

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



US Campaign for
Palestinian Rights

The US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR) is a national coalition of hundreds of groups working to advocate for Palestinian rights and a shift in US policy. Founded in 2001 as the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, USCPR has been a leading player in the movement for Palestinian rights in the United States. The coalition is bound by commonly shared principles on Palestine solidarity as well as our anti-racism principles.

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NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters,

It is my pleasure to present the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights' annual report, covering the period from September 2016 to September 2017. Thanks to the support of friends like you, we have been able to carry our work for Palestinian rights forward through another eventful year.

2017 marked a set of grim anniversaries for the Palestinian people: 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, 70 years since the Nakba and displacement of 750,000 Palestinians from their homes, 50 years since the beginning of Israel's now entrenched illegal occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and ten years since Israel imposed a siege on the Gaza Strip. Much of our work this year has tied back to these sad milestones, even as we look ahead.

We continue to build within our coalition and broader movement for freedom, justice, and equality. Boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaigns are rapidly gaining ground. The greatest testament to their impact is the pro-Israel effort to stifle them with anti-BDS legislation. As we proactively support and organize BDS campaigns, we are simultaneously flipping the script on Israel's anti-BDS efforts by exposing their draconian and anti-free speech nature. In doing so, we are proving that we have a just cause, and are expanding our networks to include progressives who continue to view Israel's authoritarian actions with increasing distaste. Anti-BDS efforts will doubtlessly continue, but so will our work to highlight to Israel that the cost of pushing for repressive and unconstitutional laws that curtail the rights of US citizens is losing more and more Americans.

As we charge forward and organize across movements, we are finding new and diverse allies to build with. Together, we are supporting each other's struggles while recalling each other's concerns in our own work. Building across movements has helped us make clear to officials and opinion-shapers that it is no longer acceptable to be progressive on all matters but for Palestine; it is no longer acceptable to support the rights of some marginalized groups while unequivocally supporting Israel as it tramples the rights of Palestinians.

As the external context changes, so does our internal operating. We completed our name change process last year, and have received glowing feedback from all corners on our new name. We also added new team members with diverse and experienced professional backgrounds. While the adversaries of Palestinian rights are many, and tremendously well-resourced, I am proud of what our staff, organization, and the movement for Palestinian rights has accomplished thus far.

Friends, as you will see in this report, there is much being done and much still to do. In this political moment, we see unprecedented opportunities to push our cause forward. We must be prepared to capitalize on them by continuing to strengthen our organization and the movement for Palestinian rights at large. We know that we can continue to count on you, our partners in this struggle, to help push for a shift in US policy toward freedom, justice, and equality for Palestinians.

Sincerely,

Yousef Munayyer
Executive Director
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights

STAFF



Yousef Munayyer
Executive Director



Anna Baltzer
Director of Organizing
& Advocacy



Mike Daly
Development Director



Nusayba Hammad
Communications
Director



Ramah Kudaimi
Director of Grassroots
Organizing



Josh Ruebner
Policy Director



Lena Abdelhamid
Manager of Finance
& Operations



Karl Anderson
Development
Associate



Leah Muskin-Pierret
Government Affairs
Associate

STEERING COMMITTEE

Mike Merryman-Lotze (2017)
co-chair

Sandra Tamari (2018)
co-chair

Bina Ahmed (2019)

Andrew Kadi (2019)

Nasser Barghouti (2019)

Nadia Ben-Youssef (2018)

Manal Fakhoury (2017)

Rahim Kurwa (2017)

Sydney Levy (2017)

Bekah Wolf (2018)

Rena Zuabi (2019)

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE



38 MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS SIGN
LETTERS IN SUPPORT
OF PALESTINIAN
ACTIVIST ISSA AMRO

6

NFL
PLAYERS
REFUSE A FREE PROPAGANDA
TRIP TO ISRAEL



1400

OLIVE TREES PLANTED
IN PALESTINE BY USCPR
SUPPORTERS THROUGH
TREES FOR LIFE PROGRAM



“ I will not be used. ”

- Seattle Seahawks' defensive
lineman Michael Bennett on
why he refused the trip to Israel

