

## **Appendix I --Advocating for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine**

As described on page 31 of the *Facilitators' Manual*, members of the class expressed interest in having more time to discuss options for individual advocacy to promote peace in the Holy Land and changes in U.S. policies towards Israel and Palestine. As a result, the course facilitators, together with other members of the St. Mark's Mid-East Working Group, prepared the following hand-outs, which were used as part of a follow-up discussion on advocacy in May, 2011.

In *Appendix G - Evaluation and Recommendations* (pages 10, 14-15), the facilitators discuss the possible use of these handouts in an expanded course of six sessions. In one scenario, a two-hour class might be devoted to exploring the response of the Episcopal Church to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and also to considering options for individual advocacy. In another scenario, course planners might hold a half-day or full-day retreat to delve into these topics.

The handouts have been revised to reflect additional information and events up to January, 2012.

### ***Handout 1 -- Resources for Episcopalians***

pages 2-7

This document describes the relevant public policy positions, actions, and advocacy resources of The Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Washington, the Palestine Israel Network of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, and Churches for Middle East Peace.

### ***Handout 2 -- Options for Individual Advocacy***

pages 8-18

This handout reviews a wide range of possible actions: speaking to friends and family members, communicating with U.S., Israeli, and Palestinian officials, contacting media editors and journalists, supporting ad campaigns, attending advocacy conferences and rallies, and participating in various aspects of the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement to influence consumer and corporate behavior that supports the occupation of Palestine. The document includes basic tips for communicating with elected officials and the media and identifies numerous organizational web sites for further information

### ***Handout 3 -- Sources of Information***

pages 19-23

This document identifies 16 organizations that provide background information on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, updates on current events, and reliable data on a variety of issues. Some of the groups are primarily research-oriented, while others analyze media coverage. Most engage in advocacy and offer individuals a variety of resources, including e-mail action alerts, online petitions and letters, legislative updates, talking points, audio-visual aids, and toolkits for organizing events, lobbying, and working with the media.

*A Note on Printing: To print the handouts without the pages numbers shown in this appendix, simply copy the text into a new document (with one inch margins on all sides), insert new numbers if desired, and photocopy front and back.*

## Advocating for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine

### Handout 1 -- Resources for Episcopalians

#### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

##### ***Public Policy***

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/public-policy>

The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations is located in Washington. As directed by the General Convention, it focuses on the federal government. The office seeks to influence Administration programs and legislation in Congress that will have an impact on a wide variety of domestic and international issues of interest to the church.

The Office of Government Relations encourages Episcopalians who are interested in influencing public policy at the federal level to join the *Episcopal Public Policy Network* ( Members of the EPPN can select the issues in which they are most interested (including "the Middle East") and then receive action alerts and relevant articles by e-mail. Members also have the option to join an Episcopal state policy network.

The web page for the EPPN's Action Center is accessible to members and visitors alike: <http://episcopal.grassroots.com> It lists current actions, including suggested letters to the President and members of Congress. Recent letters have urged the President to visit the Holy Land, to make achieving peace a priority, and to support the vision of Jerusalem as a shared capital. Letters have urged Members of Congress not to terminate aid to the Palestinians.

By providing their name, address, and e-mail, individuals who agree with a given letter can have it sent immediately by e-mail to the President or to members of their Congressional delegation. If they wish to inform their friends and family members about the issue and encourage them to act on it, they can also forward selected letters by e-mail or via Facebook.

Because Middle East peace is just one of many issues that the Office of Government Relations addresses, it also encourages Episcopalians to become members of Churches for Middle East Peace. The Episcopal Church itself is a very active member of CMEP, which is devoted exclusively to achieving peace, justice, and security for both the Israelis and Palestinians. (See the section on CMEP below.)

In educating themselves about the church's vision for peace in the Holy Land and its position on specific issues, Episcopalians can find find a wealth of resources on the church web site, including statements by the Presiding Bishop and resolutions passed by the Executive Council and the General Convention.

##### ***The Presiding Bishop***

In addition to meeting with political and religious leaders in our country and in Israel/Palestine, the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, has repeatedly called for all parties to respect the human rights of residents in the region, including members of all faith traditions, and to take concrete steps towards achieving justice, security, and a lasting peace.

Among the Presiding Bishop's recent statements, letters, and speeches are the following:

- October 3, 2011 -- "Pastoral letter on Israeli-Palestinian Peace"

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/notice/episcopal-church-presiding-bishop-issues-pastoral-letter-israeli-palestinian-peace>

- January 16, 2011 -- Letter to President Obama asking that the U.S. not veto the U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a halt to Israeli settlements in the West Bank

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/notice/episcopal-church-presiding-bishop-writes-president-obama-un-security-council-resolution-about>

- September 29, 2010 -- Participation in the "call for peace" issued by the National Inter-religious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East during its meetings with Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and National Security Advisor General James Jones

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/notice/episcopal-church-presiding-bishop-joins-interreligious-coalition-call-peace-jerusalem>

- June 15, 2010 -- Speech at the "Middle East Prayer Breakfast" held in the Russell Senate Office Building

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/notice/episcopal-presiding-bishop-jefferts-schori-middle-east-prayer-breakfast>

### ***Resolutions of the General Convention and Executive Council***

With the engagement of the Presiding Bishop, as well as lay and clergy at the grassroots, and based on the public policy resolutions passed at General Convention and by the Executive Council, the Episcopal Church continues its commitment to a two-state solution as the only viable avenue to a just peace for both Palestinians and Israelis.

The Church seeks an agreement that guarantees Israel's security and Palestinian aspirations for a viable sovereign state with Jerusalem as the shared capital of both Israel and Palestine.

More specifically, church policy states or calls for the following:

- Disputes should be settled by direct negotiations and mutual recognition.
- Jerusalem should be safeguarded as an "inter-religious municipality."
- Support should be given to the Diocese of Jerusalem and the diminishing Christian community in the Holy Land through visits to the Christian congregations in the Holy Land and the receiving of visitors from the Holy Land.
- All expressions of anti-Arab and anti-Jewish prejudice in our culture and among Christians should be deplored.
- Israeli settlements in the occupied territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace as is the Israeli wall/fence/barrier which should be removed where it violates Palestinian territory.
- There must be an equitable sharing of resources such as water.
- Termination of the policy and practice of terrorism by any constituency of the Palestinian Authority.

