

ADDRESSING FEDERAL LEGISLATION ON ISRAELI DETENTION OF CHILDREN

Whereas on November 14, 2017, legislation was introduced in the United States Congress entitled *Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act (H.R. 4391)* which declares that “Peace can only be achieved by respecting human rights, especially the rights of children,” and seeks to prevent the United States from financing Israel’s military detention, interrogation, abuse, and ill-treatment of Palestinian children,¹ and

Whereas thousands of Palestinian children, some as young as 12 years old, have been taken from homes and villages in their own land since 2000,² and

Whereas it has been independently documented that many of the children have been abused by the Israeli military or by settlers,³ 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,⁴ and

Whereas UNICEF has documented that the children are often held for an extended time with no lawyer and without the presence or even knowledge of their parents,⁵ and

Whereas the Social Principles of the Book of Discipline of the UMC explicitly affirms the rights of children,⁶ 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,”⁷

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on all United Methodist Boards and Agencies to conduct a critical review of any investments that contribute to the suffering and abuse of Palestinian children, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this annual conference charge its Board of Church and Society [or equivalent board or committee] with considering how the conference should best respond to the issue of child incarceration, including:

- 1) How best to educate United Methodists;
- 2) Whether and how to interact with lawmakers about proposed legislation; and
- 3) Whether the conference should dissociate financially from entities at home or abroad that profit from child imprisonment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the considerations and any recommendations of the conference’s Board of Church and Society [or equivalent board or committee] be brought to the 2019 annual conference for review and/or action, including any recommendations that should be directed to the General Conference of the UMC in 2020.

1. [Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act \(H.R. 4391\)](https://mccollum.house.gov/sites/mccollum.house.gov/files/documents/17.1107MCCOLL_005_xml.pdf)
https://mccollum.house.gov/sites/mccollum.house.gov/files/documents/17.1107MCCOLL_005_xml.pdf

2. Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations, March 6, 2013
https://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf

3. “Most Palestinian Minors Arrested by Israel Claim Violence During Detention” Haaretz, April 3, 2017
<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium.MAGAZINE-most-palestinian-minors-arrested-by-israel-claim-violence-during-detention-1.5456372>
4. “Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations” UNICEF March 6, 2013
https://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf and “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/article/other/5fldpj.htm>
5. Children in Israeli Military Detention: Observations and Recommendations, March 6, 2013
https://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf
6. 2016 Book of Discipline, UMC, Paragraph 162 C
7. United Methodist Hymnal, pg. 34