



# **ORGANIZING FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19**

**As organizers building a better world with justice for all people, we know that times of great social crisis must be transformed into moments of great possibility. Inspired by generations of resilient organizers, the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR) national organizing and advocacy staff created this toolkit for local Palestinian rights organizers wrestling with the challenges of this moment.**

**In this toolkit, you will find resources to care for your communities, build people power using digital tools, and connect struggles from the U.S. to Palestine. We welcome your additions: [contact@uscpr.org](mailto:contact@uscpr.org)**

*Many individuals and organizations put together indispensable resources listed here, among them [350](#), [All Things Not Considered by Ileana Hagenah](#), [Equality Labs](#), [Irresistible \(fkw Healing Justice Podcast\)](#), [Jewish Voice for Peace \(JVP\)](#), [MASA Organizing](#), [PowerLabs](#), [War Resisters League](#), and [Win Without War](#).*



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# **1. ORGANIZING IN OUR COMMUNITIES & COVID-19**

In this time of instability, community organizers are meeting big challenges with even bigger solutions. The resources below cover organizing in this moment and connecting with other organizers, and articulate demands to defend our communities. In particular, you can boost the demands and connect them to [a vision of justice for all, from the U.S. to Palestine](#).

## **READ: TOP THREE RESOURCES**

- ❖ [Coronavirus Resource Kit](#)
- ❖ [Actions & Mobilizations: Plan Now to Adapt to Coronavirus Safely](#)
- ❖ [Digital Resilience in the Time of Coronavirus](#) (Equality Labs)

## **WATCH & APPLY: DIGITAL EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

- ❖ [VIDEO: Campaigning During Corona](#) (Movement School)
- ❖ [Digital Events for Cultural Workers](#) (Highlander Center) | March 18 + 19, 7 PM + 4 PM EST
- ❖ GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
  - [COVID-19 Mutual Aid Crisis Fund Grant Opportunity](#) (Social Justice Fund)
  - [Organizers & Mutual Aid Projects Across the Country](#) (Emergent Fund People's Bailouts)

## **CONNECT: PLATFORMS TO LINK WITH ORGANIZERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

- ❖ [FACEBOOK GROUP: People's Coronavirus Response](#)
- ❖ [SLACK: COVID-19 Response Community](#)
- ❖ [LISTSERV: For Online Facilitators](#)
- ❖ [MUTUAL AID ANYWHERE: Pod Mapping for Mutual Aid](#)
- ❖ [MUTUAL AID IN YOUR COMMUNITY: Extensive list of networks & guides](#)



## **BOOST: ORGANIZING DEMANDS ON COVID-19**

### ❖ OVERALL

- [Demands from Grassroots Organizers Concerning COVID-19](#)
- [Statement on COVID-19 and Community Demands](#) (Bay Rising)

### ❖ PUBLIC HEALTH

- [Open Letter from Public Health Experts and Scholars](#)

### ❖ WORKER JUSTICE

- [Open Letter to Local Leaders re Worker Protections](#) (Partnership for Working Families)

### ❖ MIGRANT JUSTICE

- [Demands for Government to Release All People in Immigration Detention](#) (Undocublack)
- [Demand ICE Halt ALL Operations and Let Our People Go](#) (United We Dream)

### ❖ JUSTICE FOR CAREGIVERS

- [AiJen Poo, NDWA: What Do Caregivers Need?](#) (*The New York Times*)

### ❖ JUSTICE FOR PRISONERS

- [Humane Outbreak Response Platform](#) (coalition of 60+ organizations)
- [COVID-19 Statement of Demands](#) (No New Jails DC)
- [Examples of Policies That Can Spread Viral Pandemic in Prisons and Jails](#) (Prison Policy Initiative)
- [Fact Sheet and Policy Demands for Jails and Prisons](#) (The Justice Collaborative)

### ❖ WORKER & MIGRANT JUSTICE

- [National Day Laborer Organizing Network Demands](#)