- Assurance of human rights for Palestinians and Israelis.
- Supports the return of sovereign control of Gaza's airspace and coastline and borders to the Palestinian people and mutual respect for borders.
- Hamas to recognize the State of Israel, renounce violence, and accept past peace agreements.
- Directs the Social Responsibility in Investments Committee to engage in dialogue with and, where appropriate, to file shareholder resolutions with companies which operate in the Occupied Territories, in which the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) owns shares and whose products or services contribute to violence against either side, or contribute to the infrastructure that supports and sustains the Occupation, such as settlements and their bypass roads, the security barrier where it is built on Palestinian land, and demolition of Palestinian homes.
- Recommends that bodies of the Episcopal Church with investment assets join with other religious organizations, denominations and institutions in investing in the economic infrastructure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

For an index of resolutions on Israel/Palestine passed by the General Convention of The Episcopal Church at its triennial meetings and links to the full documents, see:

[http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/globalJustice/109339\\_107632\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/globalJustice/109339_107632_ENG_HTM.htm)

Between 1976 and 2007, the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church has issued a number of resolutions pertaining to peace-making in the Holy Land. These can be found by entering "Israel" and "Palestine" in the search function on the following site:

[http://www.episcopalarchives.org/e-archives/executive\\_council/](http://www.episcopalarchives.org/e-archives/executive_council/)

For more information on the advocacy work of the Episcopal Church as well as an independent association of Episcopalians in the United States, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and its Palestine-Israel Network, see *Appendix I -- Options for Individual Advocacy*.

## THE DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

During a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the fall of 2009, the Right Reverend John Bryson Chane, former Bishop of the Diocese of Washington, reached agreement with his counterpart, the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, Bishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem, for a three-year companion relationship between the two dioceses. On January 12, 2010, the Diocesan Council in Washington approved the agreement. For more information about the relationship, see *Jerusalem Partnership* at <http://www.edow.org/ministries/overseas/jerusalem>

Bishop Chane appointed a *Companion Diocese Committee* to propose specific ways in which the relationship could be developed. The Committee currently has four working groups: Education, Health, Parish-to-Parish Relationships, and Advocacy. The working groups seek to engage parishes in the Diocese in supporting the schools and hospitals administered by the Diocese of Jerusalem, establishing ties with parishes in Palestine and Israel, and advocating for American policies and programs that will promote reconciliation, economic and social justice, interfaith relations, and women's issues in the Holy Land.

In 2011, the 116th Convention of the Diocese of Washington passed a *Resolution on Peacemaking in the Holy Land*, sponsored by the Companion Diocese Committee. Among its resolves are the following:

**Resolved**, that the Convention urge its parishes and members to learn, pray and act to promote a just solution that will allow Israelis and Palestinians, whatever their religion, to live peacefully together in the Holy Land...

**Resolved**, that the Convention encourage its parishes to overcome longstanding reluctance to talk about this conflict and engage in informational programs and open-minded discussions aimed at increasing understanding on all sides...

**Resolved**, that the Convention second the Executive Council's call "upon the United States Government, in keeping with American ideals of equality, justice, and human rights, to pursue a fair and balanced approach to making peace that fulfills the fundamental needs of both peoples," and urge the President "to re-double efforts to bring stronger and more resolute American diplomatic leadership to the cause of peace between Israel and Palestine and to the Middle East."

For the full text of the resolution, including explanatory notes, see page 177 of the *2011 Journal and Directory of the EDOW* at [http://www.edow.org/about/governance/Journal\\_2011.pdf](http://www.edow.org/about/governance/Journal_2011.pdf) The Journal also contains the Committee's report on its work in 2010 (p. 205).

In late 2011, several churches in the Diocese of Washington co-sponsored another resolution on the Holy Land for consideration by the 117th Convention in January, 2012. Entitled *Resolution on Pursuing a Just Peace in the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict*, it urges the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which will hold its triennial meeting in the summer of 2012, to direct church staff to "develop and implement a strategy of advocacy and education in the Church during the next triennium to further a just resolution of the conflict utilizing existing policies and resources." The resolution specifies that the strategy should include, but not limited to, the following components:

- A robust use of the Episcopal Public Policy Network in promoting Church policies in our nation's capital;
- Participating in corporate social responsibility by more vigorous and public corporate engagement with companies in the Church's investment portfolio that do business in illegal Israeli settlements or contribute to the infrastructure of the Occupation;
- Identifying a project of economic engagement through a loan of at least \$200,000 from the Church's Economic Justice Loan Fund that strengthens the economic infrastructure of the Territories;
- Assisting individual Episcopalians by providing information on products made and distributed from illegal Israeli settlements so that they can make informed consumer choices; and an examination of actions the U.S. might take to support international law and human rights.

Promoted by the Palestine Israel Network of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, this resolution has already been passed by 11 other dioceses in the United States. The *2012 Directory and Journal* of the Diocese of Washington will contain the full text of the resolution and will report on the convention's action. It will also include the Companion Diocese Committee's report on its 2011 activities. See [www.edow.org/about/governance](http://www.edow.org/about/governance).

EPISCOPAL PEACE FELLOWSHIP  
[www.epfnational.org](http://www.epfnational.org)

Based in Chicago, EPF is an independent, member-funded association of Episcopalians seeking to connect those who want to pray, study, and take action for justice and peace. Its Peace Partnership Network includes individuals, congregations, and 56 chapters. Members can join one of several Action

Groups focused on specific issues, such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the abolition of nuclear arms, and conscientious objection.

***Palestine Israel Network*** -- <http://epfnational.org/PIN/>

For many years EPF has had an Israel/Palestine Action Group that identified resources for education and advocacy, tracked resolutions on I/P passed by dioceses around the country, issued action alerts, and linked members through a list-serv.

In October, 2010, members of the Action Group and other interested Episcopalians from around the country met in Chicago to transform the group into a nationwide *Palestine Israel Network*. Through education, advocacy, and witness trips, the Network seeks “to nurture, mobilize and sustain a grassroots movement within The Episcopal Church,” one that will be “a more robust witness for justice and peace for our Palestinian and Israeli brothers and sisters.”

