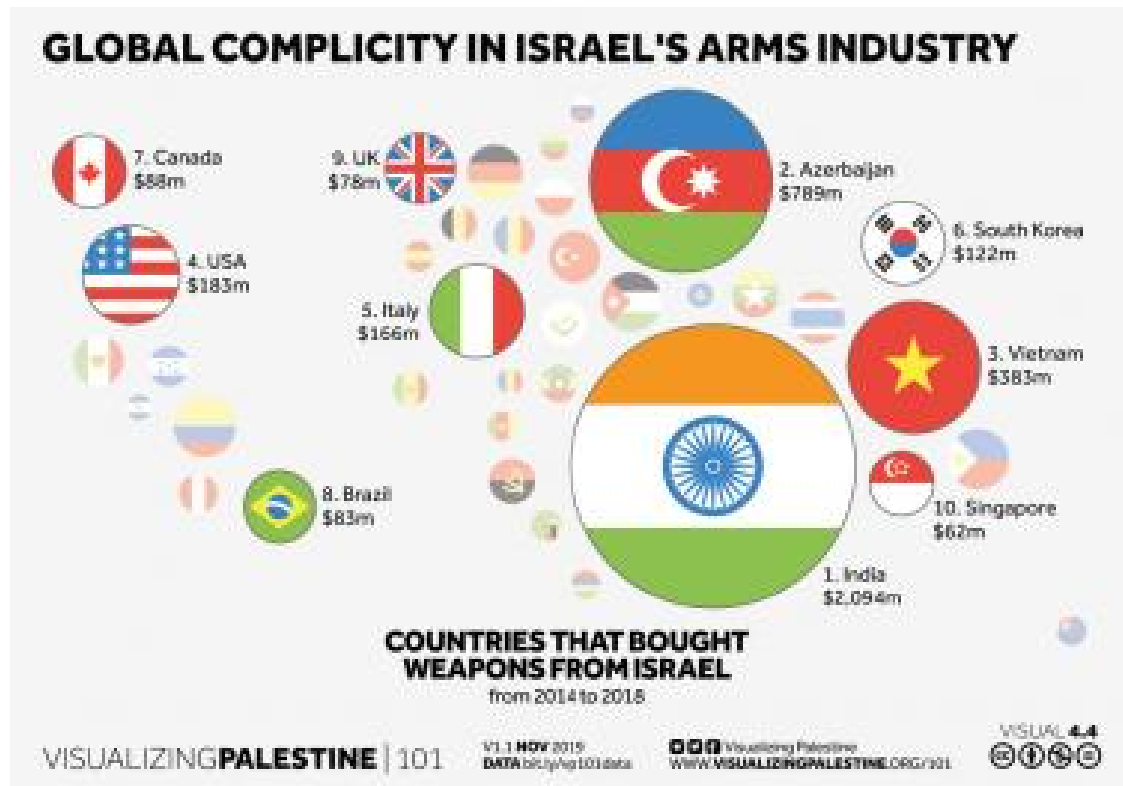
IN THE NEWS:

Washington, DC (November 18, 2019) Twenty-six religious leaders signed a letter to Congress in support of "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act" (H.R. 2407), legislation that prohibits any U.S. taxpayer funds from contributing to the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children by any country, including Israel.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is among the leaders who signed the letter. EPF PIN's Steering Committee recently sent a letter to Presiding Bishop Curry, alerting him to the opportunity to sign on, in full

confidence that he would do so. Thank you to Bishop Curry and all the faith leaders who have raised their voices in support of this critical moral issue.

[HERE](#) is a link to the full text of the letter, with signatories.



This visual from 101.visualizingpalestine.org, highlights the countries that contribute to Israel's arms industry by buying weapons "field tested" on Palestinians.

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