



Working Together:  
Justice Can Prevail.  
Peace Is Possible

## November 2018

The end of the year is quickly approaching, but we at Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) are not slowing down! This last month we had our first official White House meeting with the Trump administration, traveled around the country speaking at events and on our Fall Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P) tour, and are busy prepping for our [Advent Advocacy Summit in December](#) and our [January CMEP1835 Advocacy Summit](#) - there's still time to register for both! Hope to see you there.

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



CMEP's Director of Outreach ran in the Chicago Marathon as part of Team Palestine Children's Relief Fund. Way to go, Sara!

## [Take Action](#) | Action Alerts

### **Tell Congress: Pressure the Administration to Immediately Restore Critical Humanitarian Assistance to Palestinians**

The Trump Administration recently announced its intention to withhold more than \$500 million dollars in aid to the Palestinian people through cuts to USAID funded programs in the West Bank and Gaza and a complete end to US funds to UNRWA. These cuts will have a devastating impact on the region, including the most vulnerable Palestinians who rely on the congressionally appropriated funds to receive emergency food assistance, medical services, education, and access to clean water.

[\*\*Take Action Today\*\*](#)





## ***Fall 2018 Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P) Tour***

This season's Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P) tour hit stops in Delaware, Seattle, and Michigan. Robust conversations about how to stand up against violence, hatred, and injustice and words of encouragement throughout the tour remind our team and our P2P participants why these tours are so important. As one participant said, "Thank you for reminding me that complacency and hopelessness is a privilege."

[\*\*Want to Host a P2P Event in 2019? Inquire Today\*\*](#)

## **Events** | Upcoming & Recent

### **Take Courage Advocacy Summit**



There's still time to register and join CMEP and our co-sponsoring organizations for a gathering on Capitol Hill on 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\*\*](#)

### **CMEP1835 Advocacy Summit: Reclaiming Our Voices**

Join us at our January 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, January 12-14. 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. Our first two days will honor leading voices within the advocacy movement regarding Israel and Palestine, and utilizing the power of effective storytelling, we will learn to enhance our own voices for advocacy meetings on Capitol Hill.



[\*\*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**

### **Joint Letter to Secretary Pompeo Regarding Church Lands Bill before Israeli Knesset**

The extent to which the Jerusalem Patriarchs and Heads of Churches consider this legislation to be an existential threat cannot be overstated. When the bill was first introduced this past February (concurrently with a proposed municipal tax on church property) the Heads of Churches protested by closing the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in a historic act of solidarity. In response, eighteen religious leaders in the U.S., representing a diverse spectrum of Christianity, wrote to President Trump expressing the need to protect the vulnerable Christian community in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. Mr. Secretary, all efforts must be made so that a similar crisis may be avoided.

[Read More](#)

### **CMEP Stands in Solidarity with the Jewish Community in the Face of**

## Tragedy and Condemns Anti-Semitism

Once again, we are reminded of the terrible consequences of hate and prejudice. This time by the deadly attack upon the worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. As this is being written, it is reported that 11 people have been murdered and a number wounded, including police officers. We at CMEP join with others in assuring our Jewish sisters and brothers of our solidarity with them, and our condemnation of those who exercise their hate by seeking to diminish others, even unto death.

[Read More](#)

## CMEP Condemns the Merging of the U.S. Embassy and Consulate in Jerusalem

Today the U.S. Secretary of State announced the merging of the U.S. consulate with the U.S. Embassy that is now in Jerusalem. Secretary Pompeo, in his statement remarked, "...we plan to achieve significant efficiencies and increase our effectiveness by merging U.S. Embassy Jerusalem and U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem into a single diplomatic mission."

[Read More](#)

## Jerusalem Conference: What Makes for Peace?

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joins Bright Stars of Bethlehem, National Council of Churches (NCC), and Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference in support of statement regarding "Jerusalem: What makes for peace?"



THE  
**JERUSALEM**  
CONFERENCE  
Jerusalem: What Makes For Peace?

[Read More](#)

## CMEP Executive Director Joins Christian Pastors and Leaders Call on U.S. State Department to Support Lara Alqasem

We who are pastors and Christian leaders in the U.S. add our voices to those of many faiths calling for the freeing of detained college student Lara Alqasem. Specifically, we call on the State Department to do its duty to protect the rights of this American citizen, traveling on an American passport with a valid Israeli visa to study at Hebrew University in Israel. "Consular access" is not enough; the State Department needs to make clear that the detention of Ms. Alqasem must end, as she has committed no crime nor has been charged with one by the Israeli authorities.

[Read More](#)

## CMEP Joins Letter to President Regarding Cuts to Humanitarian Aid to Palestinians

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joined 17 Christian Denominations and Organizations in a letter to President Trump. In the letter, the signatories called upon the President to immediately reverse the recent decision to cut over \$200 million in bilateral aid to the Palestinians as well as cease all US funding for UNRWA.



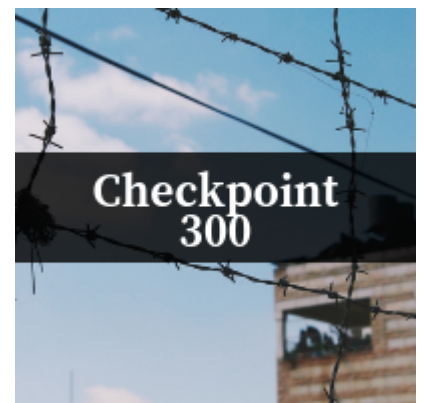
Help us maintain and sustain the CMEP Bulletin as a free service with your generous tax deductible contribution.

[\*\*Donate Today!\*\*](#)

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

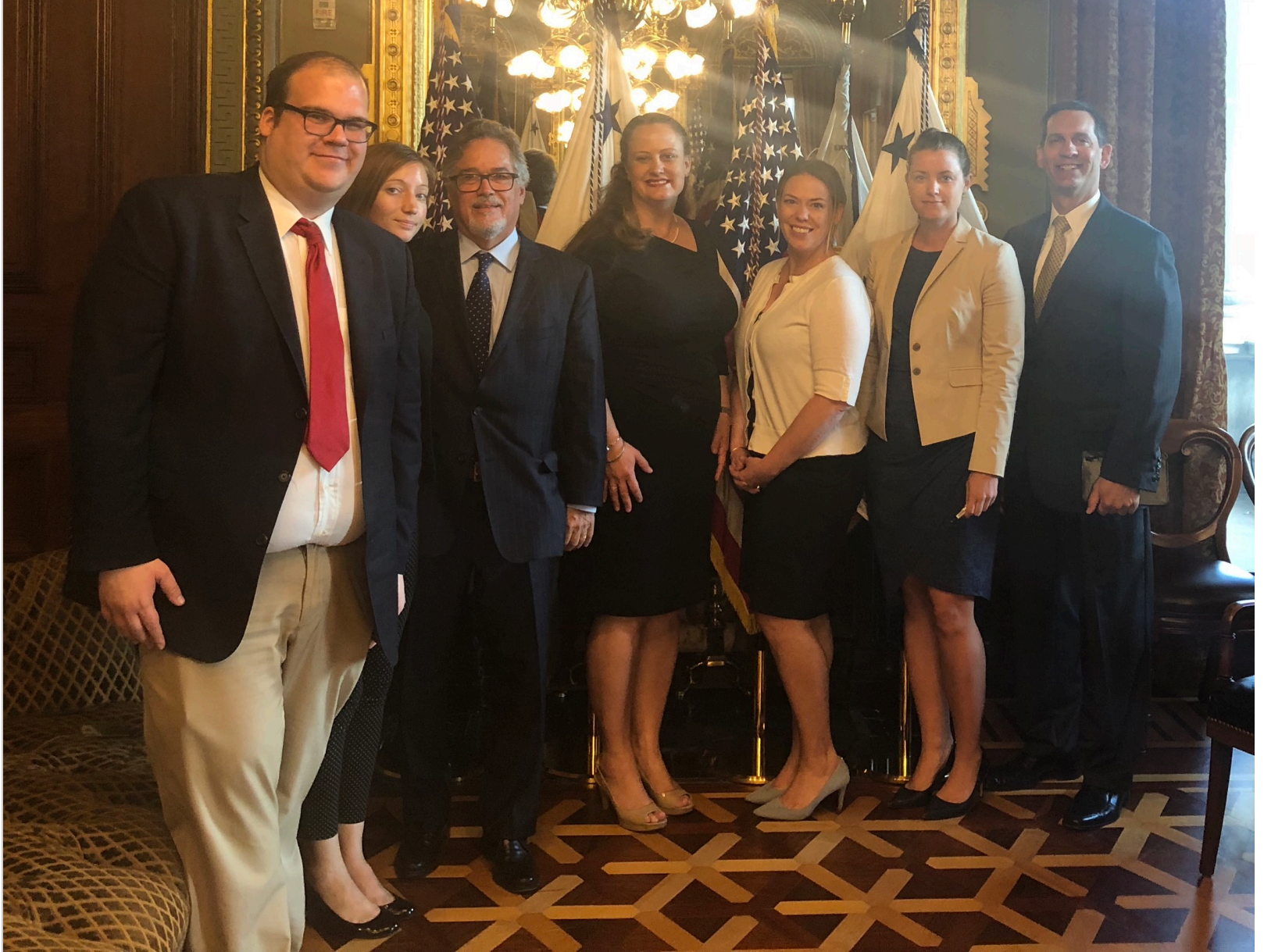
### **Checkpoint 300**

Many Israelis consider checkpoints the “last line of defense” and critical to Israel’s security. Without them, “...terrorists and deadly weapons would move into Israel with ease,” Lt.-Col. Gil Mamon, the Military Police’s Erez Battalion commander told the [Jerusalem Post](#) in 2015, expressing a common perspective. While this viewpoint is highly contested by many within Israel and throughout the Palestinian territories, the idea that checkpoints are an ugly necessity is accepted by many within Israeli society.



[\*\*Read More\*\*](#)





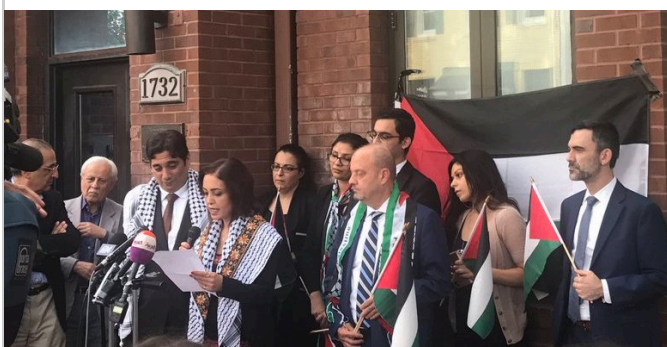
## ***CMEP Meets with Vice President Pence's Team at the White House***

CMEP's Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Director of Advocacy, Kyle Cristofalo, Director of Outreach, Sara Burback, and Eastern University professor, Andrew Bush, met with three members of Vice President Mike Pence's senior staff to discuss the recent funding cuts in humanitarian and medical aid to Palestine. The meeting was extensive in time and resulted in a thorough discussion, with plans to schedule a follow-up meeting within the next few months with other Evangelical leaders.

## **CMEP in the News** | Mentions and Publications

### **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.*

[What Can American Churches Do to Promote Peace?](#)

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Christ at the Checkpoint USA



[The Battle for Young Evangelicals' Views on Israel Could Determine the Future of U.S. Policy](#)

Amir Tibon, Haaretz

[Middle East Peace Forum Set for Oct. 25 in Wilmington](#)

The Dialog

[US Faith Leaders Call on Their President to Recognize East Jerusalem as Capital of Palestine](#)

Wafa: Palestinian News & Info Agency

Connect with Us



Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

110 Maryland Ave NE, #311  
Washington, D.C. 20002

(202) 543-1222  
info@cmepe.org

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)