The Network is governed by a 19-member board consisting of clergy and laity. The Network’s founders have also put together a “Palestinian Advisory Group,” consisting of Palestinians living in the U.S, Palestine, or Jordan.

Since its formation, PIN has been active in promoting resolutions on the Holy Land at Diocesan Conventions around the country. Its draft resolution on *Pursuing a Just Peace in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict* is posted at <http://epfnational.org/PIN/a-draft-resolution-for-pursuing-a-just-peace/>

PIN has also published an Episcopal version of the highly acclaimed Presbyterian booklet and DVD, *Steadfast Hope: the Palestinian Quest for Just Peace*. The Network’s web site includes other educational resources, including a *BDS Primer*.

Interested members of the Episcopal Church are invited to join the PIN by becoming members of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. The PIN section of EPF’s web site includes recommended books and films and a “community” section featuring articles, reports, and interviews.

### ***BDS Endorsement***

In May, 2010, the National Executive Council of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, in support of the principles of the *Kairos Palestinian Document*, endorsed “the application of divestment and an economic and commercial boycott of products linked to oppression of Palestinian people and occupation of their land.” For the complete text of the statement, see: <http://epfnational.org/action-groups/epfs-executive-council-statement-on-divestment-boycott-and-economic-sanctions-as-a-means-of-nonviolent-resistance/>

Responding to concerns that the endorsement might damage inter-faith relations, EPF Chair Linda Gaither issued the following document: *Commentary: National Executive Council’s Statement on Divestment, Boycott and Economic Sanctions as a means of Nonviolent Resistance*. This can be found at: <http://epfnational.org/action-groups/israelpalestine/chair%E2%80%99s-commentary-national-executive-council%E2%80%99s-statement-on-divestment-boycott-and-economic-sanctions-as-a-means-of-nonviolent-resistance/>

In a May 12, 2011, article on the Peace Fellowship’s action, the Episcopal News Service quoted John Bryson Chane, Bishop of Washington, as saying that such a strategy is “flawed and dangerously unhelpful at this particular time in history” and would “further hurt the critical development of the economy of Palestine and increase the marginalization of the Palestinian people.” Chane also emphasized that the EPF’s position does not represent the official policy of the Episcopal Church, which supports “corporate engagement” and “positive investment” practices when dealing with companies in which it owns assets and shares.

In the article, Gaither responded by stating that EPF's council had considered the concerns of Jewish leaders that a "calls for divestment, boycott and economic sanctions are anti-Jewish, extending the arc of the long tradition of Christian anti-Semitism," but that it had decided to "join our voices with those of a growing American Jewish public at large who are expressing opposition to Israel's treatment of Palestinians and questioning unconditional support for Israeli government policy."

For the full text of the article, see: [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79425\\_122182\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79425_122182_ENG_HTM.htm)

## CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

[www.cmep.org](http://www.cmep.org)

The Episcopal Church is a member of CMEP, a coalition of 24 national denominations and organizations, including Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox traditions. CMEP directly engages the U.S. administration and Congress to encourage government policies that promote a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its web site lists denominational statements on the conflict, relevant U.N. resolutions, and past peace agreements.

CMEP coordinates joint letters by church leaders and organizes meetings for them with senior government officials. For example:

- On March 7, 2011, it submitted a letter to the White House signed by 22 religious leaders. The letter urged the President not to block a proposed U.N. Security Council resolution condemning continued Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. <http://cmep.org/content/letter-president-obama-un-settlement-veto-and-further-peace-efforts>
- In June 2011, 44 church leaders signed on to a CMEP letter calling on the President to take bold, concrete actions to re-start the peace process in coordination with the "Middle East Quartet," the Arab League, and others. <http://cmep.org/content/letter-president-obama-urging-bold-concrete-and-immediate-action-peace>
- On November 8, CMEP organized a White House meeting at which church leaders discussed U.S. policies toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and problems facing Christians in the Holy Land with Dennis Ross, Special Assistant to the President, and Catherine Powell, Director for Human Rights, Office of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights in the National Security Council.

CMEP also supports grassroots advocates with action alerts, conference calls, and an annual conference in Washington. On its web site, individuals can send Action Alerts by e-mail directly to the President and to Members of Congress. At the annual conference each May, attendees receive briefings from Middle East experts and staff from their denomination's government relations office. They also have the opportunity to meet members of their own denomination and other concerned Christians from across the country, as well as to visit with senior staff and Members of Congress from their states and districts.

## **Advocating for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine**

### Handout 2 – Options for Individual Action\*

- A. Speak to friends and family members
- B. Contact elected leaders
  - 1) The President
  - 2) Members of Congress
  - 3) State and local officials
- C. Contact Israeli and Palestinian officials
  - 1) The Embassy of Israel
  - 2) PLO Delegation to the U.S.
- D. Contact media editors and journalists
- E. Support ad campaigns
- F. Attend advocacy conferences
- G. Participate in non-violent, non-discriminatory rallies and marches
- H. Participate in some aspect of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement to influence consumer and corporate behavior that supports the occupation of Palestine

#### Appendix -- Communicating with the Media

- \* This handout cites advocacy positions and actions adopted by a variety of groups working to achieve peace, justice, and security for both the Israelis and Palestinians. Neither the Vestry of St. Mark's nor the Coordinating Committee of the Mid-East Working Group has officially endorsed any of these positions and actions. They are presented here merely for consideration by individual members of the congregation.

## A. SPEAK TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

As you continue to learn about the background of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the current realities faced by Palestinians under the military occupation, the use of U.S. tax dollars to support it, and related issues, share your insights and concerns about the situation with your friends and family members. Considering the dearth of in-depth coverage given to these topics by American media, it is likely that many people you know may have a limited understanding of the situation or may have accepted the narrative promoted by the government of Israel as the complete story.

Share what you have read with friends and family. Encourage them to attend lectures, see films, and explore web sites....and eventually to express their own concerns to others. Above all, demonstrate through your own words and actions that speaking up for peace, justice, and security for both the Israelis and Palestinians is grounded in the most fundamental teachings of your faith as well as in the basic American value of fairness.

## B. CONTACT ELECTED LEADERS

### The White House

By phone: 202-456-1111

This is the White House comment line, which is always answered by a staff person, not a recording.

