

## Opportunities for Friends seeking Justice in Israel Palestine in 2021

As Friends discern what it means “to live into NEYM’s 2017 Middle East Minute,” let’s apply words from a mantra from the Poor People’s Campaign to do MORE: Mobilize, Organize, Register, Educate.

The last Congress gave us an easy way "to facilitate outreach and educational efforts" by lobbying representatives to co-sponsor HR 2407, but we must now pursue new possibilities as the 117th Congress begins. Jennifer Bing, Shaina Low, and Brad Parker made clear during their [January 19th webinar](#) that we don't yet know what our next step will be to convince the new Congress to protect incarcerated children. Consider these opportunities for Friends:

**Mobilize:** Bring into play, as in create a movement.

- [Sign petition to end solitary confinement of child detainees](#) and fund psychological counseling for children returning home from Israeli military prisons.
- Encourage Friends to join [KairosUSA—The Moment of Grace and Opportunity](#)
- Support [AFSC’s campaign to end the brutal blockade of Gaza](#)

**Organize:** Put in order.

- Seek transparency in how Israel spends \$3.8 billion that U.S. gives Israel each year.
- Persuade Senators Warren, Durbin, Sanders, Leahy, and Van Hollen to adopt a rights-based trajectory for justice in Israel Palestine: all persons have the human right not to be tortured.

**Register:** Record—as in write a minute.

- Minute your Monthly Meeting’s opposition to children who are caged in U.S. and Israel.
- [Get Involved with AFSC](#) Reminding us that in 2020 "there are 200,000 young people under 18 years old in prisons throughout the United States" AFSC’s Healing Justice Coordinator Lewis Webb asserts that America's criminal justice system targets black and brown children in the same way that the Israeli military occupiers [target Palestinian children](#). Webb said "fear of the ‘other’ drives us to send children to prison here" just as it does in Palestine.
- Join AFSC’s effort to defend immigrant rights and broadcast how enforcement, detention, and deportation is, as Kristin Kumpf calls it, a “[cycle grounded in violence](#).”

**Educate:** Learn and teach.

- Investigate & publicize USA-made weapons that Israel uses to kill Palestinian children.
- Circulate the results of CDI-P’s [New Report on Solitary Confinement](#) based on extensive interviews with 108 Palestinian child detainees who describe a by-the-book practice of what international laws and norms regards as torture, or cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment.

Circle back to Lewis Webb's description of the parallel structure of the political decision that led elites to incarcerate black and brown children in U.S. and Israeli prisons for identical reasons. Surely this leads all of us working on NEYM's two current *Calls to Action* to do more: settler colonialism in both nations calls us to extend our work transnationally to include the reality of U.S. tax dollars funding Israeli military incarceration of Palestinian children.