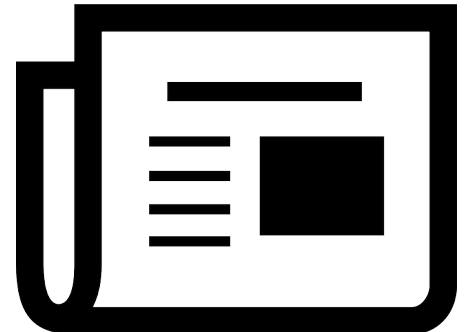


ACTIONS
TOOK PLACE
ACROSS THE US TO
MARK 50 YEARS OF
ISRAEL'S MILITARY
OCCUPATION

60 +

APPEARANCES BY USCPR
STAFF IN THE MEDIA IN

61



42 OUTLETS THAT
INCLUDED

17 OP-ED
PIECES



OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH
(USA) VOTED IN FAVOR OF
WITHDRAWING INVESTMENTS
FROM COMPANIES INVESTED IN

98%

THE ISRAELI
OCCUPATION

USCPR media appearances included:



ALJAZEERA

The New York Times

TIME



NBC

Forward

POLITICO

Slate

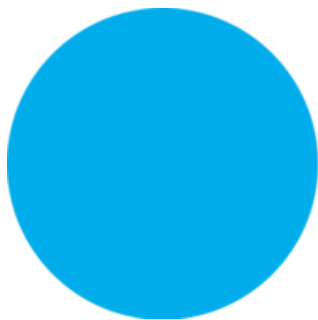
THE HILL



MEE
MIDDLE EAST EYE

THE
NEW YORKER

Newsweek



USA
TODAY™

HAARETZ

THE
HUFFINGTON
POST

AP



ALMONITOR
THE PULSE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

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CHALLENGING US POLICY ON ISRAEL

LOBBY DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

More than 50 citizen lobbyists held dozens of meetings with their Members of Congress as part of USCPR's October 2016 national conference lobby day. Participants advocated for taking effective measures to counteract the growth of illegal Israeli settlements, and voiced their opposition to federal anti-boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) legislation, as well as additional military aid for Israel. USCPR also organized a Capitol Hill briefing with leading Palestinian activists and analysts who focused on the impact of Israeli settlements on Palestinians living under military occupation.

