ADVOCATING, NETWORKING, & ACTING FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS
LET’S TAKE INVENTORY!
HAVE YOU ENGAGED IN ADVOCACY FOR PALESTINE?

• Have you met with or talked by phone, email, or letter about Palestine with a member of the U.S. Congress or their staff?

• Have you met with or talked by phone, email, or letter about Palestine with those who represent you in the Washington State Legislature or their staff?

• Have you met with or talked by phone, email, or letter about Palestine with other public officials – the governor, the mayor, the city council?

• Have you shared info about Palestine at a vigil, rally, teach-in, conference, or other meeting?

• Have you shared information or stories from Palestine with someone in your family, a neighbor, or friend?

YOU ARE AN ADVOCATE FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS!
Alliance for Justice Definition

“Advocacy is any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others. It includes public education, regulatory work, litigation, and work before administrative bodies, lobbying, nonpartisan voter registration, nonpartisan voter education, and more.”
ADVOCACY VS LOBBYING
WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

• Lobbying and Public Policy Advocacy are NOT interchangeable.
• Advocacy is a broad range of activities in which we can all engage in a large way.
• Lobbying is one narrow aspect of advocacy. According to federal tax law, lobbying is any attempt to influence specific legislation.
• Direct lobbying is any effort by an organization (or asked of its members) to influence legislation through communication with a member or employee of a legislative body, or with any other government official who participates in the formulation of legislation.
• Grassroots lobbying is any attempt to influence legislation by impacting the views of the general public and at the same time urging the public to contact legislators about specific legislation.
• 501(c)(3) nonprofits and churches are allowed to engage in direct and grassroots lobbying activities, with the limitation that they must not spend a “substantial part” of their time and budget on lobbying.
• Many policy-related activities do not constitute lobbying. Educating decision-makers and lawmakers about an issue is NOT lobbying. Nor is hosting a public meeting or distributing a report about an issue.
• 501(c)(3) nonprofits and churches are not allowed to engage in electoral politics.
PRINCIPLED ADVOCACY FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

• Human-rights based

• Inclusive

• Grounded in anti-racist and anti-oppression practices

• Opposed to all forms of discrimination, including anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of bigotry directed toward a person or group

• We support a just and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis based on human rights, international law, equality, and relevant UN resolutions.

• We are committed to achieving for Palestinians the freedom, equality, and rights that we enjoy.

• We recognize other social injustices and act upon those through the lens of the Palestine issue that is our focus.
AS PRINCIPLED ADVOCATES, WE STRIVE TO...

...listen.

...offer a constructive message with information that is researched, fact-based, and useful.

...be trustworthy and sincere.

...be respectful

    of ourselves and of others who are doing this work;
    of our institutions and processes despite the limitations and failings of governments;
    and of those we reach out to even when they disappoint us.

...maintain our integrity, our passion, and our commitment to justice.

...continue the work of securing for others, the rights and privileges that we want and enjoy for ourselves.
NUTS & BOLTS
OF LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY & LOBBYING

• IT’S ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

• CREATE A LONG-TERM GROUP PLAN

• INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS

• ORGANIZE AND ACT
PLAN YOUR ADVOCACY!
FOR YOUR GROUP, YOUR COALITION, OR YOURSELF

• How will you organize? Are there others who will join you?

• How much time do you have for legislative advocacy? How can you best use that time?

• What relationships do you have or can you create to support your goals and activities? Who can you engage to help in an ongoing effort? Who at key moments? (Grass roots? Grass tops?) Is there potential for coalition building?

• What issues do you want to prioritize and amplify? Choose carefully. Is there consensus and capacity?

• It’s still about “education, education, education!” Build public awareness among constituents and others. Education for change is advocacy!

• Try to include meetings with legislators in your plans. Educate policymakers at different levels of government. Ask their help to identify and educate others.

• Plan for the message and the messengers.

• Think about timing, when to act, and who can help decide.

• Plan for what your legislative advocacy looks like between meetings with officials. Meetings are a beginning!

• Set short and long-term goals! Celebrate small victories. It’s a marathon!
STRATEGIES FOR STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEGISLATIVE OFFICES:
(DRAWN FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION)

- Learn who your legislators and their staffers are and what they care about.
- Become a reliable expert.
- Fine tune your “ASKS.”
- Make it personal.
- Communicate consistently and effectively. The goal is an effective long-term relationship.
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

• COMMUNICATIONS – What’s effective?
  o MEETINGS (New Yorker, Kathryn Schultz, March 6, 2017; How to Effectively Talk to Your Member of Congress – Emily Ellsworth; )
  o CALLS
  o EMAILS
  o LETTERS
  o PETITIONS
  o FACEBOOK/TWITTER?
  o OTHER
  o PERSONALIZE!
  o Think numbers, constituents, media, long-term relationships and good info!

