

How Are the Children?

Palestinian Children in Israeli military detention

July newsletter

Promotion and viewing of the *How Are the Children?* film and curriculum are driven by grassroots efforts. We count upon your personal involvement to present the curriculum to your local UCC congregation, peace and justice committee, or conference-wide gathering.

This month's newsletter highlights two events where UCCers successfully promoted the film and curriculum—an ecumenical gathering of faith leaders in Portland, Oregon, and UCC General Synod in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As well, we provide some very encouraging data regarding distribution and use of the *How Are the Children?* website and videos.

More information about the film and curriculum, including resources for presenters, can be found here: www.HATCnow.org.

How Are the Children? initiative, by the numbers

Website visitors

Since launching the *How Are the Children?* initiative seven months ago (in December 2018), the website www.HATCnow.org has been in high demand. By May 13th, one thousand separate individuals had visited the site. By end of June, the total reached 1,200 individual visitors. (See graph immediately to right.)

YouTube views by individuals and groups

How Are the Children? Trailer – 1,056 views as of July 1st

How Are the Children? Part 1 – 546 views as of July 1st

How Are the Children? Part 2 – 297 views as of July 1st

To view the YouTube videos: www.HATCnow.org.

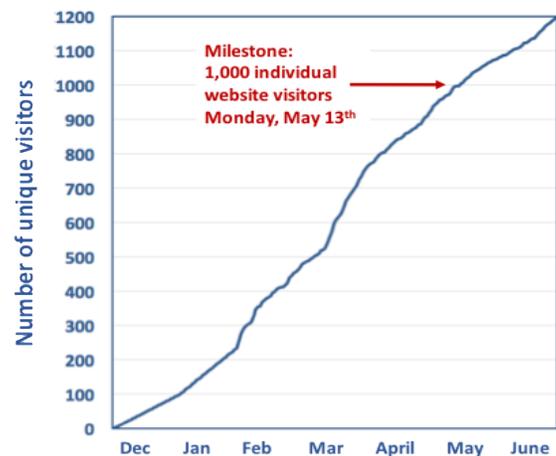
DVD's distributed

As of July 1st, 140 copies of the *How Are the Children?* DVD had been distributed to individuals and groups throughout the U.S.

To purchase the DVD: www.HATCnow.org/purchase-a-dvd/.

Cumulative Website Visitors

December 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019



Visitors to UCC General Synod 32 discover *How Are the Children?* film and curriculum

At the recent UCC General Synod in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, UCC PIN members and friends worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the issue of detained Palestinian children and promote the *How Are the Children?* film and curriculum.

UCC Palestine Israel Network exhibit booth

Located near the main Assembly Hall, the UCC PIN exhibit booth was abuzz with visitors all five days of General Synod. The booth featured a large banner and TV screen proclaiming the theme of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention. It served as information hub and gathering place for delegates and visitors alike. A mock Apartheid Wall located at the front of the booth provoked interest and questions from adults, youth and children.



Guest speaker Rev. Alex Awad describes growing up as a child in Palestine.
Photo: Kim Whisler-Vasko



Children add their thoughts to the mock Apartheid Wall.
Photo: Kim Whisler-Vasko

“Speak Outs” and presentations

UCC PIN members Rev. Diane Weible and Casey Ream seized the opportunity to speak directly to the assembled General Synod delegates and visitors. At “Speak Out” sessions, Weible and Ream introduced UCC PIN guest Rev. Dr. Alex Awad, a Palestinian Christian and refugee who grew up in Jerusalem. They encouraged attendees to meet Dr. Awad in person at the UCC PIN exhibit booth and attend his presentation in Exhibition Hall. Awad reports individuals and groups of all ages stopped by to speak with him in person. They wanted to know what is happening today to Palestinian children and what can be done to end the ill-treatment of those children.



Conference Minister Rev. Diane Weible introduces Rev. Dr. Alex Awad to the assembled General Synod delegates and visitors.
Photo: Kim Whisler-Vasko

Meetings with conference delegations

One of the most valuable parts of General Synod is the opportunity to meet with individual delegates and delegate caucuses. From these conversations, we learn much about all the good work that is being done and make important personal connections. During this General Synod, UCC PIN members and friends met with twelve separate conference delegations to highlight the mission of UCC PIN and promote awareness and use of the *How Are the Children?* curriculum.

A Best Practice! Inviting area clergy to learn about the *How Are the Children?* curriculum

Several UCC clergy in Portland, Oregon recently used their ecumenical faith network to share the *How Are the Children?* curriculum with regional UCC pastors and interfaith allies. See the invitation below for the event which was held on May 21st. The event included local guest speakers with specific, firsthand information (both a Palestinian and an American activist volunteer) who shared personal testimony on the importance of this issue.

"Our event featured the *How Are the Children?* curriculum plus personal testimonies from Rev. Dr. Alex Awad and Peggy Jo Bronson," reports Rev. Dr. Ann Muir, who chairs the Central Pacific Conference Palestine Israel Network. "The event attracted church leaders from Mennonite, United Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and UCC congregations. This ecumenical gathering helped to extend the impact of *How Are the Children?* far beyond the UCC."

Sample event announcement: Invitation to an Ecumenical Faith Leaders Brunch

Dear colleague,

*Reverends Ann Muir, Catherine Alder, Don Frueh and Diane Dulin cordially invite you to an ecumenical gathering of faith leaders to learn about the new church curriculum **How Are the Children?** The location is Parkrose United Church of Christ, 12505 NE Halsey Street in Portland.*

*The new church curriculum **How Are the Children?** was created by the UCC Palestine Israel Network in response to a serious human rights issue—the widespread, systematic, illegal detention of Palestinian children by Israeli military forces. The video-based curriculum provides avenues for learning and advocacy in response to this humanitarian issue. Although the film features powerful personal testimonies from leaders of the United Church of Christ, the curriculum is relevant for all churches. To glimpse the curriculum, see this short (3 minute, 44 seconds) trailer:*

[*How Are the Children? Trailer.*](#)

Featured speakers for this gathering include:

Rev. Dr. Alex Awad

Rev. Awad is a Palestinian Baptist pastor and United Methodist missionary recently retired from the faculty of Bethlehem Bible College in Palestine. Now residing in Eugene, Oregon, Rev. Awad is a highly sought-after speaker and trusted pastor.



Peggy Jo Bronson

A lay member of the Episcopal Church in Portland and long-time volunteer English teacher in Ramallah, Palestine, Ms. Bronson has witnessed firsthand the impact of child detentions and incarceration.