OBAMA'S LAST 100 DAYS

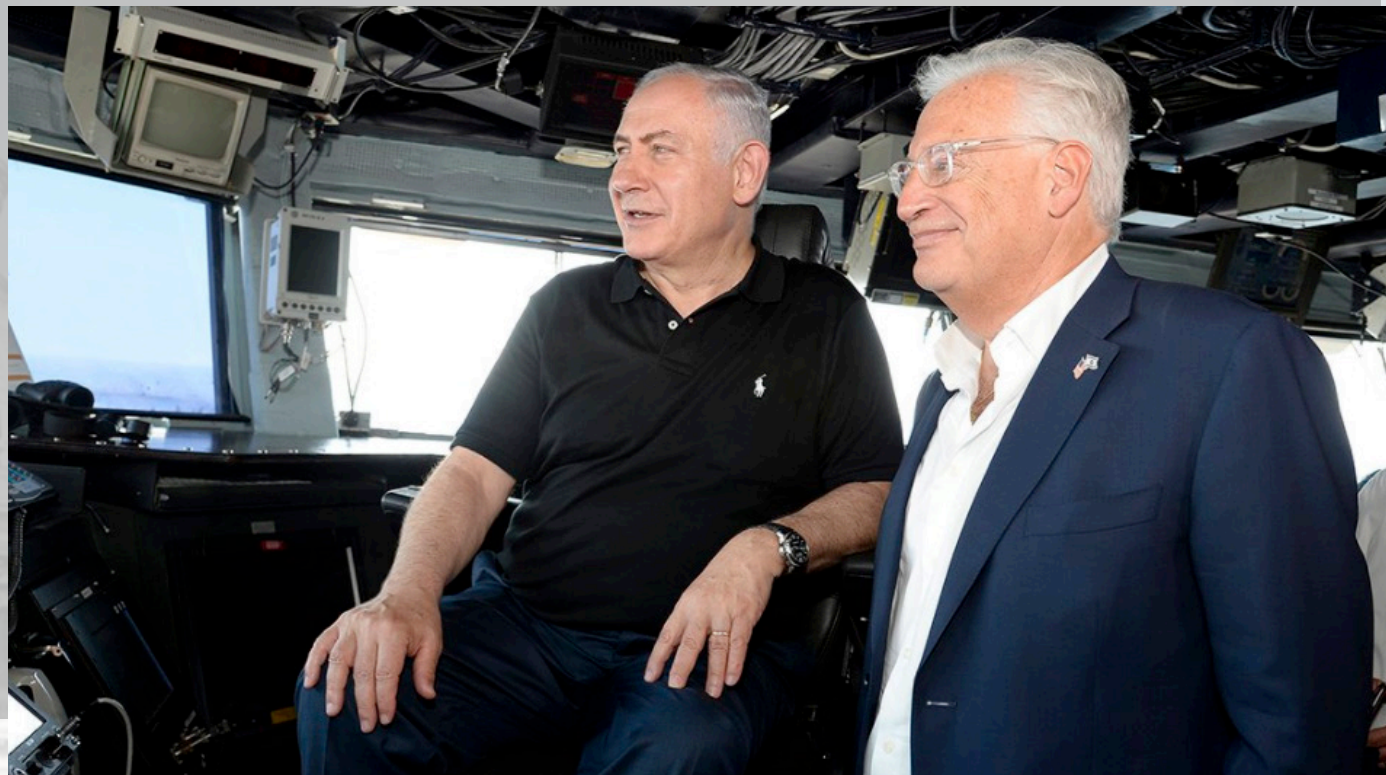
Barack Obama spent nearly eight years in office ineffectually condemning the growth of illegal Israeli settlements while watching their population grow by more than 100,000. During the last 100 days of his term, USCPR called on him to finally take action to stop the expansion of Israeli settlements. This campaign helped create the conditions that enabled the Obama administration to abstain from vetoing UN Security Council Resolution (UNSC) 2334 on December 23, 2016. The resolution reaffirmed that Israel's establishment of settlements in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation of international law.

Pro-Israel Members of Congress responded immediately by attempting to pass resolutions admonishing the Obama administration for allowing UNSC Resolution 2334 to pass. Though they succeeded in the House, 80 Representatives voted against the resolution, representing the largest bloc in memory to vote against a pro-Israel piece of legislation. In the Senate, multiple Senators blocked the resolution from even getting a vote. This watershed moment was due in large part to USCPR's ability to mobilize constituents quickly and efficiently.

US EMBASSY MOVE TO JERUSALEM

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump stoked his hardcore pro-Israel base by promising, if elected, to move the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. As his inauguration approached, speculation swirled that Trump would make good on his promise on his first day as president. Such a move would upend 70 years of bipartisan US policy refusing to recognize any claims to sovereignty over Jerusalem prior to an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

In April 2017, USCPR published a policy paper laying out the historical, legal, and political reasons why the United States should not move its embassy to Jerusalem. While we cannot claim that Trump read the paper, we were relieved when, in June, Trump signed a waiver to the Jerusalem Embassy Act. The waiver will keep the embassy in Tel Aviv, reneging for the time being on a centerpiece of Trump's pro-Israel campaign platform.



*Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pictured with now-Ambassador to Israel David Friedman.
Photo: David Friedman's Twitter*

OPPOSING DAVID FRIEDMAN'S NOMINATION

It is almost a given that both Democratic and Republican presidents will stack their administrations' key foreign policy portfolios with individuals who possess clear pro-Israel biases. Trump veered to the extreme of this trend when he nominated David Friedman for Ambassador to Israel. Trump's former bankruptcy lawyer possessed no prior diplomatic experience.

