

PIN Bulletin For Local Organizers

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



HOW TO ENGAGE IN THOSE DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Difficult conversations are a fact of life in our polarized world, hard to avoid if we take seriously our Baptismal Covenant. Church leaders are developing resources to help us "do better," such as "From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference." [HERE](#)

Conversations about Palestine/Israel and the ever-deepening crisis for Palestinian human rights are difficult for many in our church. One reason for this is lack of fair coverage of 'facts on the ground' by mainstream media. Films like "[The Occupation of the American Mind](#)" vividly portray the pro-Israel slant that shapes the U.S. public's viewpoint.

This means that before we can talk we have to teach! We have to teach in our parishes, our dioceses, in all our church institutions. Where to begin? PIN offers our [Tool Kit](#) as a resource guide to prepare for those difficult conversations.



PIN's Tool Kit is structured around the level of interest and previous

actions taken by those with whom we wish to engage. Specific resources for study and learning are recommended for each level.

For those with minimal knowledge and understanding of the human rights crisis that Palestinians endure, here are [The Basics](#):

- ["10 Things Palestinians Can't Do Because of the Israeli Occupation", a photo essay](#)
- [Steadfast Hope Study Guide](#)
- [Kairos Palestine Document](#)
- Encourage a visit to "Go and See," using PIN's Travel Brochure
- 6-minute video made by PIN delegation to Gaza April 2015 [[link here](#)]
- *Palestine in Pieces* by Kathleen and Bill Christison and *The Way To The Spring* by Ben Ehrenreich are excellent introductory books, both available from Amazon.com
- Many fine documentary and fiction videos are available, such as *Creation and Catastrophe*; *Gaza Fights for Freedom*; *The Stones Cry Out*. Amazon.com and Vimeo.com are good resources
- If the occasion is a first meeting with someone, try to obtain a commitment for a follow-up conversation.

The Tool Kit offers lists of resources and suggestions for conversations for each level of knowledge:

["Going Deeper"](#)

... for someone who knows the basics but wants to learn more

["Why It's Important"](#)

... for someone who understands the situation well, perhaps based on trip to Palestine/Israel, but has not yet made action a priority

["Time to Take Action"](#)

... resources to help someone become more involved and active

As the Tool Kit explains, "There is an overwhelming amount of information available about Palestine and Israel and it may be tempting to give up before beginning, so we 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 particular needs." PIN hopes the Tool Kit will help all of us become better teachers and listeners in those difficult conversations.



How to engage people in support of PIN Resolutions

PIN activists have successfully submitted Palestine/Israel resolutions for discussion and vote at diocesan conventions during this triennium. *The Bulletin* has tracked this process with reports to our readers [[check out the Bulletin Archive](#)]. There have been learnings along the way that we'd like to share.

Engage leaders and delegates during the months leading up to the

Convention. A resolution shouldn't be an unexpected 'bomb.'

***Reach out to your bishop, sharing the resolution and why it is important; ask for conversation and support.

*** Write an article in your diocesan media, focusing on the issue that the resolution will address; be good teachers!

*** Find allies to speak at hearings on behalf of the resolution.

PIN activists in the Dioceses of Vermont and Rochester discovered that it's very helpful to invite a speaker from "outside." A Palestinian witness provided a crucial voice in passing a pro-Palestine Vermont resolution. In Rochester a member of the local Jewish Voice for Peace Chapter spoke directly and convincingly to the difference between real antisemitism and legitimate criticism of Israel's policies.

A cautionary tale: avoid waves of information and passion that can shut down a conversation quickly. In one-on-one conversations to rally support for a resolution, one PIN activist found that the resolution itself is the best "ice breaker" with which to engage a potential ally. "Keep your introductory commentary to the bare minimum. It saves everyone time and social stress. And it works much better." Ask for comments, questions, reservations and let that guide a conversation. Be ready with resources and suggestions for further study. Let the resolution speak and create space.

Look ahead to your 2021 Diocesan Convention. Consider submitting a resolution. PIN is ready with advice and support. Be sure to include a "resolve" that sends your resolution forward automatically to General Convention, to be convened in Baltimore in July, 2022.

The best teachers and activists are constant learners. It's time to inform ourselves on H.R. 2590.

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) has recently introduced [legislation](#), H.R.2590 "Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living under Israeli Military Occupation Act." So far there are thirteen cosponsors and dozens of organizational endorsements. Petitions are circulating for individual endorsement and interest in the bill is very high. Here is a link to an informative analysis:

▶▶ <https://bit.ly/3twlqYh>

Follow the link to listen to Beth Miller (Jewish Voice for Peace) and Brad Parker (Defense for Children International-Palestine) as they discuss the significance of Rep. McCollum's bill and the growing power of the Palestinian Grassroots movements in Congress.

**THIS IS
PALESTINE**

A PODCAST BY THE IMEU

EP. 31

**GROUNDBREAKING BILL ON
PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS**



BETH MILLER & BRAD PARKER

JVP Action

DCIP

Also recommended is an analysis of public response to H.R. 2590 by Stephen Salaita [HERE](#)

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