

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

***Volume 29, November 2021***

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



## **What is PIN's Message to General Convention July 2022 in Baltimore?**

**PIN's Steering Committee Hammered Out the Answer to that  
Question at a Planning Retreat in Baltimore, Nov. 5-8**



***Our baptismal covenant commits us to strive for justice and peace among all people.***

***Palestinians face a human rights crisis rooted in the racism of a settler-colonial system, similar to that in the United States. This is a***



***key moment for action!***

***At this convention, the bishops and deputies can do something: respond to the cry of the Palestinian people and build on the 40 years of prophetic Episcopal Church policy on Palestine-Israel.***

***PIN is calling on bishops and deputies to pass resolutions which:***

***Support BDS***

***Oppose Israeli apartheid***

***Affirm our freedom to boycott***

***Reject Christian Zionism***

PIN's planning retreat was an experience of intense, focused work, led by our superb facilitator, Wini Wolff. We began our days with meditations that centered us in the spiritual context for our work, inviting those for whom we do this work into the room. Thanks to Harry Gunkel for a moving slide presentation in our opening session, sharing images from his many sojourns in Palestine/Israel.

In addition to work on PIN's messaging, the group addressed two very different topics. On Sunday morning, we did the hard work of creating our On Site Game Plan for G.C.: Tasks ... Who's Responsible ... When. This kind of work is called "getting down into the weeds!" We then worked backwards from our On Site Game Plan, answering the question, 'What needs to happen between now and July 2022, for a successful On Site Game?' We created a second document entitled Pre-GC Timeline of Activities: Task ... Who's Responsible ... When. Both of these are living documents and will be tweaked as we move through the months ahead. We hope to enroll YOUR NAME as a volunteer either before or on-site at General Convention. Watch for news on how to sign up!

On Sunday afternoon, we shifted gears to address the second stated goal of our retreat: "to begin a process that will foster continuity of PIN leadership." Wini helped us identify a set of actionable next steps for developing PIN leadership.

**PIN is ready to launch our work for a successful General Convention. Let's all work together: **SOAR** with PIN!**

## **SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTIONS AT DIOCESAN CONVENTIONS**

Episcopalians in three dioceses, Olympia, Vermont and Chicago have passed strong resolutions in support of Palestinian human rights and condemning Israeli violations of international law and established human rights conventions.

The October convention of the Diocese of Olympia passed two resolutions. The first of these resolved to educate congregations in the diocese "about Israel's ongoing military occupation of the West Bank and blockade of Gaza and Israel's separate, inequitable laws and unequal treatment of Palestinians" and further identified the [Bishop's](#)





[Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land](#) as a resource for this work. Their second resolution, which will be forwarded to the 2022 General Convention of the Episcopal Church condemned "the continued occupation, segregation, and oppression of the Palestinian people" and resolved that "the Convention urge the President of the United States and the US Congress to take action to oppose Israeli laws and practices that result in unequal rights for two peoples".



In early November, the Diocese of Vermont expanded upon its rich history of Palestine advocacy by passing three resolutions. Two of these, *Application of the Leahy Law to Israel* and *Supporting Freedom of Speech and the Right to Boycott*, were passed at Vermont's 2018 diocesan convention. This year's convention voted to send these resolutions on to the Episcopal Church's General Convention. Vermont's Right to Boycott resolution has

served as a model for at least two other dioceses, Chicago and Rochester, which have passed similar resolutions. The third of the Vermont resolutions, *Recognition of Apartheid in Israel/Palestine*, was a landmark achievement, marking the first time that any entity within the Episcopal Church had named Israeli policy toward Palestinians *apartheid*. That this resolution passed with a strong majority is a measure of a shifting discourse and increased appreciation of the nature of the Zionist occupation of Palestine.



Last Saturday, Nov 20, at the Diocese of Chicago's Convention, delegates voted 'Yes' on Resolution F184 *Confronting Apartheid*. Final vote: 72% yes, 28% no for the amended resolution.

The diocesan [website](#) presents the official text and explanation, with the resolution amended (the final "resolved") from the floor. Two "C" resolutions passed at the 2020 diocesan convention have already been forwarded for consideration at General Convention: *Supporting the Right to Boycott* and

*Confronting Christian Zionism*.

Diocesan resolutions are a powerful tool in our work. PIN salutes the activists in Olympia, Vermont and Chicago for these significant milestones. The Diocese of Washington, D.C. is next, with a package of similar resolutions to be considered at Convention in January. There will be spirited debate and we look forward to the outcome.

A Nov. 17 article in the Israeli newspaper, *Haaretz*, provides extra





motivation to tune into "Palestinian Stories" on Netflix! The negative critique:

"The collection of films Netflix is proudly flaunting is no cause for celebration: All of them focus on victimization and the occupation, rather than daring to confront internal Palestinian issues... What's in these movies and short films? Everything. The occupation, arrests, imprisonment, torture, checkpoints, humiliation, airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, refugeeism ..."

"The function of Palestinian cinema today is to be critical, complex and brave, daring to criticize and unpack Palestinian identity under the occupation in the same way it dares to attack and criticize the occupation...

Its job is to create a safe space in which Palestinian identity in all its forms and hues exists without selection and disqualification. A fearless Palestinian cinema that rebels against pathos and does not succumb to victimhood."

Looks like a clear focus on the brutality of the occupation is getting under someone's skin! It must mean these films are well worth watching and sharing with other activists.



## Netflix launches new Palestinian Film Collection!

Many of the films and documentaries are centered around stories of ordinary Palestinians under Israeli occupation. This is an excellent resource for education in your parish or diocese!

Here are some of the available titles:

- Salt of this Sea, by Annemarie Jacir
- The Present, by Farah Nabulsi
- When I Saw You, by Annemarie Jacir
- Ghost Hunting, by Raed Andoni
- Ave Maria, by Basil Khalil
- Frontiers of Dreams and Fears, by Mai Masri
- Children of Shatila, by Mai Masri
- 3000 Nights, by Mai Masri
- A Man Returned, by Mahdi Fleifel
- A Drowning Man, by Mahdi Fleifel
- 3 Logical Exits, by Mahdi Fleifel
- A World Not Ours, by Mahdi Fleifel
- Xenox, by Mahdi Fleifel

- Divine Intervention, by Elia Suleiman
- Paradise Now, by Elia Suleiman
- Chronicle of a Disappearance, by Elia Suleiman
- In Vitro, by Linda Sarsour
- Maradona's Legs, by Firas Khoury

**Check it out and select a film for viewing today!**



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