

# Policies on Israel/Palestine of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

POLICIES APPROVED UP TO AND INCLUDING 223RD GA, 2018.  
NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST. FOR MORE, SEE PC-BIZ.ORG, OR INDEX.PCUSA.ORG



## Human Rights

- Called for the use of diplomatic tools by the government of the United States to bring Israel into full compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by granting full equality to its citizens who are Palestinian, by “changing its laws, policies, and practices that favor its Jewish citizens and discriminate against its Christian and Muslim citizens and other ethnic minorities.” 2018
- Affirmed Nonviolent Means of Resistance Against Human Oppression. 2016
- Passed the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy report entitled: For Human Values in the Absence of a Just Peace. 2016
- Advocated for the Safety and Well-being of Children of Palestine and Israel. 2016
- Reaffirmed the commitment of the PC(USA) to the human rights of all children, particularly the children of Palestine and Israel. 2014
  - Directed the Presbyterian Mission Agency to engage in advocacy and public witness for the human rights of children in Palestine and Israel in relation to widespread and systematic patterns of ill-treatment and torture within the Israeli military detention system. 2014
  - Reaffirmed the support of the PC(USA) for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and affirms its support for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement on children in armed conflict. 2014
- 219th GA (2010) reaffirmed the historical positions of the PCUSA and documented Israeli human rights violations, calling for:
  - the end of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and diversion of water resources. 2010
  - an immediate freeze both on the establishment or expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and on the Israeli acquisition of Palestinian land and buildings in East Jerusalem. 2010
  - relocation by Israel of the Separation Barrier to the 1967 border. 2010

- withholding of U.S. government aid to the state of Israel as long as Israel persists in creating new West Bank settlement. 2010
- equal rights for Palestinian citizens of the state of Israel. 2010
- cessation of systematic violation of human rights by any party, specifically, practices of admin. detention, collective punishment, torture of prisoners and suspects, home demolitions and evictions, and deportation of dissidents. 2010
- Stated that the Israeli occupation leads to the denial of human rights for Palestinians and is a violation of international law. 2010

## Economic Actions

- Urged RE/MAX, LLC to do “everything within its legal and moral power” to stop facilitating the sale and rental of properties in Israeli settlements built on occupied Palestinian land in East Jerusalem and the West Bank in violation of international law and longstanding official US policy. The action urged RE/MAX to no longer refer any clients to agents or brokers involved in the sale or rental of properties in the occupied areas. 2018
- Instructed the Presbyterian Foundation and Board of Pensions of the PC(USA) to divest from Caterpillar, Inc., Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions, in accord with our church’s decades-long socially responsible investment (SRI) history; and not to reinvest in these companies until MRTI, the Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee of the PC(USA), is fully satisfied that product sales/services by these companies are no longer in conflict with our church investment policy. 2014
  - For full language see: [pc-biz.org](http://pc-biz.org) 2014 Mideast Cmt.
- Called for the boycott of ALL Israeli products coming from the occupied Palestinian Territories, including AHAVA Dead Sea Laboratories Beauty Products, and all date products of Hadiklaim, The Israel Date Growers Co-Operative Ltd, often marked by the brand names King Solomon Dates and Jordan River Dates. 2012
- Devise a plan of active investment in projects that will support collaboration among Christians, Jews, and

Muslims and help in the development of a viable infrastructure for a future Palestinian state. 2012

- Changed the language of the MRTI mandate from “phased selective divestment” to “corporate engagement,” taking out the word divestment. The mandate itself to engage with US corporations who profit from human rights violations in Palestine remained in place, but the change in language gave rise to the incorrect conclusion that the PC(USA) dialed back its position on economic actions. 2006
- A historic call for MRTI, Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee, “to initiate a process of phased selective divestment in multinational corporations operating in Israel, in accordance to General Assembly policy on social investing, and to make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly Council for action.” 2004 - This was the beginning of a 10 year process that led to Assembly voting in 2014 to divest from 3 American companies (not Israeli) profiting from the Israeli military occupation. 2004

## Solidarity

- Expressed “profound grief and sorrow” for the families of Palestinians killed during the Great March of Return protests in Gaza, and prayed for the recovery of those injured. The Assembly further deplored the killing of more than twenty Palestinian medics, and renewed the call of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for an end to decade- old Israeli blockade of Gaza, which has been condemned by the UN and human rights organizations as a form of collective punishment. 2018
- Upheld the Peoples and Partners in the Middle East and in the U.S. 2016
- Affirmed Israel’s right to exist as a sovereign nation within secure and internationally recognized borders in accordance with United Nations resolutions. 2010
- Stated that it is estimated that 24,145 Palestinian homes have been demolished in the West Bank since 1967. Stated the overwhelming consensus of the committee was that “Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is a sin against God and other fellow human beings.” 2010
- Endorses the “Amman Call” regarding Arab-Israeli peace, issued by the World Council of Churches’ conference, “Churches Together for Peace and Justice in the Middle East,” at Amman, Jordan, June 18-20, 2007, including its affirmation of the UN resolutions that are the basis of a projected “two-state” solution, a shared Jerusalem, and the human rights of refugees and occupied peoples, its call to resist extremism and push for reconciliation, and its commitment to imperatives of ecumenical solidarity in action for Just Peace. 2008

- The GA mandate for our network, theIPMN.org Directed “the formation of a ‘Palestine Mission Network’ as soon as possible, for the purpose of creating currents of wider and deeper Presbyterian involvement with Palestinian partners, aimed at demonstrating solidarity and changing the conditions that erode the humanity of Palestinians living in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.” 2004
- Directed World Mission (then Worldwide Ministries Division) “to explore the dimensions, costs, appropriate development approach, stability of political conditions, availability of expertise, and possible sources of funding, of an intentional and systematic effort of development and compassionate action in Palestine either by or through a team connected to the WMD-related Palestine Mission Network...” this is now housed in our network, theIPMN.org. 2004

## First Amendment Rights

- Overwhelmingly opposed federal and state laws designed to suppress BDS by Presbyterians. Affirmed that BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) campaigns in support of Palestinian human rights are political speech protected by the First Amendment. the Assembly/PC(USA) opposed the muzzling of debate and discussion about Israel’s illegal military occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. 2018

## Study and Theology

- Resolved to Prayerfully Study the Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS, Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions. 2016
- Received for study, A Moment of Truth, aka Kairos Palestine, a confessional document from the Palestinian Christian community. The Assembly commended it “to use by our presbyteries and congregations as an advocacy tool” and called “on the Interfaith Office to include in its discussions with American Jewish and Muslim groups a careful study of the Palestinian Christian Kairos document.” 2010
- Repudiated Christian Zionism as an incorrect reading of the Bible and an example of antisemitism. 2004



THE ISRAEL/PALESTINE MISSION NETWORK  
*of the* PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
www.theIPMN.org