By e-mail: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

By letter:

The White House requests that you include your e-mail address in the letter.

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

### Members of Congress

To learn how your Senators and Representative have voted on resolutions and bills pertaining to Israel and Palestine, see the Congressional Report Cards produced by the U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation: <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=202>

To obtain contact information, including office phone number, address, online e-mail comment form, and committee assignments, see [www.senate.gov/](http://www.senate.gov/) and [www.house.gov/](http://www.house.gov/).

Addressing letters to your Senator

The Honorable (full name)  
(Room #) (Name) Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

To your Representative:

The Honorable (full name)  
(Room #) (Name) House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

For information on U.S. aid to Israel, see the following:

- If Americans Knew, section on U.S. Taxes:  
[www.ifamericansknew.org/stats/usaid.html](http://www.ifamericansknew.org/stats/usaid.html)
- U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation, section on Military Aid to Israel:  
[www.endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=208](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=208)
- Congressional Research Service reports on U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel:  
<http://openers.com/document/RL33222/>
- Congressional Research Service reports on U.S. Foreign Aid to the Palestinians:  
<http://openers.com/document/RS22370/>

### State and Local Leaders

There may be occasions when you may wish to urge your state and local elected leaders to take a stand on issues pertaining to Israel and Palestine. This could include calling on the President and Members of Congress to reallocate some of the \$3 billion in annual military aid provided to Israel so that it can be used for critical domestic needs, such as health, education, and infrastructure repairs.

To learn what portion of military aid to Israel taxpayers in your state, Congressional district, county, or city pay – and what that money could otherwise provide – use the interactive map at the web site “How Much Military Aid to Israel” produced by the U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation:  
<http://aidtoisrael.org/index.html>

You may also wish to urge state and local leaders to take one of more of the following actions:

- not to authorize contracts with U.S. or international companies that profit from the military occupation of Palestine,
- not to authorize contracts with Israeli companies that are manufacturing products in the illegal settlements or expropriating natural resources from the occupied territories,
- to direct the managers of state and municipal pension funds to divest from such companies.

The web links cited in the section below on the global Boycott, Sanctions, and Divestment movement identify companies in the first two categories that also provide transportation, construction, communications and other goods and services to state and local governments. They also identify major public employee pension funds that invest in such companies.

## **C. CONTACT ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS**

Although Washington-based representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian governments have no constitutional responsibility to heed the concerns of American citizens, they do pay attention to public opinion. So on occasion, let them know whether you support or oppose the policies of their governments.

### To contact the Israeli Ambassador

The Honorable Dr. Michael B. Oren  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Israel  
3514 International Drive, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Oren:

Phone: 202.364.5500  
Fax: 202.364.5423  
E-mail: [embsec@washington.mfa.gov.il](mailto:embsec@washington.mfa.gov.il) or [info@washington.mfa.gov.il](mailto:info@washington.mfa.gov.il)  
[www.israelemb.org/](http://www.israelemb.org/)

To contact the Chief Representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization

The Honorable Maen Rashid Areikat  
Chief Representative  
Delegation of the PLO to the United States  
1320 18th Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ambassador Areikat:

Phone: (202) 974-6360  
Fax: (202) 974-6278  
E-mail: [info@plodelegation.us](mailto:info@plodelegation.us)  
<http://plodelegation.us/>

**D. CONTACT MEDIA EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS**

Unless you represent an organization that can speak with some authority on the situation in Israel/Palestine, it is unlikely that you will be able to obtain an interview with a media reporter or with a newspaper's editorial board. But as an informed individual, you have every right to express your opinion to reporters and editors when you think their coverage of the situation in Israel/Palestine has been incorrect or incomplete.

For general tips on "Communicating with the Media," including advice on submitting letters to the editor and op-ed's, see the Appendix at the end of this handout.

For analyses of media coverage and examples of corrective communications, see the following two sites:

- If Americans Knew -- [www.ifamericansknew.org/media/](http://www.ifamericansknew.org/media/)

The "Media Analysis" section of this site examines news coverage of issues in Israel/Palestine. The organization also provides "Media Report Cards" on TV network news coverage, the Associated Press, and major papers such as the *New York Times*, as well as links to other reports analyzing op eds around the country and coverage by National Public Radio.

- WRITE! For Justice, Human Rights, and International Law in Palestine – [www.writetruth.org/](http://www.writetruth.org/)

Based in Vienna, Virginia, this organization monitors American media coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and promotes accurate, balanced, and consistent reporting. It encourages Americans to submit letters and op eds and assists them by providing information bulletins and examples of comments published by newspapers in response to inaccurate reporting or biased editorials.

## E. SUPPORT AD CAMPAIGNS

Many of the organizations working to promote a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict provide materials that individuals can download for free or obtain for a nominal fee to spread the word in their own communities. These include such items as fliers, postcards, maps, posters, and bumper stickers. On occasion, some groups also mount larger public awareness campaigns involving paid advertisements in newspapers, on billboards, and in transit systems.

One such effort is the *Two Peoples, One Future* campaign launched in October, 2010, by the Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine, a group based in Chicago ([www.cjpip.org](http://www.cjpip.org)). They raised enough money to have professionally produced ads placed throughout the transit system as well as to produce a series of “pocket cards” to be passed out in public places. The ads and cards feature photographs of Israeli and Palestinian parents and children under the slogan *Be on our side*.



The campaign conveys the message that there are many people in both Israel and Palestine willing to work for and live together in peace. It also raises awareness about U.S. support for Israel’s military occupation of Palestine by means of facts on the pocket cards and information on the campaign’s web site: [www.twopeoplesonefuture.org/](http://www.twopeoplesonefuture.org/)

Since its debut in Chicago, the campaign has spread to San Francisco, Albuquerque, New York, Boston, and other cities. In May 2011, an ad hoc coalition of peace groups in the Washington area – called *DC Riders for Peace* -- placed the ads on Metrorail cars for four weeks. Led by the Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace, the coalition includes the DC chapters of Jewish Voice for Peace, Sabeel, and other groups.

## F. ATTEND ADVOCACY CONFERENCES

Conferences are an excellent way to get up to date information on efforts to promote peace between Israel and Palestine and to learn about different techniques for advocacy. They also provide a wonderful opportunity to meet people who are active in working for peace and justice in the Holy Land from the Washington, DC, region, from across the U.S., and occasionally from Israel and Palestine as well.

