

Costly Solidarity for Disciples



A toolkit for congregations committing to work for justice and the human rights of Palestinians

WHERE TO BEGIN

What are concrete steps you as an individual and your congregation as a community of faith might take to engage in the work of costly solidarity for disciples? No one of us has to DO everything. But individually and collectively, we are called to do something. This handout is a companion piece to the Toolkit offering some specific suggestions for some of the actions you and/or your congregation might take right away.

Share the *Costly Solidarity for Disciples Toolkit* with others in your congregation and convene a discussion about possible actions that individuals feel called to take.

Organize a group to read and discuss [Rooted in Faith and Justice](#), edited by Rebekah Choate, Krista Johnson Weicksel & Peter Makari. A timely introduction, through the eyes of Palestinian Christian leaders and solidarity activists, to the history, challenges, and realities of life under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Organize a viewing of the Oscar-award winning documentary film [No Other Land](#) which, with its focus on the story of Israel's demolition of Palestinian villages in the South Hebron Hills, provides insight into the reality of oppression throughout the West Bank. Learn more about the film from Richard Brody's October 18, 2024 New Yorker article [No Other Land Puts a Palestinian Neighborhood on the World Map](#)

Encourage members of your congregation to read and discuss relevant General Synod Resolutions: 2005 [Concerning Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East](#); 2015 [Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict](#); 2021 [Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel](#); 2025 [Declaration for an End to the Genocide in Palestine](#).

Form a study group to read and discuss Palestinian pastor Munther Isaac's [Christ in the Rubble: Faith, the Bible, and the Genocide in Gaza](#). See this study guide prepared by the Rev. Aiden Kelley on behalf of the Southern New England Conference UCC Palestine Solidarity Task Team : [Christ in the Rubble Study Guide](#)

Support Palestinian civil society's call for Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions through boycotting the products of one (or more) of companies that support Israel's occupation and harm Palestinians, for example: [Chevron](#), [Starbucks](#), [Microsoft](#), [Reebok](#). Share with friends that you are doing this and let them (and the company) know why.

Learn whether your state is one of the 37 in the United States that has passed legislation to criminalize boycotts against Israel. To understand more about the criminalizing of the time-honored, and UCC supported, nonviolent strategy of boycott, watch the 2021 Just Vision film, [Boycott](#).

Advocate for the end of U.S military funding of Israel's genocide in Gaza and on-going occupation:

- Urge your representative to co-sponsor the Block the Bomb bill, [H.R. 3565](#), introduced by Rep. Delia Ramirez, that prohibits the President from selling, transferring, or exporting certain defense articles or services to Israel. Go [here](#) to find the list of current co-sponsors. If your Representative is one of them, call to thank them. If not, call and ask them to co-sponsor.
- Did your two U.S. Senators vote on July 30, 2025 to support the Joint Resolution of Disapproval of the proposed export of certain weapons to Israel? Check [here](#) to find out. If so, call to thank them. If not, call and ask why they voted against this resolution and ask them to support restricting US arms to Israel.

Does your congregation have an investment portfolio? Learn whether your church's funds are invested in any of the companies that are on the [AFSC Divest List](#) and if so, urge the church's fund advisors to divest. If your congregation invests through [United Church Funds](#), work with UCF's socially responsible advisors to ensure your assets are invested so as to be apartheid/occupation free.

Engage your congregation in a process to study and consider taking the pledge to become an [Apartheid Free](#) congregation.

Register for [Let Children Live](#), a campaign initiated by Save the Children Norway and Amnesty International Norway, to receive the first name of a Palestinian child to pray for and represent by saying their naming and demanding for them "life, liberty, and justice."

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