### ❖ RACIAL JUSTICE & CHALLENGING MILITARISM

- [Denounce Anti-Asian Racism around COVID-19](#) (National Council of Asian Pacific Americans)
- [Preventing Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Racism](#) (National Council of Asian Pacific Americans)
- [Lift Sanctions on Iran](#) (The Intercept)



## 2. CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES: TIPS & TOOLS FOR STAYING SOCIAL DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING

With new technology and existing community-building practices, we can bridge physical distance to continue deepening the powerful community roots that allow our movements to thrive. Use this moment to invest even more deeply in community connections, care, and healing.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH

- ❖ [PODCAST: Coronavirus: Wisdom from a Social Justice Lens](#) (Irresistible fka Healing Justice)
- ❖ FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS & DISABILITY
  - [COVID-19 Prep for People Living with Chronic Illness](#) (Peoples Hub)
  - [Resources on COVID-19 and Practices Centering People with Chronic Illnesses and Disability](#) (Irresistible (fka Healing Justice) Podcast)
    - [Donate to this effort](#)
- ❖ MULTILINGUAL RESOURCES
  - [Know the Symptoms of Social Distancing Graphic in Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian, Portugese, German, Turkish, Italian, Farsi, and Greek](#)
- ❖ FOR AAPI COMMUNITIES
  - [Community Care During COVID-19: A Message To and From AAPIs](#)
- ❖ FOR UNHOUSED PEOPLE
  - [Recommendations to Support the Health of People Experiencing Homelessness During the Coronavirus State of Emergency](#) (Street Sheet)
- ❖ FOR DRUG USERS
  - [Safer Drug Use During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- ❖ FOR SURVIVORS
  - [Resources and Information for Survivors](#) (Futures Without Violence)
- ❖ FOR KIDS
  - [Coronavirus Comic for Kids](#) (Culture Strike)



❖ FOR MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

- Resources under development - please check back!

## COMMUNITY CARE & MENTAL HEALTH

- ❖ [COVID Collective Care Resource Kit](#)
- ❖ [Care for Your Coronavirus Anxiety Tools](#)
- ❖ [Strengthening Our Spirits to Resist and Thrive in These Times](#) (Finding Steady Ground)

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

Consider hosting community events over video call to keep up morale, stay connected, and build the connective people power we need! Making this connection most meaningful and sustaining usually means making new memories together, rather than just catching up or reminiscing. Suggested activities are below!

- ❖ [Community Building During the Coronavirus](#) (Indivisible)
- ❖ Make digital entertainment a group video activity
  - [Netflix Watch Parties](#)
  - [Broadway Plays & Musicals online](#)
  - [12 Famous Museums Offer Virtual Tours](#)
- ❖ Creating text or call check-in routines
- ❖ Writing new 20-second hand washing songs or rituals together
- ❖ Doing video dance-offs, where you send videos back and forth
- ❖ Reading plays or screenplays together via video or phone
- ❖ Organizing community poetry writing, digital rap battles, virtual concerts, and/or open mics
- ❖ Cooking or baking together over video call for a virtual potluck
- ❖ Organizing digital reading groups, skill-shares, or teach-ins
- ❖ [Seizing the opportunity of home quarantine](#) with these suggestions of individual activities



## 3. HOW TO BUILD PEOPLE POWER DIGITALLY DURING COVID-19

Despite being unable to meet in person, our organizing is still vital. The need for real interventions and alternatives to the status quo are clearer than ever. The following software tools, trainings on remote work and online facilitation, and suggested organizing tools will help us transition from in-person to virtual organizing. With these, you can host digital gatherings, meetings, and trainings.

