

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



## ***PIN Bulletin for Local Organizers***

***Volume 8, February 2020***

**Keeping PIN's Top Priority for 2020 in focus:**

**Visit your Bishop! Build a relationship with your  
diocese' General Convention Deputation.**

**PIN's hot topic flyers are ready to download!**

**Take a look at two of them:**

### **FREEDOM TO BOYCOTT IS A BASIC RIGHT**



Since General Convention 2018, three dioceses (Vermont, Rochester and Chicago) have passed Resolutions in support of our First Amendment right to boycott as protected free speech.

These Resolutions oppose the disturbing trend of penalizing or criminalizing speech on behalf of Palestinian human rights. This trend is

fueled by an expansion of the definition of anti-Semitism to include any criticism of Zionism or the policies of the State of Israel. Key developments include:

**\*\*In 2019, the Combating BDS ACT was ratified in the Senate. The ACT gives political and legal cover to state laws that prevent local governments from doing business with entities that boycott Israel. The House has not yet acted, but a 2020 version of the Israel Anti-Boycott Act would target boycotts of illegal Israeli settlements.**

**\*\*27 States have passed some form of anti-BDS legislation, despite the fact that leading First Amendment scholars argue that boycotting Israel qualifies as protected speech. Benjamin Netanyahu has bragged that "in recent years we have [successfully] promoted laws in most U.S. states, which determine that strong action is to be taken against whoever tries to boycott Israel."**

**\*\* U.S. state and federal anti-boycott laws are part of an international trend. In 2019, the German parliament passed a resolution defining the BDS Movement as anti-Semitic. France's National Assembly has declared anti-Zionism a type of anti-Semitism. Boris Johnson's Conservative government in the UK has pledged laws prohibiting public bodies from engagement with BDS.**

**\*\*In Dec., 2019. President Trump issued an Executive Order claiming to target anti-Semitism on U.S. campuses. The EO mandates that anti-Semitism will be covered by the "national-origin" protections in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Dept. of Education's Office of Civil Rights has launched investigations of New York Univ. and Univ. of California, L.A., to determine if Palestine solidarity activism is discriminatory.**

**<https://epfnational.org/pin/freedom-to-boycott/>**

---

***For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21***

**A Proposal from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Israel Network  
to Apply the Episcopal Church's *Global Human Rights Screen* to  
Diocesan Investments**

The national Episcopal Church has a rich history of scrutinizing its endowment investments such that they are consistent with the Church's teachings, core beliefs, and policy. This ongoing evaluation may take the form of a negative screen, in which shares of companies whose practices are or become incompatible with the Church's values are sold and/or placed on a "No Buy" list. Similarly, in efforts to encourage practices that the Church deems consistent with Christian social teachings, an affirmative screen may be created, whereby shares of companies engaged in these practices are purchased. For example, at the 78th General Convention in 2015, resolution C045 called upon the Church to sell its shares in the fossil fuel industry (negative screen) and invest in companies engaged in renewable, alternative energy (affirmative screen).

Other examples of investment screens in the recent history of the national Episcopal Church include divestment from oil companies doing business in the Sudan (2000), from companies profiting from apartheid in South Africa (1985), and from companies whose profits are derived from tobacco products, military contracting, and private prisons.

At the national level, the entity responsible for guiding the Church's shareholder advocacy efforts is the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR). Created in the 1970s by the Church's Executive Council, the CCSR has nearly 50 years' experience.



Most recently, Resolution B016, adopted at the 2018 79th General Convention, called upon the CCSR to create a human rights screen for Israel / Palestine and to apply this screen to the investments of the Episcopal Church. The result of this screen was the historic sale in October 2019 of shares in three companies - Caterpillar, Inc, Motorola Solutions, and the Israel Discount Bank - all found to be complicit in the illegal Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories of the West Bank. Beyond these outright sales, Facebook, Trip Advisor, and Booking.com were identified as companies with whom active engagement would be continued in order to assess their willingness to end documented complicity with the Occupation. This ongoing work of the CCSR and its expansion to include other areas of conflict and occupation was supported and funded at the Executive Council's October 2019 meeting. Thus, it is clear that human rights considerations will continue to guide the investment decisions of the Episcopal Church.