What Friedman did possess, however, was an extensive record of opposition to Palestinian self-determination and support for illegal Israeli settlements. Friedman also cast aspersions on Palestinian citizens of Israel, opposed the rights of Palestinian refugees as guaranteed under international law, identified with and financially supported the Israeli settler movement, supported Israeli annexation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, trafficked in Islamophobic rhetoric, and called liberal Zionists – supporters of J Street – “worse than Kapos – Jews who turned in their fellow Jews in the Nazi death camps.”

By creating educational resources for senators and mobilizing constituents, USCPR was able to contribute to incubating a political environment in which senators felt emboldened to challenge Friedman's extremism at his February 2017 confirmation hearing. Friedman narrowly won Senate confirmation in an overwhelmingly partisan vote – only two Democrats supported him. This is testament to an emerging partisan divide in Congress between Republicans, who increasingly identify with the types of pro-annexationist policies espoused by Friedman, and many Democrats, who increasingly back Palestinian rights.



Left to right: Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN), Issa Amro, Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), and Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) during Amro's September visit to Capitol Hill.

ISSA AMRO: DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER

Issa Amro is a Palestinian activist in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron. Amro practices nonviolent resistance to Israel's occupation and colonization of his city and homeland. Amro's nonviolent activism, including founding a Hebron-based advocacy group that counsels Palestinian youth on nonviolent tactics to oppose Israel's systematic oppression, makes him a threat in the eyes of the Israeli military.

Amro is currently facing 18 trumped up charges in an Israeli military court for exercising his freedom of expression. Palestinians face a conviction rate of 99.74 percent in Israeli military courts, and, under the practice of administrative detention, can be held indefinitely without charge or trial on secret evidence. Facing such a system, Amro is in danger of being imprisoned for many years for his activism.

USCPR worked with member groups including CODEPINK, American Muslims for Palestine, and Jewish Voice for Peace to mobilize constituents to contact their Members of Congress about Amro's case. In the summer of 2017, 38 Members of Congress banded together to send letters to the State Department, urging Israel to drop the charges against Amro.

This represented the largest bloc of Members of Congress to support Palestinian rights in the history of the US Campaign. In September 2017, Amro visited Washington, DC and met with some of those Members of Congress to thank them for their solidarity.



THANK YOU

Senators Feinstein, Durbin,
Sanders, and Leahy for
supporting Palestinian
human rights defender

Issa Amro



US Campaign for
Palestinian Rights

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

June 28, 2017

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

“

We write to request that you urgently pursue all diplomatic tools at your disposal to encourage the appropriate Israeli authorities to reconsider the charges against Issa Amro...

We fear that Israeli military courts deliberating over Mr. Amro's charges will not render a fair and impartial verdict. According to the military courts' annual report, the conviction rate within the military court system in the territories is 99.74 percent.

We believe that nonviolent means of political engagement should be encouraged rather than suppressed.

”

DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT TO BOYCOTT

2017 marks 12 years since Palestinian civil society issued a call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) targeting Israel and institutions complicit in its occupation and apartheid policies. BDS is quickly becoming a mainstream tactic to advocate for Palestinian rights. As such, our movement is facing increasingly heavy-handed, McCarthyite attempts to quash BDS. We will not be intimidated; USCPR and our allies are defending the First Amendment-protected right to boycott at every turn.

ISRAEL ANTI-BOYCOTT ACT

For the past few years, USCPR and our allies in the movement for Palestinian rights have been fighting severe legislation, at both the state and federal levels, designed to punish supporters of BDS. The Israel Anti-Boycott Act, however, marks a previously unseen level of repression. USCPR was the first organization to sound the alarm over this bill, which was introduced in March 2017 by Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) and unveiled at AIPAC's annual conference.

The Israel Anti-Boycott Act seeks to carve out an exemption to the First Amendment in order to protect Israel from civil society advocacy for Palestinian rights. The bill seeks to imprison people for up to 20 years and impose fines of up to \$1 million for advancing a boycott of Israel or its illegal settlements called for by an international organization.

Through educating Members of Congress, mobilizing constituents, and coordinating with member groups to raise this issue in town halls across the US, USCPR and our allies have so far been successful in stalling one of AIPAC's top legislative priorities.