• TOWN HALLS
• PARTY PLATFORMS
• ORGANIZATION EVENTS
• ATTENDANCE AT PARTY/CAMPAIGN EVENTS
LET’S MEET! THE NUTS & BOLTS

WHY MEET?

GETTING YOUR MEETING

IT’S YOURS TO PLAN!

WE’RE HERE! HOLDING THE MEETING

POST MEETING – WHAT NOW?
TAKE ACTION NOW!

**H.RES. 751** - Condemning the repressive designation by the Government of Israel of six prominent Palestinian human rights and civil society groups as terrorist organizations, and for other purposes.

- 10 Cosponsors (None from Washington State)
- *Israel’s Designation of Six Palestinian NGOs as “Terrorist”: Costs and Consequences*, October 29, YouTube
- Terror Designations – Israeli Capital Punishment for Palestinian NGOs – Foundation for Middle East Peace: Lara Friedman interview with Michael Sfard
- Letter to Secretary of State Blinken from over 300 US civil society organizations
- Letter to Secretary Blinken from Rep. James McGovern

**H.R. 2590** - Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act

- 30 Co-sponsors – (Pramila Jayapal from WA State)
- No Way to Treat a Child – HR 2590 Resources
- AFSC Video
- Companion Bill?
RESOURCES FOR GRASSROOTS & LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

CONGRESS.GOV

GovTrack

FOUNDATION FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE – Lara Friedman
Weekly Legislative Round-ups – Sign up!
• This week: Congressional trips to Israel/West Bank
• Tweets!
• Bills/resolutions
• Other parts of the Middle East
CONNECT FOR GRASSROOTS & LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

WASHINGTON STATE
• WASHINGTON ADVOCATES FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS (WAPR)
• RACHEL CORRIE FOUNDATION FOR PEACE & JUSTICE (RCF)  www.rachelcoriefoundation.org/
  • 10th Congressional District Working Group

NATIONAL (Some of the organizations that provide resources & actions to take)
• AMERICAN-ARAB ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE
• ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE (AAI)
• AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC)
• AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE (AMP)
• CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE
• DEFENSE FOR CHILDREN PALESTINE (DCI)
• DEMOCRACY FOR THE ARAB WORLD NOW (DAWN)
• J STREET
• JVP-ACTION (JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE) – 501(c)4
• US CAMPAIGN FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS (USCPR)
UPCOMING EVENTS:

FROM FMEP:

Welcome to the Panopticon: Israel’s Systematic Surveillance of Palestinians and the Implications for the World: Three major stories broke over the past week about Israel’s cyber-surveillance of Palestinians, from hacking the phones of human rights defenders and officials, to increased monitoring of Jerusalemites, to the mass deployment of facial recognition software against Palestinians in the West Bank. To discuss these issues and their broader implications, FMEP is proud to host a conversation with four experts - Andrew Anderson (Front Line Defenders), Marwa Fatafta (Access Now), Avner Gvaryahu (Breaking the Silence), and Sophia Goodfriend (7amleh), in conversation with FMEP President Lara Friedman.  Nov 18, 2021 12:00 PM EASTERN (9 AM PACIFIC)

The Nakba and its Generational Impact on Palestinian lives: Memory, Identity, and a Future rooted in Justice, Featuring Nakba survivors and their descendants Nida El-Muti, Dina El-Muti, and Hasan Hammami, In conversation with Peter Beinart (FMEP Non-resident fellow)
Description: The Nakba, the displacement of over 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland from 1947-49, is among the root causes of the conflict in Palestine-Israel and critical to understanding the failure of the decades-long “peace-process,” and the level of justice and reparation required to achieve a sustainable future. We will hear the personal stories of those who survived the ethnic cleansing of their cities and villages, and learn from them and their descendents how the trauma of the Nakba and Israel’s ongoing policies of erasure have shaped their lives. We’ll also ask about their visions for the future, what justice looks like, and how they sustain connections to their homeland from the diaspora. Join FMEP non-resident fellow Peter Beinart in conversation with Nakba survivors and their descendants: Nida El-Muti, Dina El-Muti, and Hasan Hammami.
November 19, 2021, 7:30 am Pacific Time