**ADDRESSING ISRAELI DETENTION OF CHILDREN**Submitted by the New England Confernece to the UMC General Conference

**Whereas** thousands of Palestinian children (defined by both sides as those under 18 and some are as young as 12 years old) have been taken from homes and villages in their own land since 2000
(https://www.hrw.org/world-re- port/2016/children-behind-bars), and

**Whereas** it has been independently documented that many of the children have been abused by the Israeli mili- tary or by settlers (https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/. premium.MAGAZINE-most-palestinian-minors-arrest- ed-by-israel-claim-violence-during-detention-1.5456372 April 3, 2017), and

**Whereas** the children who are removed from their homes are taken to settlements or to interrogation sites, and sometimes into Israel which is a war crime according to the Fourth Geneva Convention
(“Implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories: history of a multilateral process (1997-2001)” International Committee of the Red Cross March 3, 2002, https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/arti- cle/other/5fldpj.htm), and

**Whereas** UNICEF has documented that the chil- dren are often held for an extended time with no law- yer and without the presence or even knowledge of their parents
(https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/. premium-two-thirds-of-palestinian-minors-testi- fy-to-abuse-in-israeli-detention-1.5629260 December 21, 2017; Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations, February 2015; <https:// www.unicef.org/sop/reports/children-israeli-military-de- tention>; https://www.dci-palestine.org/without\_en- shrined\_protections\_children\_under\_israeli\_military\_ar- rest\_face\_rampant\_abuses, September 18, 2018), and

**Whereas** the Social Principles of the Book of Disci- pline of The United Methodist Church explicitly affirms the rights of children
 (¶162C, The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2016), and

**Whereas** the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by every member of the United Nations except the United States

**Whereas** in the previous six years legislation has been introduced and reintroduced in the United States Con- gress that seeks to prevent the United States from financing Israel’s military detention, interrogation, abuse, and ill-treatment of Palestinian children
(Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act; https://mccollum.house.gov/sites/mccol- lum.house.gov/files/documents/17.1107MCCOLL\_005\_ xml.pdf; https://mccollum.house.gov/sites/mccollum. house.gov/files/documents/MCCOLL\_011\_FINAL3\_ xml.pdf; https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-con- gress/house-bill/2590; https://www.congress.gov/ bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2407; https://www.con- gress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4391), and

**Whereas** the United Methodist baptismal covenant binds us to accept the freedom and power God gives us to “resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves,”
(United Methodist Hymnal, pg. 34)

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the 2024 General Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on the U.S. government to adopt legislation pre- venting the United States from financing Israel’s military detention, interrogation, abuse, and ill-treatment of Pales- tinian children, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2024 Gen- eral Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on the Senate and President of the United States to proceed with ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.