**Churches for Middle East Peace** ([www.cmep.org/](http://www.cmep.org/)) puts on an annual advocacy conference each May in Washington, DC, that includes a Lobby Day on Capitol Hill. For several years, **Interfaith Peace Builders** ([www.ifpb.org/](http://www.ifpb.org/)) and the **U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation** ([www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org)) have co-sponsored Grassroots Advocacy Training programs in Washington. In 2012, both groups are collaborating with **Code Pink/Women for Peace** ([www.codepink.org/](http://www.codepink.org/)) to sponsor an *Occupy AIPAC Mobilization and Summit*. March 2-6. The summit is timed to coincide with the annual policy conference of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the pro-Israel lobby.

## **G. PARTICIPATE IN RALLIES & MARCHES**

In addition to speaking up for peace, there may be occasions where you will want to demonstrate your concern by participating in non-violent, non-discriminatory rallies and marches. These may take place in front of the White House or Congress, on the Mall, in front of the Israeli Embassy, or in other locations, such as in front of the convention center.

Numbers count at these events, making an impact on government officials, corporate leaders, and the media. So adding your physical presence can make a difference. The diversity of participants is also important because it is essential to demonstrate that the cause of peace and justice in Israel and Palestine is of concern not just to “fringe” groups, but to people from all faith groups and to Americans of all ages and walks of life.

If a rally or march is permitted and well-managed, its organizers should be able to control the messages being conveyed by signs, songs, and chants. If extremists show up with anti-Semitic or anti-Islamic slogans and the organizers cannot maintain a distance from them, participants always have the option of leaving.

There is no single source of information on upcoming rallies or marches relating to Israel/Palestine. Two regional groups that occasionally announce such events by e-mail or on their web sites are the Friends of Sabeel/DC Metro ([www.sabeeldc.org](http://www.sabeeldc.org)) and the Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East ([www.wiamep.org/](http://www.wiamep.org/)).

## **H. PARTICIPATE IN THE BDS MOVEMENT**

### **Background on the Movement**

In 2005, Palestinian organizations representing civil society issued a call to their counterparts and to people of conscience all over the world to launch broad boycotts, implement divestment initiatives, and demand governmental sanctions against Israel, until the rights of Palestinians are recognized in full compliance with international law.

The call urges the application of boycotts, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it meets its obligations under international law by:

- 1) Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantling the Separation Barrier Wall;
- 2) Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
- 3) Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in U.N. Resolution 194.

The BDS call was endorsed by over 170 Palestinian political parties, organizations, trade unions, and movements. The signatories represent Palestinian refugees, Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, and Palestinian citizens of Israel.

### **Precedents**

The BDS movement to protest Israeli treatment of Palestinians builds upon similar efforts in the last century:

- From 1933 to 1945, Jews in Europe and the U.S. promoted a boycott of German goods to protest that country’s treatment of Jews and war crimes.

- In 1936, a Jewish-led German Olympics Boycott helped educate the American public about the dire plight of Jews in Germany.
- A full-fledged, global campaign of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against South Africa helped raised awareness of the evils of Apartheid. The shift in world opinion and increasing economic pressure ultimately helped convince the regime to negotiate an end to the system.

### What Implementing BDS Means

**Boycotts** target products and companies (Israeli and international) that profit from the violation of Palestinian rights. Campaigns have been launched in many countries to target Israeli companies that are based in the illegal settlements or use natural resources taken from the Occupied Territories. Examples include Ahava cosmetic products, Sodastream home carbonating machines, and King Solomon and Jordan River dates.

Other campaigns have been launched against major companies based in Israel or elsewhere in the world that profit from or otherwise support the military occupation of Palestine. The Israeli-based makers of the Sabra, Tribe, and Osem food products sold in American grocery stores, for example, have been shown to fund the Israeli Defense Forces and the Jewish National Fund, which finances the expansion of illegal settlements. Motorola, a global consumer products company based in the U.S., sells communications devices used by the Israeli Defense Forces in the Occupied Territories.

For examples of local actions related to U.S. campaigns against Sodastream, Motorola, and other companies, see <http://www.globalexchange.org/economicactivism/campaigns> Peace groups in Israel have also joined the boycott effort. In 2010, one of them launched “Buy No Evil,” a free smartphone application that enables users to identify products made in the illegal settlements. See <http://fosna.org/content/bds-mobile-apps>

In addition to boycotts against specific products, boycotts have been organized against Israeli sporting, cultural, and academic institutions that seek to visit other countries or attract international visitors to events in Israel. The intent of these efforts is to demonstrate that the world is increasingly aware of Israel’s activities in Palestine and will not countenance “business as usual” by these institutions while the occupation is ongoing. One peace group in Israel, *Boycott from Within*, contacts theater companies, rock stars, and international groups, asking them to cancel events in Israel, then posts the appeals on its web site. For examples of letters to Lady Gaga, London’s Globe Theater, the World Health Organization and others, see <http://boycottisrael.info/>

**Divestment** means targeting corporations complicit in the violation of Palestinian rights and ensuring that individual and institutional investment portfolios and pension funds are not used to finance such companies. These efforts raise awareness about the reality of Israel’s policies and encourage companies to use their economic influence to pressure Israel to end its systematic denial of Palestinian rights.

**Sanctions** are an essential part of demonstrating disapproval for a country’s actions. Israel’s membership in various diplomatic and economic forums provides both a veneer of respectability and material support for its activities. By calling for sanctions against Israel, campaigners educate society about violations of international law and seek to end the complicity of other nations in these violations.

### How Individuals Can Participate

#### In the Boycott effort:

American consumers can educate themselves (and friends and family members) about the range of products that are linked to the occupation of Palestine by visiting the web sites cited below and then making sure that they don’t buy those products. Better still, they can inform store owners in person and write to companies to explain the choice they have made and to ask them to cease carrying such products

in the U.S. or providing them to Israel. Individuals can also participate in non-violent demonstrations outside the stores selling these products as a means of educating other consumers.

