

How Are the Children?

Palestinian Children in Israeli military detention

January 2020 newsletter: coming events and news you can use

This month's newsletter highlights a **variety of ways that individuals have found to promote and present the *How Are the Children?* video curriculum.** We hope you find inspiration and encouragement in these stories. Information about *How Are the Children?* video curriculum can be found here: www.HATCnow.org.

Promotion and viewing of *How Are the Children?* 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. For advice or assistance with your presentation, contact our Support Team via the contact form on our website. We have extensive experience presenting this video curriculum, and would be delighted to speak with you.

Palestine Justice Comes to National Youth Event (NYE), July 22-25, 2020

Held every four years, National Youth Event (NYE) is the largest denominational gathering on the UCC calendar. This year's event will be held July 22-25 on the campus of Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Planners expect 4,000 participants to gather for the event. This gathering of UCC youth (7th grade through high school) and youth leaders represents what is best in our Church. NYE provides an unparalleled opportunity for our UCC Palestine Israel Network.



Photo: United Church of Christ

Members the UCC Palestine Israel Network (UCC PIN) have applied to present three workshops, which will be offered by experienced leaders in the ecumenical movement for justice in Palestine. One workshop highlights the video curriculum *How Are the Children?* A second workshop provides an opportunity for questions and conversation about current events in Palestine. A third workshop focuses on intersectional activism and authentic partnership for justice advocates.

Global Ministries-Middle East and Europe has also applied for a workshop. Global Ministries anticipates featuring a young woman from the YWCA of Palestine as the main speaker, to speak about the current context in Palestine, and the witness and presence of the YWCA in addressing myriad challenges within this context.

For more information and to register for NYE: www.uccpages.org/nye2020/

Canadian Advocacy Group Reviews *How Are the Children?* at National Gathering

The United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) is a grassroots advocacy network of members and friends of the United Church of Canada, the largest Protestant denomination in Canada. On September 13-15, 70 members and friends of UNJPPI gathered in Ottawa, Canada to study, strategize and plan actions for the coming year. UCC PIN Steering Committee member Thomas Beilman was invited to tell the story of the creation of the *How Are the Children?* curriculum.

Attendees at UNJPPI's National Gathering included members of the United Church of Canada's governing body, members of allied organizations including Independent Jewish Voices (IJV), the Canadian lead organizer for the *No Way to Treat a Child* campaign, and a host of committed activists from across Canada. Invited speakers included Palestinian justice leaders and a Canadian Member of Parliament.



Offering prayers for peace in the Holy Land
Photo: UNJPPI

Attendees responded enthusiastically to the *How Are the Children?* curriculum, citing in particular the powerful personal testimony of UCC leaders featured in the film. A dozen attendees stated their intention to use the curriculum within their local settings.

Presenting *How Are the Children?* in a Variety of Settings

In previous editions of this newsletter (see links here: www.HATCnow.org), we described some creative ways individuals have found to present *How Are the Children?* Here are three additional stories. We hope you find them inspiring!

✚ Northfield, Minnesota group presents *How Are the Children?* video as part of a Palestinian film series

Ann Whelan reports that Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel, an ecumenical group of community members, presented *How Are the Children?* as part of their annual film series.

"The film is a great conversation starter!" said Whelan.

"We used the event to sign Betty McCollum letters asking our congressional representative to co-sponsor H.R. 2407, the Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act." Inspired by what they saw, two UCC members who attended the presentation told Whelan they planned to bring the film to their local UCC congregation.



Madras, Oregon activists offer *How Are the Children?* workshop at local community college

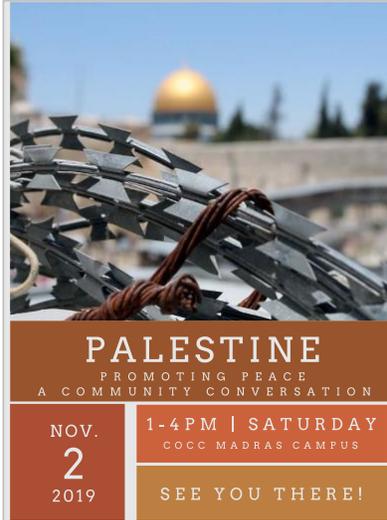


Photo of Barbed Wire in Jerusalem
by RJA 1988

Judy Embanks and Rev. Michael Hart of Madras, Oregon teamed up to present the *How Are the Children?* video at their local college – Central Oregon Community College. “The college provided space for the event and help with the advertising. As this was an educational offering, we couldn’t engage in ‘activism activities’, however our goal was simply to educate and spark useful conversations,” explained Embanks.