ANTI-SEMITISM AWARENESS ACT

At the tail end of the last Congressional session, Members of Congress tried to rush through a dangerous bill: the misnamed Anti-Semitism Awareness Act. The bill conflated legitimate criticism of Israeli policies with anti-Jewish bigotry. Although the bill passed the Senate, USCPR mobilized with allies and contributed to its defeat in the House, preventing it from being signed into law.

RESISTING CAMPUS REPRESSION

The vigor with which pro-Israel groups are attempting to shut down Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) demonstrates just how successful campus activism for Palestinian rights has become. Over the past year, USCPR worked as part of a national Campus Support Team, helping to mobilize opposition to Fordham University's decision to ban SJP, and supporting students and professors at San Francisco State University facing smear campaigns by right-wing pro-Israel groups. USCPR also provided fellowships to SJP alumni to compile a BDS organizing toolkit, a resource for the many campus divestment campaigns to come.



Students at UC Berkeley supporting freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinians.

FIGHTING STATE ANTI-BDS LEGISLATION

Working closely with ad hoc state-level coalitions, often comprised of member groups, USCPR challenged anti-BDS legislation in state legislatures throughout the year. These bills unconstitutionally sought to deny contracts to businesses or institutions supporting BDS and/or divest state assets from companies adhering to BDS activists' demands. Although some additional states ultimately passed anti-BDS legislation, our grassroots mobilization succeeded in defeating anti-BDS bills in Virginia, Maryland, Washington, Connecticut, and Montana.

THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT: ORGANIZING SUPPORT

Over the course of the year, USCPR's organizing team provided trainings, organizing support, and other forms of mentorship to over 75 member groups nationwide.

As a broad coalition, USCPR's utilizes our bird's-eye view of the movement for Palestinian rights in the US to provide a multiplier effect: identifying strategic campaigns in a city and spreading them to others, amplifying local work to give it a national platform and impact, and developing the infrastructure and networks necessary to facilitate cooperation between groups nationwide.

USCPR's 2016 national conference provided a critical space for strategy sessions around municipal, corporate accountability, and faith-based campaigns. For example, the US Campaign co-convened the fifth annual interdenominational summit, bringing together more than 70 leaders from over 25 groups of faith nationwide to strengthen relationships and deepen cross-denominational cooperation for justice in Palestine.

CELEBRATING BDS VICTORIES

Two years ago, the movement for Palestinian rights celebrated more than 100 US BDS victories: an incredible milestone. Today, that number has climbed to more than 200 victories. BDS is not just growing; it is gaining unprecedented power and momentum for freedom, justice, and equality. USCPR has played a critical role in mobilizing and connecting campaigns and coalitions to build and leverage that power.

G4S DIVESTS

This past year, USCPR learned that security company and longtime BDS target G4S had sold much, but not all, of its business with Israel. G4S supported Israel's prisons, checkpoints, apartheid wall, and more. The good news came after years of BDS campaigns that caused G4S enormous reputational damage and cost it millions of dollars in lost contracts.

While we celebrate this victory, we re-committ to targeting G4S given its ongoing work training Israeli police, guarding the Dakota Access Pipeline construction, aiding Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security with deportations, running US youth detention facilities, and other forms of oppression outlined at g4sfacts.org.

USCPR has spent half a decade supporting the Stop G4S campaign, including supporting municipal and campus campaigns, and building toward groundbreaking decisions by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church to divest from the security giant.

“USCPR unifies the US movement for justice in Palestine and empowers us to work together. We are so much more effective when we work in coalition across the country, rather than remaining fragmented in our focus and isolated in our regions, denominations, and demographic groups.”

– Bud, Unitarian Universalist activist in Virginia

MENNONITE CHURCH (USA) DIVESTS

USCPR was in the room when the Mennonite Church (USA) voted by an overwhelming 98 percent majority in favor of “withdrawing investments from companies that are profiting from the occupation.” The Mennonite Church is just the latest to take economic action for Palestinian rights. USCPR has provided strong strategic support, building on one win after another, year after year, and even published a church divestment handbook capturing lessons learned from each assembly to strengthen campaigns into the future.

BOYCOTT HP WEEK OF ACTION

The Boycott HP Week of Action, aimed at holding Hewlett-Packard companies accountable for their complicity in Israeli apartheid, took place from November 25 to December 3, 2016. Coordinated by USCPR and the BDS National Committee, the week of action included more than 150 actions in 101 cities in 30 countries across six continents – quite possibly the largest week of action in BDS history.

Creative actions unfolded in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, Sudan, and across the Middle East, Europe, and North America. In the US, 40 actions took place in more than 30 cities. Actions included banner drops, flash mobs, street theater, erecting mock checkpoints and walls, and more.

The week of action set the stage for HP wins throughout 2017, including nearly 20 congregations joining USCPR member group Friends of Sabeel-North America's new HP-free churches campaign.

NFL PLAYERS REJECT FREE TRIP TO ISRAEL

In February 2017, USCPR spearheaded a letter to National Football League (NFL) players, urging them to cancel an upcoming propaganda trip to Israel sponsored by the Israeli government. The letter was signed by civil rights and feminist icon Angela Davis, performance stars Harry Belafonte and Danny Glover, famed athletes John Carlos and Craig Hodges, Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza, and other changemakers.

The next day, Seattle Seahawks defensive lineman and 2014 Super Bowl star Michael Bennett tweeted, "I'm not going to Israel" with a picture of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Stokely Carmichael. One by one, five other players slated to go on the trip cancelled. Of the eleven players originally expected to go, six skipped the trip.

Never before have US athletes engaged in a boycott of Israel on this scale. The cancellations spurred over 75 major media hits, including ESPN, Newsweek, Associated Press, CNN, BET, and NBC Sports, educating millions worldwide about the movement for Palestinian rights and reminding us of the critical role the sports boycott played in ending South African apartheid.



Michael Bennett
@mosesbread72

Following

Im not going to Israel



7:12 PM - 9 Feb 2017

Bennett sent shockwaves through the media with this tweet declaring that he would not go on a propaganda trip to Israel.

BUILDING ACROSS MOVEMENTS

from Palestine to...

MEXICO: A WORLD WITHOUT WALLS

In February 2017, the USCPR staff and Steering Committee visited the US/Mexico border wall. We watched as mothers on the Mexican side prayed to be reunited with their daughters, and couples touched each other's fingertips through the iron mesh wall before being pulled away by Border Patrol agents. As Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu celebrate one another's walls separating families and destroying lives, their shared ideologies of exclusion are clear, as is the need for us to resist these walls together.

USCPR is working with partners to send US, Mexican, and Indigenous activists resisting the US/Mexico border wall to Palestine in October 2017. There, they will build relationships and joint resistance with Palestinians facing Israel's apartheid wall. The delegation will explore common issues facing marginalized communities in Palestine and the US, including economic exploitation and police brutality. The delegation will include Latinx activists and Tohono O'odham tribe members, whose ancestral lands are divided by the wall and border itself.

STANDING ROCK: SOLIDARITY WITH #NODAPL

The powerful Indigenous-led resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline was a call to Palestinian rights activists to stand with Indigenous struggle in Turtle Island (North America). USCPR provided support for the Palestinian Youth Movement's "From Palestine to the Pipeline" caravan to Standing Rock, hosted a webinar connecting Indigenous struggle from Turtle Island to Palestine, and presented lessons learned from BDS, utilizing experience to uplift nationwide campaigns aimed at divesting from the Dakota Access Pipeline.

USCPR works to provide critical voices, context, and resources to strengthen rights struggles – from the US to Palestine.

PALESTINE AS A MODEL OF RESISTANCE



US Campaign for
Palestinian Rights

TOGETHER WE RISE

In 2017, USCPR launched a groundbreaking political education curriculum aimed to provide critical voices, context, and resources to strengthen rights struggles from the US to Palestine. The curriculum, *Together We Rise: Palestine As a Model of Resistance*, consists of three tracks. "Not That Complicated" provides 101 resources to understand Israeli apartheid and provide historical context. "Freedom, Bound: Resisting Zionism and White Supremacy" connects US and Israeli colonialism and racism. It explores what there is to learn from Palestinian, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other freedom struggles, as well as how to apply those lessons in this political moment. "Together We Rise" provides skill-building, trainings, resources, and more to fight for justice.

The curriculum consists of webinars, videos, graphics, fact sheets, toolkits, and more. The Freedom, Bound section includes resources on Black-Palestinian solidarity. Myth of Citizenship delves into the role citizenship can play in furthering oppression and inequality by providing the veneer of democracy. Resisting Refugee Bans From the US to Palestine explores the connections between Trump's Muslim Ban and Israel's decades-long ban on Palestinian refugees. Learn more at uscpr.org/togetherwerise.

ENOUGH! WEEK OF ACTION JUNE 5-10, 2017



Image by Leila Abdelrazaq

USCPR coordinated a week of action to mark 50 years of Israel's brutal military occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Member groups nationwide came together to protest and commemorate the dismal anniversary with more than 60 actions, including demonstrations and rallies, billboards, educational events, and workshops. USCPR provided support in the form of graphics, fact sheets, postcards, toolkits, individual organizing support, and cross-promotion.

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

Over 4,000 people generously supported USCPR financially in 2016, allowing us to advance the key government affairs, organizing, and media work profiled in this report. Individual donations fund over 70 percent of all that we accomplish, and our large base of diverse supporters ensures that the US Campaign can remain principled and independent.

OLIVE BRANCH CLUB

The Olive Branch Club is our monthly giving program. The Olive Branch Club gives supporters an easy way to provide consistent support for our programming. You save time and paper, and help us accomplish our goals with recurring support at the level that is right for you.

TREES FOR LIFE

Donors giving to the Trees for Life campaign helped plant over 1,400 trees in Palestine in 2016. The trees planted through Trees for Life provide economic and cultural support to hundreds of Palestinian farming families.

ESTATE PLANNING

Establishing a legacy of justice can further your dreams for a better, more equal world. Including USCPR in your will or estate plan will enable work for Palestinian rights and freedom, justice, and equality for years to come.

STOCKS & SECURITIES

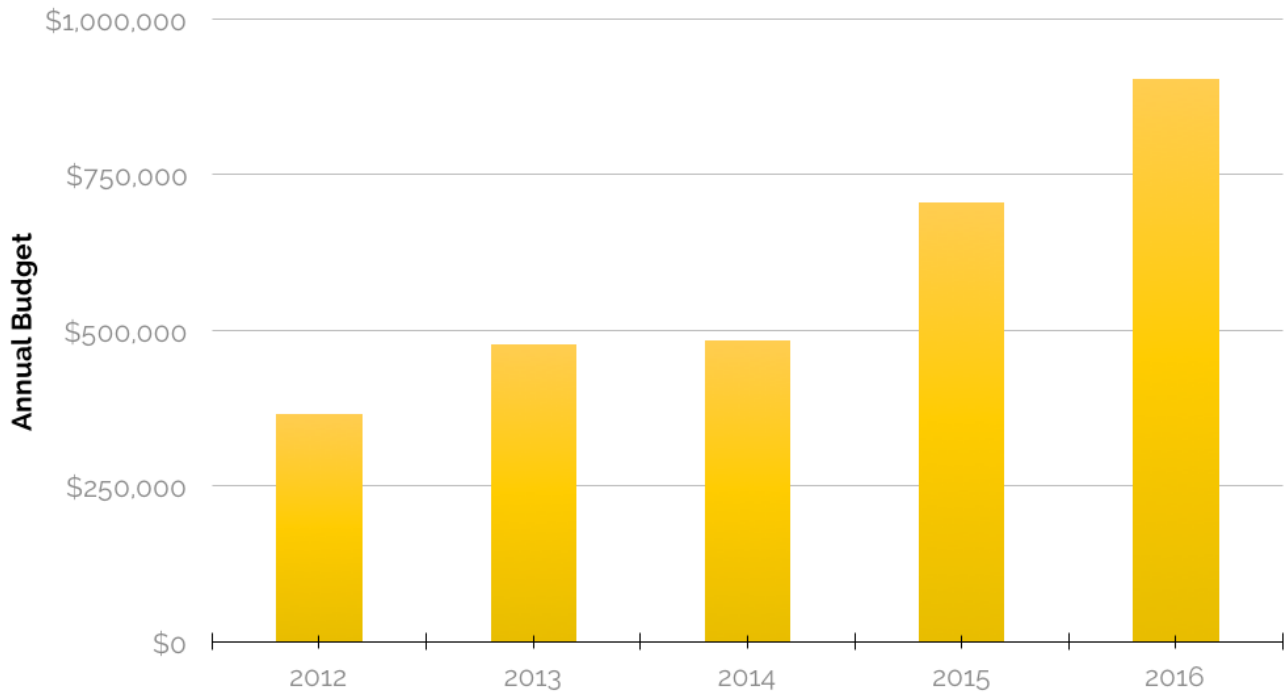
USCPR accepts gifts in the form of stocks, mutual fund shares, and other forms of securities.

