

**No Way to Treat a Child:
Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military
Occupation—A Memorial to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly**

Whereas the ELCA, in 2005, established an initiative, “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land,” which seeks “peace with justice for both Palestinians and Israelis and the continuation of the Christian witness in the Holy Land;” and

Whereas the ELCA, in its Social Statement “For Peace in God’s World” has committed to promote respect for human rights, especially for “groups most susceptible to violations, especially all minorities, women, and children;” and

Whereas the ELCA is in a relationship of accompaniment with the six Palestinian Lutheran congregations and the seven schools and educational programs of (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land); and

Whereas the ELCA Peace Not Walls initiative issued an Action Alert in December 2017, supporting HR 4391, Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act; therefore be it

Resolved that the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting the Assembly to urge the U.S. Congress to call on the State of Israel to guarantee basic due process rights in the Israeli military court system; ensure the absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment in accordance with international law; ensure that operations are carried out in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and call on the United States to fully enforce its own established law, including the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act; and be it further

Resolved that the Assembly memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting that the ELCA Presiding Bishop and the bishops and staff of every ELCA synod advocate with elected officials, encouraging them to ensure that United States taxpayer funds do not support ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international law; and be it further

Resolved that the Rocky Mountain Synod memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to request that the Peace Not Walls strategy consider creating a resource enabling congregations to learn more about the lives of Palestinian children—especially those living in the Occupied Territories; and be it further

Resolved that the Rocky Mountain Synod memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, requesting that the Assembly encourage ELCA members to contact their members of Congress in support of legislation that prohibits U.S. foreign aid to be used in ways that violate the rights of Palestinian children, like the bill to be introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum, which requires the Secretary of State to certify that United States funds do not support military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international law.

Sponsors: Rev. Bonita Bock, Pastor Katie Chullino, Chili Chullino, Rev. Debra Engquist, Duane and Jean Gall, Pastor Ann Hultquist, Jan Miller, Pastor Joel Pancoast, Pastor Paula Stecker, Jo Ann Wacker-Farrand, Doug Wheeler