



Churches
for
MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Working Together:
Justice Can Prevail.
Peace Is Possible

December 2018

No plans for the weekend and in the greater D.C. area? Join us at [Take Courage](#), our Advent Advocacy Summit on Sunday, December 9-Monday, December 10. For those of you not in the area, we have [Advent Devotions](#) so you, too, can Take Courage and stay in the seasonal spirit with CMEP.

Catch up on the latest news, events, and opportunities with CMEP now.



Blessed are the Peacemakers...and their supporters! All of us at CMEP are so grateful for your #GivingTuesday support. Thanks to your efforts, the voices of peace and justice will continue to be heard!

Tell Congress: Attend Dec 10th Congressional Briefing on the impact of cutting of humanitarian funding for Palestinians

In August, the Trump Administration announced its decision to reprogram over \$200 million in aid appropriated by Congress for the Palestinian people. Concurrently, the President announced the suspension of all U.S. funding for UNRWA, the UN agency which provides emergency food, education, and medical services to over 5 million Palestinian refugees. Leading humanitarian, policy, and religious experts will discuss the devastating impact of the funding cuts on Palestinians. They will also discuss steps Congress can take to support a just and comprehensive end to the conflict in Israel-Palestine.



[Take Action Today](#)

Tell Congress: The Administration Must Stand Up for the Christian Community in Jerusalem and the Holy Land

In February, the Israeli Knesset first considered legislation that would allow for state expropriation of Church lands. After intense outcry, including the closure of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in protest, and a letter from eighteen U.S. religious leaders, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced a hold on the legislation and appointed Minister Tzachi Hanegbi to work with all parties, including Church leaders to work toward a solution. After a meeting with Minister Hanegbi in mid September, Church leaders in Jerusalem were stunned to see the legislation once again under consideration in the Knesset.

[Take Action Today](#)



International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

CMEP staff traveled to New York to participate in the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. They heard from UN officials, policy experts, and leaders from Israeli and Palestinian civil society. CMEP stands in solidarity with all people in the Middle East for human rights and dignity.

Events | Upcoming & Recent

This Weekend! Take Courage Advocacy Summit



Join us and our co-sponsoring organizations for a gathering on Capitol Hill this Sunday, December 9th (2 to 9 p.m.) and Monday, December 10th (9:30 to 5:00 p.m.). The event will include speakers, time for fellowship, and an opportunity to have advocacy meetings on Capitol Hill.

[**Register Today**](#)

***New Dates* CMEP1835 Advocacy Summit: Reclaiming Our Voices**

Join us at our March CMEP1835 Summit! To begin the New Year in the spirit of advocacy, "Reclaiming Our Voices: Reframing the Narrative for a Shared Justice in Israel and Palestine," will take place on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, March 9-11. Together, we will learn how to effectively frame our personal stories and recognize the power of our own voices in relevant advocacy work related to the Middle East.



[**Register Today**](#)



Super Early Bird Registration for CMEP's 2019 Summit Now Open!

Join us June 23-25, 2019, in Washington, D.C. for our annual Advocacy Summit. 2019's topic will be: Persistent Hope: 35 Years of Pursuing Peace and Restorative Justice in the Middle East.

[**Register Today!**](#)



Travel with CMEP! We are thrilled to be making trips to the Middle East available to all! Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) partners with MEJDI tours to offer custom group travel to Israel, Palestine, and other destinations in the Middle East. Trips to the region offer pilgrimages and advocacy-oriented travel. While traveling in the Holy Land, trips provide the chance to hear multi-narrative perspectives through the use of two local guides, one Israeli and one Palestinian. They offer various perspectives on the history and current realities of the land.

[Learn More](#)

[Press Releases & Public Statements](#) | [Reactions to Recent Events](#)

CMEP Affirms “Statement of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land on the Nation State Law Passed by the Israeli Knesset on July 19, 2018”

CMEP stands by the statement released on October 31 by the Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land, which echoes many of the concerns we expressed about the passage of the Jewish Nation State Basic Law on July 19, 2018. We affirm with the Ordinaries that as Christians, “We recognize that Jerusalem and the whole of this Holy Land is a heritage we share with Jews and Muslims, Druze and Baha’i, a heritage we are called upon to protect from division and internecine strife.” We applaud their resolve to “call on the authorities [of Israel] to rescind this Basic Law and assure one and all that the State of Israel seeks to promote and protect the welfare and the safety of all its citizens.”

[Read More](#)



Remember CMEP this Advent in your giving. Our Advent campaign, "Take Courage," and others like it cannot happen without your help!

[Donate Today!](#)

[Prayers for Peace](#) | [Stories from the blog](#)

Advent I: Hope in the Lord

These words are an important reminder to encourage us trust in God. No one who hopes in Him will ever be put to shame. Our hope is for a different reality in the Middle East, for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, for all wars and conflict to cease... We have great hope for a new reality where justice will reign down and peace will prevail.



[Read More](#)

Christians of Palestine, Life Behind the Wall

I grew up with a father who was ashamed of his Palestinian heritage. My mother, who is also half-Palestinian, left when I was five years old. I had no physical contact with her or her side of the family for over 17 years. I had a very interesting or, as I would describe, abusive childhood story, which resulted in me leaving home at 18 years old. I ended up finishing my high school education in the inner-city, around a dominant African American population. In my younger years, I found myself always searching for acceptance and my identity.

[Read More](#)



CMEP on Pilgrimage to Peace

Our Fall P2P tour took us all over the country, including to the Seattle Troll! We are so grateful to everyone who came out to support us and appreciate the opportunity to spread our message of peace and justice.

CMEP in the News | Mentions and Publications

Video: Sami Awad & Jessica Montell on Peace in the Holy Land

Megan Rice, Western Seminary

Christian Zionists are Israel's Political Foot Soldiers in US

Mark Habeeb, The Arab Weekly

Resilience Within a Conflict Zone

Sara Burback, Shared Justice

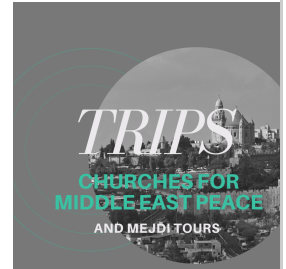


[U.S. Evangelicals Put Their Faith in Netanyahu as Trump Readies Mideast Peace Plan](#)

Amir Tibon, Haaretz

[New Tour of Jerusalem \(Or Al-Quds\) Offers Both Israeli and Palestinian Narratives](#)

Judy Maltz, Haaretz



[US Churches Demand Pompeo Block Israeli Land Bill](#)

Gary Willig, Israel National News

[Arab and Muslim Leaders in US Stand Up for What Is Right](#)

Ray Hanania, Arab News

[Trump Tries to Silence Palestinians and their Friends. Instead They're Energized](#)

Delinda C. Hanley, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs



Image Credit: CMEP Director of Advocacy and Government Relations. CMEP staff attended the closure of the PLO Mission in Washington D.C.

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