

While we are disappointed to not be able to gather together in person this year in Washington, DC, we are grateful for the chance to be together via Zoom. We will still encourage you to reach out to your Congressional offices and will have an advocacy training during the afternoon on Monday. We will also provide an opportunity for you to meet together in geographic/state specific breakout rooms. This year we will have two asks. The first is for members to support HR 2407 the *Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Military Occupation Act*. As this legislation is currently only in the House, you can ask your Senators to consider introducing similar legislation in the Senate. The second ask is for your members of Congress to oppose the impending annexation of large parts of the West Bank. You will be provided with resources, including talking points to provide context and background information on these issues. You will also be provided sample emails and phone scripts you can use to communicate with your Congressional offices.

We've tried as much as possible to put folks in a group only with people from their state, however, depending on your location, you might be grouped together with someone else from a different state. Each Zoom room will have one group leader who will help facilitate the conversation. The goal of the time is to spend time coordinating your advocacy and deciding upon the method(s) you will utilize to reach out to your members of Congress. You can decide to all call on the same day during scheduled times, for example. If you are comfortable, you can also share email addresses to consider ways to follow up with your elected officials after your first email or call.

You should also take one action during the breakout time. That could be taking a selfie and posting on your social media accounts as part of our #ChurchesAgainstAnnexation Campaign and tagging the social media handles of your Congressional members. If you are the only person from your state/district, it could also mean reaching out to a family member or friend to invite them to join you in emailing or calling your Representative and Senators later in the week.

The phone scripts and sample emails can be used for you to reach out to your elected officials later in the week. You can call the Capitol Switchboard (202-224-3121) and ask to be transferred to your Senators and House member. Due to COVID-19, it is possible the call will go directly to voicemail. We would encourage you to leave a message. The sample emails can be used to communicate via the respective websites of your member of the House and Senators. You can find their official websites by visiting house.gov and senate.gov and leave a message via the "contact form." If you have previously communicated with a staff person from one of your congressional offices, you should email them directly.

You may also wish to consider setting up virtual lobby meetings. Many offices are scheduling video and phone conference meetings with constituents when in person meetings are not possible. CMEP Board member, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has compiled a [virtual lobbying resource](#) that walks you through the process of setting up a virtual Congressional meeting. Additionally, they are running a weekly 30 minute training on Zoom.

The next one is tomorrow, June 23 at 1:00 pm Eastern. They will also conduct a training on June 30 at 1:00 pm. To register, [click here](#). If you participate or fill out the lobby form through FCNL, please make sure to let them know you were sent from CMEP so that we can be sure to follow up on next steps and reach out to CMEP (info@cmeep.org) The talking points and leave behind documents, as well as the Hill Meeting Steps can help as you organize a phone or video meeting with your Congressional offices.