*\* See software options for staying connected at the end of this document.*

### RESOURCES ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS ORGANIZING DURING COVID-19

- ❖ [National SJP is hosting Virtual Israeli Apartheid Week](#) (see more on Apartheid Week [here](#))
- ❖ [Calling for Collective Responses to COVID-19](#) (Scientists of the Palestinian Youth Movement)
- ❖ [Social Justice in a Time of Social Distancing](#) (Design Studio for Social Interventions)

### HOSTING DIGITAL EVENTS & TRANSITIONING TO REMOTE COLLABORATION

- ❖ [Caring Across Distance: Some Things to Consider Before Hosting Movement Gatherings](#)
- ❖ [Zoom: Best Practices for Hosting a Digital Event](#)
- ❖ [Facilitating Online Meetings & Trainings](#) (tips from Grassroots activists)
- ❖ [How to Change a Physical Event to a Virtual Conference](#)
- ❖ Trainings to improve your remote organizing skills:
  - [Training for Change's Free Trainings in Online Facilitation](#) (in March, register soon!)
  - [Trainings on Online Meetings and Effective Collaboration](#) (350.org)
  - [Trainings from Organization United for Respect](#) (a series of trainings on online facilitation—including working from home with kids)

### VIRTUAL ORGANIZING TACTICS

- ❖ [Good overall resource on organizing tactics](#)



- ❖ [Peer-to-peer texting](#)
- ❖ [Virtual phone banks](#)
- ❖ Write-ins to newspapers
- ❖ Call-ins to radio shows
- ❖ Social media actions: Posting photos, using hashtags, and tagging people
- ❖ Relational organizing: Create phone trees or nodes
- ❖ Skills shares around organizing or mutual aid
- ❖ Online town halls
- ❖ Zoom call actions: People log on and check in with each other, do an action (e.g. call five people you know) and then come back to report and brainstorm
- ❖ [Digital Lobby Day](#) with big virtual asks: Song videos, visual petitions, video with shared background

## **INSPIRATION: DIGITAL POLITICAL EDUCATION & ORGANIZING FROM THE PAST**

- ❖ [Digital SNCC Gateway Project](#)
- ❖ [Because We've Read Digital Bookclub](#)
- ❖ [Southern Movement Virtual Organizing Intensive](#)





## **4. POLITICAL ANALYSIS & IDEAS FOR OUR ORGANIZING: INVEST-DIVEST, HEALTH CARE, PALESTINE & U.S. MILITARY FUNDING TO ISRAEL**

The current crisis has sharply revealed the contours of the harm people are working to mitigate and prevent daily. As we formulate our organizing responses to a global pandemic, we have the chance to translate this crisis into divesting from militarism and investing in community needs—so we can build a more just world for all, from the U.S. to Palestine.

### **DIVESTING FROM MILITARISM & INVESTING IN COMMUNITY NEEDS**

- ❖ [Where Your Tax Money Really Goes](#) (War Resisters League)
- ❖ [Map of U.S. Military Funding to Israel](#): Find your state/county/city's contribution (USCPR)
- ❖ [Farhad Manjoo: Everyone's A Socialist in a Pandemic](#) (*The New York Times*)
- ❖ [National COVID-19 Messaging Document](#) (Race Class Narrative)

### **FIGHTING ABLEISM & RACISM: LEARNING FROM DISABLED & BIPOC COMMUNITIES**

- ❖ [Resources on COVID-19 and Practices Centering People with Chronic Illnesses and Disability](#) (Irresistible (formerly Healing Justice) Podcast)
- ❖ [Maddy Ruvolo: Quarantine, Living with Chronic Illness, & Ableism](#) ([sign up for newsletter](#))
- ❖ [Alice Wong: Coronavirus and the Disability Community](#)
- ❖ [Walela Nehanda: I'm Immune Compromised & High Risk COVID-19, Mutual Aid is What's Saving My Life](#) (Medium)
- ❖ [Ten Equity Implications of the COVID Outbreak in the US](#) (NAACP)
- ❖ [Ensuring Racial Equity When Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Health)
- ❖ [Sean Illing and Natalia Molina: Why Pandemics Activate Xenophobia](#) (Vox)