The efforts of the national Church in the area of responsible endowment management have been replicated at the Diocesan level inconsistently and without a clear mandate. We respectfully suggest that extension of the Church's Global Human Rights Screen to the endowment portfolio of the Diocese of XXXXXX will bring our practice into alignment with that of the national Church. Further, the review of our diocesan investment portfolio will contribute to a deeper understanding and appreciation of our Church's established policy on a wide range of justice issues.

<https://epfnational.org/pin/invest-screen/>

Please use the links provided to download and copy the flyers on your printer or at Kinkos. Another flyer ready for use presents the official Episcopal Church policy on Israel-Palestine established via General Convention resolutions during the last 40 years:

<https://epfnational.org/pin/episcopal-church-policy-on-israel-palestine/>

\* \* \* \* \*



More resources from the **PIN TOOLKIT**:  
"10 Things Palestinians Can't Do Because of the Israeli Occupation" is a striking photo essay from 2016 that shows how occupation affects almost all aspects of Palestinian lives. It is an effective tool for starting conversation on just what occupation means 'on the ground.'  
Visit the [Toolkit](#) to find this photo essay listed

with 'the basics.'

\* \* \* \* \*

**DIOCESAN CONVENTION SEASON IS BEHIND US.  
BUT IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO COLLECT IDEAS FOR  
NEXT SEASON'S PIN EXHIBITS.**



**Palestine Advocacy, right there in the nave of the National Cathedral, complete with olive oil sales!**

**PIN activist Steve France reports:**

**Have you ever wished you could assemble key clergy and lay leaders of your diocese in one place so they could see and hear for themselves the unjust hardships imposed on Palestinians under Israeli occupation? One easy way to go is to set up a booth at your annual diocesan convention. I did this for the first time this January at the National Cathedral in Washington. With a**



simple registration and for a small fee the Diocese of Washington provided a booth for me before convention started right in the side aisle of the nave.

PIN had sent me a packet of a poster, flyers, literature, post cards, stickers, EPF "Peace IS the Church's Business" buttons, and more. I put out some bottles of Palestinian olive oil for sale (sold a dozen of them).

It felt good to be a friendly witness on behalf of the people of the Holy Land. The time passed pleasantly, with many brief exchanges and several serious conversations with delegates and clergy. I look forward to doing this again at next year's convention in the Diocese of Washington.

**And thanks to PIN activist Ranjit Mathews for this provocative photo from the Diocese of Connecticut's 2019 Convention:**



This construction was mounted by the 'Let my People Go' Ministry Network to graphically portray the crisis of incarceration, under inhumane conditions, of people fleeing into our country at the southern border with Mexico.

This concept could easily be adapted to highlight incarceration of Palestinian children by the Israel Occupation Forces ... or tweaked to portray one of the myriad of check-points used to control and harass Palestinians throughout the West Bank.

**HOW CAN YOU BEST SUPPORT PIN'S MISSION  
AS THE VOICE FOR PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH?  
BECOME A MONTHLY GIVER!**



**PIN's Communications  
Coordinator,  
Harry Gunkel,  
explains why he is a monthly giver:**

I financially support EPF-PIN as a monthly donor. That means money is automatically sent from my account to EPF-PIN without my having to remember.

I also have excellent coffees and wines delivered to my home every month. I spend money on these things and do it regularly because I enjoy them; they bring a little extra pleasure and quality to my life. They matter to me.

I contribute monthly to PBS, our local classical radio station, and our local food bank. I make these donations because I believe they contribute to the community. They lend something important to the kind of community and world I want to live in and this matters to me.

I think of PIN the same way. I want to live in a world of justice and peace, without racism or oppressed peoples, where basic human rights are guaranteed for all. Those things matter to me and I believe they are worth my money. And I don't want to take the chance of missing a donation because I don't remember or get busy with other things or am traveling. That is why I'm a monthly donor, I want to be sure that my support is there, all the time.

I hope EPF-PIN matters to you, too, and you will consider joining me as a monthly donor.

**Sign up today:**

**<https://give.classy.org/epfpinadvent>**

*#BDS was and still is the only way to defeat apartheid*

## Gideon Levy

Haaretz, Jan 26, 2020



“

**The world has two choices: It can recognize apartheid or it can support the one-democratic-state solution. Europe can't continue to embrace Israel and talk about "shared values" with the official apartheid state. It will have to remember, finally, how it behaved with that state's predecessor, South Africa, and how Europe and a version of the boycott, divestment & sanctions movement led to the fall of that regime.**

”



The Palestine Project

STAY CONNECTED:

