

INVESTING FOR PEACE



Where you put your money, there your heart will be also. MATTHEW 6:21



Sabeel-Kairos
Taking Action for Palestine



“ WE LEARNED IN SOUTH AFRICA
THAT THE ONLY WAY TO END APARTHEID
PEACEFULLY WAS TO FORCE THE
POWERFUL TO THE TABLE THROUGH
ECONOMIC PRESSURE.

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU'S CALL TO
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
JUNE 2014



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What are we asking churches to do?

- To fully **disclose** financial information and lists of their investments in companies and businesses, in a simple and coherent way.
- To **identify** any companies in their investment portfolio which are currently profiting from situations in which international law is violated, for example, the illegal exploitation of natural resources, illegal construction of the separation barrier and its related infrastructure and illegal settlements.
- To put in place a comprehensive **investment screening process**, to identify companies that they currently invest in who are profiting from illegal activity and to prevent future investments in such companies.
- To ask churches to review their current policy of corporate engagement with companies in their investment portfolio found to be profiting from violations of international law. To make it **time-bound and structured**. This may result in **divestment**.



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The Legal Bit...

- The development of **Israeli settlements** in the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem, which violates the Fourth Geneva Convention and constitutes a war crime.
- The continued **construction of the Separation Wall on Palestinian land**, which was declared illegal by the International Court of Justice.
- The **forceful transfer of Palestinians** from their homes, including children as young as 12, taken to Israel and held in prison without trial, is a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and constitutes a war crime.
- The **exploitation of Palestinian natural resources** such as land, offshore minerals, quarries & water is considered pillage and prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Hague Regulations. International law specifies that pillage is prohibited for the occupier, as well as by private companies which may be given access by the occupying power.



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The Ethical Bit...

“ Where you put your money, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21

We therefore have a moral obligation to use our resources and investments to support justice, end oppression, and promote human rights, dignity and equality.



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How can we know which companies are complicit?

Who Profits is an independent research center dedicated to exposing the role of the private sector in the Israeli occupation economy

Find A Company

 search

[Advance Search](#)

Search Website

search

Recently Updated Companies

[HaShomrim Guarding and Security Group Company \(S.B. Shmira Ubitahon\)](#)

[E.P.R. Systems](#)

[Atid Packaging](#)



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American Churches blazing a trail

- **2012 Friends Fiduciary Corporation** (manages the investment for over 250 Quaker groups) divested from companies complicit in Israeli human rights violations.
- **2014 Presbyterian Church** (1.5 million member) votes to divest from Caterpillar, Motorola and Hewlett-Packard and put in place an investment screen to stop supporting companies who profit from the occupation of Palestine.
- **2015 United Church of Christ** (1 million members) Voted to divest from companies profiting from Israel's control of the West Bank
- **2016 United Methodist Church** (12.8 Members \$20Billion fund) blocks 5 Israeli banks from its investment portfolio.
- **2017 Mennonite Church** (75,000 members \$3Billion fund) voted to sell its holdings in companies they say are profiting from business in territories occupied by Israel.
- **2017 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** (4 million members) voted to introduce an investment screen to stop supporting companies profiting from Israeli rights abuses.
- **2018 Presbyterian Church** voted on four very strong resolutions, including;
 - Opposition to U.S. federal and state laws designed to suppress Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) in support of Palestinian human rights;
 - A call to RE/MAX to stop operating in Settlements.
- **July 2018 the Episcopal Church** (3 million members) voted to divest from complicit companies and put in place a human rights screen



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In the UK...

- Many churches already have ethical investment screens in place for gambling, pornography, weapons, tobacco, alcohol, & human rights.
- The Methodist church has an investment policy on Israel and Palestine – but it is focussed on engagement. Following campaigning by our group last year they disinvested from HeidelbergCement.
- The Quakers in Britain introduced an investment screen in 2018 following our recommendations. You'll hear more about this later in the session!
- We have campaign groups in the Church of England, Methodist, United Reformed, Catholic and Church of Scotland denominations.
- The Investing for Peace campaign is also supported by the following organisations: War on Want, Pax Christi, Amos Trust and Christian Aid.



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How can you be part of the campaign?

- Join a denominational group working nationally
- Raise awareness in your community & church
- Do research into how your church is investing its funds
- Use our campaign postcard and other resources!



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Resources



INVESTING FOR PEACE
A GUIDE FOR LOCAL CHURCH
ACTIVISTS



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