



5.2 Million Churchgoers Say: Stand with the Oppressed by Supporting Palestinian Children’s Rights (H.R. 2407)

As Black and brown children around the world face criminalization, among them Palestinian children facing systematic abuse in Israeli military detention, progressives are moving to action. Progressive support for the values of freedom, equality, and justice for all people are embodied in the leadership of several mainline Christian denominations across the United States. **Representing a total of more than 5.2 million people, these denominations passed resolutions opposing the use of U.S. tax dollars to fund the mistreatment and incarceration of Palestinian children, and supporting H.R. 2407, the Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act.**

Denominations taking action against U.S. complicity in the abuse of Palestinian children include the Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church, Alliance of Baptists, Disciples of Christ, and seven conferences of the United Methodist Church. These churches condemn the violence of Israel’s brutal military occupation and demand that U.S. tax dollars not be used to fund the abuse of Palestinian children. Their resolutions are testaments to the universality of our progressive principles: **supporters of justice and equality everywhere must oppose separate-and-unequal systems anywhere, including the separate-and-unequal military detention system for Palestinian children.**

Episcopal Church, United Methodist Conferences, & Alliance of Baptists Endorse Rep. McCollum’s Resolution to Safeguard the Rights of Palestinian Children (H.R. 2407)

The Alliance of Baptists in April 2019 passed a [powerful statement](#), “[Children in Detention](#),” supporting the rights of children, from the U.S.-Mexico border to Palestine. The Episcopal Church passed “[Safeguard the Rights of Palestinian Children](#)” in the summer of 2018 to “certify annually that no funds obligated or expended in the previous year by the United States for assistance to Israel have been used to support the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international humanitarian law.” In the United Methodist Church, seven of its regional conferences, in West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, Western Michigan, Oregon/Idaho, Minnesota, Upper New York, and California-Nevada, [passed one or more resolutions](#) supporting Palestinian children’s rights.

Presbyterian Church Challenges the Criminalization of Palestinian Children

The Presbyterian Church (USA) passed a resolution in the summer of 2016, “[On Advocating for the Safety and Well-being of Children of Palestine and Israel](#),” which speaks to the separate-and-unequal treatment of Palestinians, and specifically the criminalization of Palestinian youth in the occupied West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem.

UCC & Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Declare: “Gospel Requires We Allow No Human Rights Exception for Israel’s Treatment of Palestinian Children”

In the summer of 2017, both the United Christian Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) passed “[A Call for the United Church of Christ to Advocate for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation](#).” This resolution endorsed the previous iteration of H.R. 2407 and called for Israel to be held to the same standard as all countries by adhering to laws surrounding foreign military aid. The resolution is an expression of faith through action, and ultimately, “discipleship requires solidarity with the vulnerable and oppressed.”