In the Washington, DC, area, Friends of Sabeel DC Metro sponsors occasional peaceful demonstrations outside stores selling Ahava cosmetic products. (See [www.sabeeldc.org](http://www.sabeeldc.org).) The Metro DC BDS Coalition is a collaborative effort of area individuals and peace groups. It provides information on products found in local stores and a sample letter one could write to a store manager. (Contact Mai Abdul Rahman at [mai.abdulrahman@gmail.com](mailto:mai.abdulrahman@gmail.com)).

Beyond exercising their power as individual consumers, people can also lobby their employers as well as their local and state elected officials not to purchase products linked to the military occupation of Palestine. For example, employers that operate cafeterias or purchase cell phones can choose not to purchase Sabra and Motorola products. Construction companies and public agencies can choose not to purchase Caterpillar equipment or paving materials from Ackerstein Industries. Caterpillar specifically modifies the bulldozers that the Israeli government uses to demolish Palestinian homes and olive orchards. Ackerstein is an Israeli company that manufactures concrete slabs for the Separation Barrier Wall as well as pre-fab housing for the settlements. Its subsidiary, AckerStone, has plants in Los Angeles and Phoenix making paving materials for the U.S. market.

#### In the Divestment effort:

Individuals can choose to sell stocks they own in companies profiting from the military occupation of Palestine and participate in shareholder votes directing corporate boards to change their policies. Individuals can also join campaigns to urge public and private pension funds to divest their holdings in any company profiting from the Occupation. For example, Jewish Voice for Peace has launched a campaign to persuade TIAA-CREF to divest such holdings (see below). Churches that have endowments or pension funds can also commit to divesting shares in such companies. The Presbyterian Church of the USA, for example, has taken steps towards doing so (see below).

### **Resources for Getting Involved**

*Global BDS Movement* -- [www.bdsmovement.net/](http://www.bdsmovement.net/)

This website is overseen by the steering committee of the Palestinian BDS National Committee and has been adopted as a tool of the ICNP (International Coordinating Network on Palestine). Updated by Palestinian and global BDS activists, the site features fact sheets, handbooks, news about current campaigns, and new calls to action.

*Who Profits?* – [www.whoprofits.org](http://www.whoprofits.org)

This site has an extensive list of Israeli and international companies that are profiting from the Occupation. The list is organized into three categories:

- Companies that help construct illegal settlements in the West Bank, the segregated transportation systems linking them to Israel proper, and other infrastructure.
- Companies that profit by exploiting Palestinian resources, markets, and labor.
- Companies involved in building the Separation Barrier Wall and the checkpoints or in providing goods and services that are used by the Israeli government to control the Palestinian population.

*U.S. Campaign to end the Occupation* – [www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org)

BDS is one of four major areas of focus for this coalition. The web site tracks campaigns in the US against Motorola, Caterpillar, Ahava and other companies. It also issues Action Alerts and has resources for individuals and local groups to use.

The coalition is also supporting three specific efforts: *Campus-based BDS campaigns*, a nation-wide *Municipal and State Boycott & Divestment Campaign*, and an *Occupation-Free Faith Community Network*. The Network is intended to support and link churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples (or groups within them) as well as campus ministries and regional faith-based groups that commit to advocate for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine.

*Presbyterian Church of the USA* -- [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

In July 2010, the General Assembly of the PC-USA approved the report of its Middle East Study Committee, which urges the U.S. to make military aid to Israel contingent on ending the occupation and directs the church's investment committee to engage Caterpillar and other corporations that profit from the sale of products used to violate human rights. See:

[http://oga.pcusa.org/ga219/pdf/middleease\\_final\\_FAQ.pdf](http://oga.pcusa.org/ga219/pdf/middleease_final_FAQ.pdf)

In October 2010, the Israel Palestine Mission Network of the PC-USA joined the international boycott of goods produced in illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine. (See: [http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=135](http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=135))

In September, 2011, the denomination's Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee (MRTI) voted overwhelmingly to recommend that the General Assembly in 2012 take action to divest from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions. See [http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=193](http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=193)

*Jewish Voice for Peace* -- [www.jvp.org](http://www.jvp.org) and [www.wedivest.org](http://www.wedivest.org)

JVP has launched a nation-wide campaign to get TIAA-CREF to divest from companies profiting from the occupation. TIAA-CREF is one of the largest financial services companies in America and operates one of the largest retirement funds in the world. It has 60 offices around the United States and manages retirement programs for over 15,000 client institutions in the academic, research, medical, cultural and non-profit fields.

JVP (including its DC chapter – [www.jvpdc.org](http://www.jvpdc.org)) has organized peaceful demonstrations outside TIAA-CREF offices around the country. The campaign's web site has fact sheets and fliers that individuals can use to educate colleagues at work and urge their employers to contact the company. As of January, 2012, over 24,000 Americans who participate in retirement programs managed by the company have signed an on-line petition demanding divestment.

## APPENDIX – COMMUNICATING WITH THE MEDIA

### Useful Web Sites

*Tips for Media Advocacy*, Interfaith Peace Builders  
<http://www.ifpb.org/education/resources/media.html>

Shown below are excerpts from this site providing advice on writing op-ed's and getting letters to the editor published.

*A Guide to Media Work*, Peter Wirth Associates  
[http://www.peterwirth.net/media\\_guide/resources/index.html](http://www.peterwirth.net/media_guide/resources/index.html)

*Media Activism Kit*, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting  
<http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=119>

### Writing and Publishing Opinion/Editorial Pieces

One of the best ways to make your voice heard in the mainstream media is to submit an Opinion/Editorial (Op/Ed) piece to your local newspaper. Media Consultant Pete Wirth defines an Op/Ed as “a written expression of an individual's or group's opinion on a matter of public interest.”

An Op/Ed should be between 600 and 900 words and present a clear argument and/or convey a particular opinion. It should be tied to a hook – generally a current event, important date in history, or contribution to a continuing debate in your newspaper or local area, etc.

Newspaper editors select Op/Ed's based on interest to readers, quality of writing, originality of thought, timeliness, and freshness of viewpoint. Additionally, consideration is given to the number of articles already published on the topic, the strength of the argument and the writer's expertise on the issue.

Publishing an Op/Ed can be a longer process than getting an interview or editorial board meeting. Once you write and submit an Op/Ed, you need to follow-up as you would a Press Release. Call the editors of the paper until they acknowledge receipt of the piece, and give you a definite answer.