Hart, a United Methodist minister, added, “We opened with the animated video, *Israel & Palestine – A Very Short Introduction* by Jewish Voice for Peace. We then shared our personal stories of visits to Palestine and Israel. We took time to explain what we would be seeing, and defined a half-dozen terms which might not be familiar to all attendees. Between segments of the ‘How Are the Children?’ video, we included a 40-minute lunch break with Palestinian-themed food. A Question & Answer period at the end of the workshop

provided considerable time for conversation. We discussed major issues in the present day, and ways to become involved.”

“After the event, we were very energized,” cited Embanks. “We both thought it went really well. We look forward to following this up with another event,” said Embanks.

Central Ohioans for Peace present *How Are the Children?* for their campaign in support of H.R. 2407, the Betty McCollum bill in support of Palestinian children

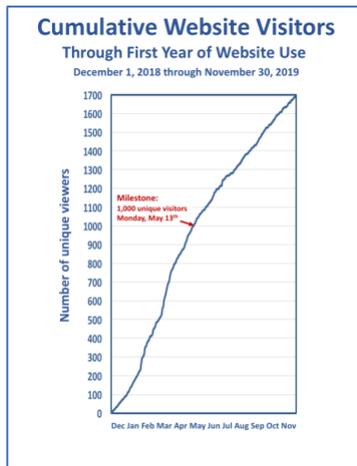
Connie Hammond reports that Central Ohioans for Peace, based in Columbus, Ohio, has an ongoing campaign in support of House bill H.R. 2407. “We loved the *How Are the Children?* documentary and wanted to show it in connection with our campaign,” reported Hammond. “We presented the film at Columbus Mennonite Church. The program was co-sponsored by Central Ohioans for Peace and Jewish Voice for Peace. We encouraged attendees to contact their representatives with a request to co-sponsor H.R. 2407.”

“The event went very well,” reported Hammond. “Both sponsoring groups are continuing to study the issue and advocate for Betty McCollum’s bill. We are also looking for more churches to show the film.”



Image: Central Ohioans
for Peace

How Are the Children? Initiative, By The Numbers



Website visitors

The website www.HATCnow.org was in high demand throughout its first full year of operation (Dec 1, 2018 – Nov 30, 2019). See graph immediately to left. By May 13th, one thousand separate individuals had visited the site. By end of the first year of operation (Nov 30, 2019), the total had reached 1,693 individuals.

YouTube views

As of New Year's Day (Jan 1, 2020), the total number of YouTube views exceeded 2,300. To view *How Are the Children?* videos on YouTube: www.HATCnow.org.

How Are the Children? Video Content is Based on Palestinian, Israeli and International Sources

Viewers have asked, “Do *How Are the Children?* videos include any Israeli information sources, or are they based solely on Palestinian and other non-Israeli sources?” In fact, the content is based on numerous sources, including highly regarded Palestinian, Israeli and other sources. Much of the film’s video footage, for example, was provided by Israeli human rights groups. Information sources include:

Palestinian Sources

Addameer Prisoners’ Support and Human Rights Association
Al-Haq – Palestinian human rights organization
Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
Christian Peacemaker Teams - Palestine
Defense for Children International—Palestine
International Solidarity Movement
Palestinian Center for Human Rights

Israeli Sources

Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI)
Breaking the Silence (Israeli soldiers testify to their experience)
B’Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories
HaMoked, Center for the Defense of the Individual
Physicians for Human Rights—Israel
Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)
Yesh Din, Volunteers for Human Rights

Additional Sources

American Friends Service Committee (Quaker)
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ
Human Rights Watch
International Committee of the Red Cross
Military Court Watch
Save the Children
UNICEF
World Council of Churches