## **RESOURCES ON COVID-19 IMPACTS IN PALESTINE**

- ❖ [Coronavirus: Palestinian Inmates Fear for Their Lives in Filthy and Crowded Israeli Jails](#) (Middle East Eye)
- ❖ [Updates on the Coronavirus Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#) (World Health Organization)
- ❖ [Palestinian Workers Face Difficult Choice Between Livelihood and Isolation](#) (Middle East Eye)
- ❖ [Steven Salaita on Comparisons to Palestine](#)
- ❖ [Lessons From the First Palestinian Intifada](#) (In These Times)



## 5. SOFTWARE FOR STAYING CONNECTED

VIDEO CHAT TOOLS				
TOOL (HOW-TO GUIDE LINKED)	COST + HOW MANY PEOPLE	ACCESSIBILITY/ FEATURES	SECURE? (ENCRYPTED)	MOBILE/ DESKTOP
<a href="#">GOOGLE HANGOUTS</a> <i>chats/video meetings</i>	Free! Up to 10 ppl on video	Must have a Gmail account to host or join a call. Can screen share.	<a href="#">Secured, but not encrypted</a>	Both
<a href="#">HANGOUTS MEET</a> <i>(business version of Google Hangouts)</i>	Requires G-Suite account. Additional features free thru July 1. Up to 250 ppl per call, livestream up to 100,000 viewers	Non-Gmail users can join. Can screen share + present a Google presentation. Has captions for accessibility.	<a href="#">Secured, but not encrypted</a>	Both
<a href="#">ZOOM MEETINGS</a> <i>video meetings/events</i>	Subscription + up to 500 ppl (Zoom free accounts only work for 40 minute calls; unlimited calls cost \$15/month)	Can screen share, <a href="#">create polls</a> and <a href="#">breakout rooms</a>	<a href="#">Yes, encrypted</a>	Both
<a href="#">SKYPE</a> <i>video calls</i>	Free! Up to 50 ppl	Record calls + video captions	Yes	Both
<a href="#">MICROSOFT TEAMS</a> <i>available for free because of COVID-19</i>	Free! Up to 250 ppl	Screen sharing, has a joint workspace with Office 365	<a href="#">Yes, encrypted</a>	Both
<a href="#">FREECONFERENCECALL</a> <i>phone/video calls</i>	Free! Phone calls Up to 1,000 ppl, video up to 25 ppl	Screen sharing and breakout rooms available	<a href="#">Yes, encrypted</a>	Either/or
<a href="#">CISCO WEBEX</a> <i>additional features because of COVID</i>	<a href="#">Free!</a> Up to 100 ppl in a video call	Screen sharing and call-in for audio, Q&A and polling features	<a href="#">Yes, encrypted.</a>	Both
<a href="#">LOGMEIN/GOTO MEETING</a> <i>available for free because of COVID-19</i>	Free for certain non-profits. Up to 250 people	Recording, screen sharing, conference calling	<a href="#">Yes, encrypted.</a>	Both
<a href="#">FACETIME</a> <i>video calls only on iPhone/Macs</i>	Free! Up to 32 ppl on video	Easy for non-tech savvy, Animoji, stickers, live photos	Yes	Both



<b>CHAT/MESSAGING TOOLS</b>				
<p><b>FACEBOOK MESSENGER</b> <i>fun/informal video chats</i></p>	Free! Up to 50 ppl, 6 onscreen at a time	Can create polls. Can use filters and stickers during video chat, can send voice + video messages	No	Both
<p><b>WHATSAPP</b> <i>chats/voice notes/video calls</i></p>	Free! Up to 4 ppl on video, Up to 256 in a group	Can send longer voice messages, can share files and photos	Yes, encrypted	Both, but desktop version does not support video calls
<p><b>SLACK</b> <i>messaging app that's good for keeping multiple projects in place</i></p>	Paid. Up to 15 ppl in a video call, many more can join each channel	Can link in Google Docs, create different project threads	<a href="#">Secured, but not encrypted</a>	Both
<p><b>MARCO POLO</b> <i>sending video messages</i></p>	Free!	Videos save. Filters + voice effects + text	No	Mobile