Find more information on the above ways to support USCPR online at uscpr.org/donate. To discuss a legacy or stock gift, or to learn more about opportunities for supporting USCPR's work for freedom, justice, and equality, please contact Mike Daly, Development Director, at mike@uscpr.org and (202) 332-0994.



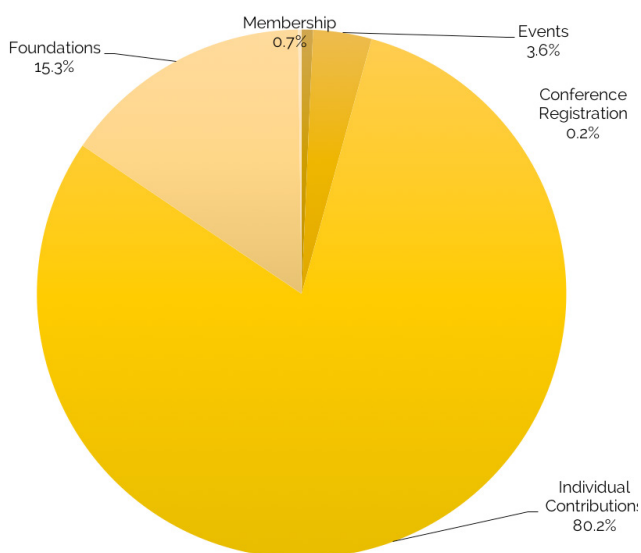
The tax ID number (EIN) for the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights is 42-1636592. We are a registered 501(c)3 organization. View digital copies of annual reports and financial statements online at uscpr.org/finances.

ANNUAL BUDGET

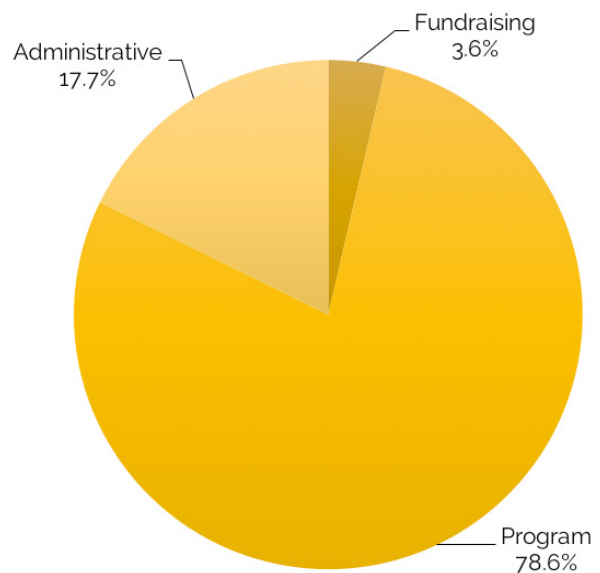


Our program expense ratio is 79 percent. This means that, out of every dollar spent, 79 cents goes toward USCPR's programs. We spend just 4 cents on fundraising costs, and 17 cents on operations.

INCOME



EXPENSES



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Washington, DC 20007

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