You could also use Editorial Board Meetings as a time to introduce an Op/Ed. Don't be too pushy; remember that you are cultivating a relationship with the Editors. If your piece is rejected, ask for more information on why they chose not to run it and how you can improve your chances of having future writing published.

### Writing and Publishing Letters to the Editor

A relatively easy way to contribute to the media discourse is by writing Letters to the Editor. Letters should be short (100-150 words), simple, and relevant to an article or ongoing debate in the paper of publication. Send the letter to the address given in your newspaper for “*Letters to the Editor*” and address it to the “*Letters Editor*”.

**Focus on ONE point and make that point at the beginning of the letter.** When referring to a specific item published in the newspaper, cite that item in your opening sentence. *Palestine Media Watch* references several other guidelines to follow:

- Explicitly state that you would like the letter to be considered for publication before continuing with your main text.
- If you are asserting facts, provide references below the letter.
- Provide your full name, home address, and a phone number you can be reached. If your daytime and evening phone numbers are different, provide both.

- Avoid needlessly harsh language, but don't be afraid to be passionate. Hysteria will not help, but don't be afraid to express your anger, as long as you stick to a point of substance.
- Think carefully about your wording. The terminology you use is important and can either reproduce or break-down stereotypes and common assumptions.

**Here are two sample letters to the editor:\***

Dear letters editor:

In her article of January 4th, 2000 ("Violence has only strengthened settlers' resolve"), Naomi Morris refers to Binyamin and Talia Kahane as "two prominent settlers". While it is correct that the two slain Israelis were indeed "prominent settlers", I found it strange that the writer failed to mention to her readers that Binyamin Kahane was in fact head of the Jewish Defense League, an organization committed to ridding Israel of all Arab presence.

Ms. Morris should trust her readers with the facts, all the facts, and only the facts, rather than suppress inconvenient bits and pieces.

[Full Name Here]

[Home Address Here]

[Daytime Phone number Here]

[Evening Phone number Here]

Dear letters editor:

Deborah Sontag's article "Should Israel Sacrifice its Hopes for Peace for Settlers?" (Nov. 15) notes that Israelis are divided on the question whether Israel should continue to maintain settler outposts planted in the West Bank and Gaza.

The article fails to explain the Israeli government's purpose in creating the so-called "settlements" in the first place. Under a program begun by Shimon Peres and his Labor government just after the 1967 war -- and expanded dramatically by Ariel Sharon and others after Likud took power in the late 1970s -- Israel sought to create a network of armed colony villages throughout the occupied territories. Its purpose was to create "facts on the ground" and thereby to prevent the creation of a fully autonomous Palestinian entity.

It should be no surprise, then, that the colonies today remain one of the greatest obstacles to a peace agreement that Palestinians could accept with dignity.

[Full Name Here]

[Home Address Here]

[Daytime Phone number Here]

[Evening Phone number Here]

\* Source: Palestine Media Watch

## Advocating for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine

### Handout 3 -- Sources of Information

The following organizations provide background information on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, updates on current events, and reliable data on a variety of issues. This information can be used to educate oneself as well as one's friends and family and to craft messages targeting elected officials, members of the news media, corporate and institutional leaders, and fellow citizens.

Those organizations shown in bold also provide resources specifically tailored for use by individuals seeking to take an active role in advocating for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, such as e-mail action alerts, online petitions and letters, legislative updates, talking points and audio-visual aids, and tips on organizing events, lobbying, and working with the media.

#### **Americans for Peace Now** – [www.peacenow.org/](http://www.peacenow.org/)

APN was established in 1981 to mobilize support for the Israeli peace movement, Shalom Achshav (Peace Now). For more than two decades both groups have called for the evacuation of settlements and the creation of a viable Palestinian state. According to its web site, APN “has since developed into the most prominent American Jewish, Zionist organization working to achieve a comprehensive political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.”

APN's web site features updates on the peace process and the settlements, including a “We Say, They Say” counterpoint to right wing assertions and an interactive “Facts on the Ground” map. On the advocacy front, the site provides a weekly legislative update and issues action alerts encouraging individuals to contact government officials. For those in the vicinity of Washington, DC, APN also sponsors excellent briefings open to the public.

#### **B'Tselem** – [www.btselem.org/](http://www.btselem.org/)

B'Tselem is the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. The Hebrew word literally means "in the image of," and is also used as a synonym for human dignity. The organization was established in 1989 by a group of academics, attorneys, journalists, and Knesset members endeavoring to document human rights violations in the occupied territories and to educate the Israeli public. It publishes print and online eyewitness accounts of abuses, tracks both Israeli and Palestinian fatalities related to the Occupation, and issues a variety of special reports.

#### **Churches for Middle East Peace** -- [www.cmep.org](http://www.cmep.org)

CMEP is a coalition of 24 national denominations and organizations, including Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox traditions. The Episcopal Church is a member. CMEP directly engages the U.S. administration and Congress to encourage government policies that promote a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its web site lists denominational statements on the conflict, relevant U.N. resolutions, and past peace agreements. CMEP supports grassroots advocates with action alerts, conference calls, and an annual conference in Washington.

#### **Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine** – [www.cjpip.org](http://www.cjpip.org)

CJPIP is a “diverse, community-based group” founded in Chicago in 2007 to “advance the cause of peace and justice for both Israelis and Palestinians.” In October, 2010, it launched the *Two Peoples One Future Campaign*, with a series of informational pocket cards and “Be on our side” ads placed in the transit system. The campaign conveys the message that there are Israelis and Palestinians willing

to work for and live in peace. It also raises awareness about U.S. support for Israel's military occupation of Palestine. The campaign has since spread to San Francisco and other cities. Visitors to the campaign's ([www.twopeoplesonefuture.org/](http://www.twopeoplesonefuture.org/)) can send e-mail messages directly to President Obama and Members of Congress.

**Foundation for Middle East Peace** – [www.fmep.org/](http://www.fmep.org/)

Since 1992, FMEP has published the bimonthly *Report on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Territories*. Based in Washington, DC, it also sponsors excellent briefings.

