

How Are the Children?

Palestinian Children in Israeli military detention

March 2021 newsletter

This month's newsletter highlights **ways individuals are promoting and presenting the *How Are the Children?* video curriculum during this challenging period of pandemic.** We hope you find inspiration and encouragement in these stories. Information about the video and 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 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.

Canadian justice groups team up for an on-line event

Okanagon Valley, British Columbia For their on-line presentation of *How Are the Children?*, Debbie Hubbard, Jeff Winkelaar and Yara Shoufani sought and obtained sponsorships from both regional and national organizations. "Our three main sponsors were *CJPME-Okanagan* which is a regional chapter of *Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME)*, *Canadian Friends of SABEEL (CFOS)* and *PalNet Pacific* which is a regional group of the *United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI)*," explained Hubbard. "Also helping to promote the presentation were several church and non-church Palestine advocacy groups across Canada. Because of the diversity of these groups, we knew we'd have people new to the issue, from a variety of settings."

Yara added, "Our main goals were to educate and engage people on the issue of arrest and detention of Palestinian children. We encouraged attendees to sign an e-petition asking the Canadian Government to appoint a Special Envoy to promote, monitor and report on the human rights situation for Palestinian children living under military occupation. This petition is part of a national campaign, 'Canada, Stand up for Children's Rights'."



**Stand with Me:
Palestinian Children and
Military Detention:**

Saturday, October 24, 2020
1:00PM PST/2:00PM MST/3:00PM CST
Via Zoom
Register on Eventbrite:
<https://palestinianchildrenandmilitarydetention.eventbrite.ca>



Hubbard, Winkelaar and Shoufani shared a number of “best practices” from their event:

- Having a specific action following the workshop — signing an e-petition — allowed attendees to get involved immediately, in a meaningful way. Attendees reported they appreciated this.
- Providing handouts (focused reading materials) ahead of time helped viewers know what was coming.
- Because we had such a large group of registrants — many unknown to us — we used a couple of polls at the beginning of our session to get a sense of who was in the room. That was very helpful, as one third of the participants were brand new to the issue. This allowed us to remind everyone of the wide diversity of knowledge among those present in breakout sessions.
- We would recommend breakouts (small group discussions). We felt this went better than relying on only a large group discussion.
- Using an online registration system allowed us to send emails to registrants before and after the event. We used Eventbrite.
- We had a short evaluation that was sent out to participants immediately after the event. This provided some extremely useful ideas for planning future events.

Advocacy group in the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ hosts online webinar

Portland, Oregon The Central Pacific Conference Palestine Israel Network (CPC PIN) is one of many local "PIN" groups advocating for Palestinian human rights. (Central Pacific Conference includes Oregon, southern Idaho and southern Washington State.) Comprised of a mix of UCC pastors and lay leaders, this PIN group sought creative ways to continue its advocacy during the pandemic. Among their chosen actions was an online webinar with presentation and discussion of *How Are the Children?*

“We advertised the webinar through our conference’s online newsletter, called *On The Way*,” reported CPC PIN chairwoman Catherine Alder. “As well, we shared the invitation widely with friends and individual congregations. We were pleased to hear that various clergy who received the announcement shared it with their church members and colleagues.”

Monthly newsletter of the
Central Pacific Conference, UCC
On the Way
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ

How Are the Children? webinar
Sunday, October 25, 2020

How Are the Children?
Webinar
Sunday, October 25, 2020
2:00 p.m. PDT / 3:00 p.m. MDT

“How Are the Children?”
A Webinar on the imprisonment of Palestinian Children
Sunday, October 25, 2020
2:00 p.m. PDT / 3:00 p.m. MDT

Visibly present for this online showing was Rev. Tyler Connoley, Conference Minister for Central Pacific Conference, who helped with the meeting logistics. After viewing the film, presenters were asked to submit questions via the participant chat box. "This approach worked well," reported Alder, "as it allowed us to select and discuss questions we thought were of most interest to the audience."

"We always have good feedback when showing this film," explained Alder. "Clergy and lay persons alike appreciate the powerful testimonies by UCC elected officials and the explanation of the central role of international law. Many wrote to thank our team for providing such a wonderfully enlightening film and webinar."

Multnomah Friends Meeting (Quaker) hosts on-line event

The Quaker Palestine Israel Network
of
Multnomah Monthly Meeting in Portland, Oregon
presents:

How Are the Children?



Sunday, November 22
at 2 pm PST
(5 pm EST)

In traditional African cultures, the community's health is determined by the answer to this question, "How are the children?" When we ask this question regarding the children of Palestine the answer is not good. This video shares the experience of several children who were arrested and detained by Israeli soldiers. It was created by the Palestine Israel Network of the United Church of Christ and it includes a video by DCI (Defense of Children International) and AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) titled *Detaining Dreams*. Following the film there will be a discussion focusing on actions you can take.

The State of Israel uses American aid money to detain and prosecute approximately 700 Palestinian children every year. This is no way to treat a child – and we are complicit in this practice.

Please join us for How Are the Children. Connect on Zoom at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89452753112?pwd=aXFJQUdrRDZSdIJNS29SdnBxU1EwUT09> Password: 121001

The Quaker Palestine-Israel Network (QPIN) at Multnomah Friends Meeting in Portland, Oregon hosted an on-line presentation of *How Are the Children?* as part of its ongoing campaign to raise visibility of the issues in Palestine-Israel. "The more we talk about the dire situation in occupied Palestine, the more people grow comfortable talking about the issues, allowing more people to step up to lend their support," explained Robert Cooper.

Working to promote the film presentation were Cooper, Gail Sanford and Cynthia Gilliam. "We posted on Facebook, sent emails and publicized with local advocacy groups and churches, including our own Multnomah Friends Meeting, Jewish Voice for Peace-Portland, West Hills Friends Church, Spirit of Grace Lutheran/Catholic Church, and others," reported Gilliam. "Happily, some of these churches added the event to their bulletins and websites."

"Our presentation was especially helpful for folks in the audience who had little or no previous knowledge of the situation," said Gilliam. "One woman said she had no idea things like this were happening. Many seemed to get their information solely from mainstream media. People wanted to know what they could do, so we encouraged them to advocate for Rep. Betty McCollum's bill, HR2407. We expect HR2407 will be replaced by similarly focused resolution in the new Congress."

"Based on the positive feedback received from this event, we're encouraged to offer additional opportunities for learning and action," added Cooper.

How Are the Children? two years after launch

We've reached a significant milestone. It's been **two full years since initial publication** of *How Are the Children?* video curriculum. The second anniversary date was reached on December 1, 2020. Many thanks to all who participated in this initiative — those who promoted the video, wrote about it, organized presentations, led discussions, and (at the very beginning) contributed to and funded its development. Special thanks also to the [UCC Palestine-Israel Network](#) for sponsoring this initiative.

Your diligent work has educated **many thousands of individuals** about the urgent situation of Palestinian children living under military occupation, and motivated many persons to become actively engaged in advocating for these children.

Website visitors

The website www.HATCnow.org remained in constant demand throughout its first two years of operation. By November 30, 2020, **2,393** individuals had visited the website.

YouTube views by individuals and groups

From initial publication of *How Are the Children?* to the present day (March 1st), YouTube views reached a total of **4,587**. To view *How Are the Children?* on YouTube: www.HATCnow.org.