**Global BDS Movement** -- [www.bdsmovement.net/](http://www.bdsmovement.net/)

This website is overseen by the steering committee of the Palestinian BDS National Committee and has been adopted as a tool of the ICNP (International Coordinating Network on Palestine). Updated by Palestinian and global BDS activists, the site features fact sheets, handbooks, news about current campaigns, and new calls to action.

**Global Exchange** – [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org)

Based in San Francisco, Global Exchange promotes peace, sustainability, workers' rights, and other issues through programs and campaigns around the world. The Mideast section of its web site has three toolkits relating to Israel/Palestine: one on *Lobbying Congress for a Just Peace*, one on *Divesting from Israel*, and one on *Activism for Palestinian Human Rights*. The toolkits can be downloaded for free or purchased in printed form for a nominal cost. The web site also provides regular updates on Israel/Palestine drawn from a variety of regional and international sources. See <http://globalexchange.org/countries/mideast/palestine/toolkits.html>

**If Americans Knew** -- [www.ifamericansknew.org/](http://www.ifamericansknew.org/)

If Americans Knew is an independent research and information institute founded by American journalist Alison Weir. Its Board of Directors includes former Illinois Congressman Paul Findley and career foreign service office Ambassador Andrew Killgore. The organization's mission is "to educate and inform the American public on issues of major significance that are unreported, underreported, or misreported in the American media." It issues "media report cards" analyzing the coverage of Israel/Palestine by major U.S. newspapers and television networks. The web site also draws statistics from a variety of reliable sources on issues such as U.S. tax support for Israel, the demolition of Palestinian homes, demographics, etc., and graphically displays them as bar charts. The section on *Taking Action* (under "About Us") provides tips on individual and group activities, an "Action Blog" with news of national and international actions, and subscriptions for action alerts and articles.

**Institute for Middle East Understanding** – [www.imeu.org](http://www.imeu.org)

The IMEU exists primarily to provide editors and journalists "quick access to information on Palestine and Palestinians, including expert sources." The web site features background briefings and fact sheets on a variety of topics, including politics, human rights, economic and cultural life, etc., as well as profiles of prominent Palestinian-Americans.

**Israeli Committee against Home Demolitions** -- [www.icahd.org/](http://www.icahd.org/)

ICAHD confronts the bulldozers, rebuilds demolished homes, participates in non-violent resistance to the Occupation, and tries to educate Israelis, Americans, and others by reframing the conflict through its publications and advocacy work. Its web site features an FAQ section about the Israeli process of denying building permits to Palestinians, authorizing demolitions, and allowing Israeli construction. In addition to publications and videos that can be ordered, the site also includes material that can be

downloaded for free, including an *Advocacy Pack* consisting of Power-point presentations and handout materials and a 36-page booklet on *Counter-Rhetoric: Challenging Conventional Wisdom*.

**J Street** – [www.jstreet.org/](http://www.jstreet.org/)

J Street was established in 2008 to be “a political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans.” A registered lobby, J Street is affiliated with JStreetPAC, a political action committee that supports endorsed candidates for federal office, and the J Street Educational Trust, which sponsors an annual conference, organizes community and campus groups, and leads Congressional and other delegations to Israel/Palestine. J Street believes “that a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is essential to Israel’s survival as the national home of the Jewish people and as a vibrant democracy.” While J Street primarily seeks to enlist and represent American Jews, its free membership is open to all. Its web site includes policy positions, articles and current news, and an online sign-up for action alerts.

**Jewish Voice for Peace** -- <http://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>

A national organization based in Oakland, JVP bases its advocacy on the Jewish ideals of peace, social justice, equality, human rights, and international law. It seeks a U.S. foreign policy based on these principles, an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and security and self-determination for both the Israelis and Palestinians.

JVP has local chapters around the country, operates a leadership development institute, and has launched a major U.S. campaign to pressure TIAA-CREF to divest from companies that profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Through its *Muzzle Watch* program, JVP tracks efforts to stifle debate on Israel/Palestine policy. Its web site includes an introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Q&A form, action alerts, online petitions, and an *Activists Toolkit* with ads, posters, and fact sheets.

**Middle East Channel** – <http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/>

The Middle East Channel is a collaborative effort by Foreign Policy magazine, the Middle East Task Force of the New America Foundation, and the Project on Middle East Political Science. Sign up online for twice-weekly updates by e-mail.

**New America Foundation, Middle East Task Force** -- <http://middleeast.newamerica.net/>

Founded in 1999, the New America Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan public policy institute. Combining research, publications, conferences, and public events, its multi-year Policy Programs seek to introduce innovative policy solutions into the national debate on a wide variety of domestic and global issues. The web site of its Middle East Task Force provides policy papers, a sampling of articles and op-eds from overseas sources, blogs, and a daily news feed from the Middle East Channel.

**Who Profits?** – [www.whoprofits.org](http://www.whoprofits.org)

This web site is the product of an on-going investigative effort by the Coalition of Women for Peace, a leading Israeli feminist peace organization ([www.coalitionofwomen.org/](http://www.coalitionofwomen.org/)). The coalition is dedicated to ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine and reaching a just peace in Israel/ Palestine. By exposing companies and corporations involved in the occupation, the group seeks to promote a change in public opinion and corporate policies.

This site has an extensive database of Israeli and international companies that are profiting from the occupation. It can be searched by company name, type of industry, location (e.g. corporate headquarters or location in the Occupied Territories), and nature of involvement (e.g., construction of

illegal settlements, the separation wall, and checkpoints, provision of methods to control the Palestinian population, etc.). The site includes reports on each company and a monthly newsletter (also available by e-mail).

**U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation -- [www.endtheoccupation.org/](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/)**

The Campaign “focuses on the U.S. government, corporations, and other institutions that sustain Israeli domination of the Palestinian people and its denial of their human rights.” By working with a coalition of over 380 national, regional, and local groups, the Campaign seeks to inform, educate, and mobilize public opinion in order to end the occupation of Palestine. Major areas of focus include the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, exposing the apartheid aspects of the occupation, and challenging U.S. policy. The website offers e-mail alerts, a searchable database of events, talking points, tips on taking action, and other resources.

On a separate site – [www.weaponstoisrael.org/section.php?id=360](http://www.weaponstoisrael.org/section.php?id=360) -- the Campaign documents the extent to which U.S. tax dollars are providing the Israelis with weapons that are used against the Palestinian population.