



Talking Points for Advocacy on Jerusalem

- Jerusalem is the heritage, hope and home of two peoples and three religions. Jerusalem should be open to and shared by all.
- U.S. policy is that the status of Jerusalem must be decided by negotiations.
- Churches for Middle East Peace calls for a shared Jerusalem that respects the human, political and religious rights of both Israelis and Palestinians.
- **Ask Members of Congress to support religious freedom in the holy city, access to Jerusalem for people of all faiths and respect for the status quo regarding holy sites.**
 - Severing Jerusalem from Bethlehem isolates that Palestinian Christian community and troubles Christians everywhere.
 - Some U.S. churches have Palestinian partner churches: Greek and Armenian Orthodox Catholic, Episcopal and Lutheran. We hear of their suffering, a plight shared with Muslims.
- **Urge Members of Congress to reject actions that would preempt negotiations on Jerusalem.**
 - The Administration consistently urges Israel to refrain from actions that preempt negotiations and prejudge the final status of Jerusalem.
 - East Jerusalem is part of the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967.
 - Israel's separation barrier in and near Jerusalem also harms the health, livelihood and education of 250,000 Palestinian East Jerusalemites.
 - Peace between Israel and Palestine, and a viable Palestinian state, require Palestinian sovereignty and a capital in East Jerusalem that is contiguous with the West Bank.
- **Urge Members of Congress to reject efforts to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem outside the context of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.**
 - Taba talks and Geneva Accords envisaged Jerusalem as the capital of both Israel and Palestine.
 - International recognition of West Jerusalem as Israel's capital is unlikely until a Palestinian capital is established in East Jerusalem.

Churches for Middle East Peace

ADVOCACY TIPS

- **Introduce yourself and state your church affiliation.** Identify if you are a constituent and/or have social, business or political ties to the legislator.
- **Be courteous at all times.**
- **Start with a compliment,** if possible, thanking the Member for a recent, good stand.
- **State concisely the issue,** your position, and the action you want the member to take.
- **Very briefly, state your personal connection** to the issue; highlight relevant experience and education.
- **Mention other** prominent individuals, government officials, legislators, or church leaders who support your position.
- **Stress how the issue affects the Member's district or state,** if applicable.
- **Don't dominate the conversation** or act like a know-it-all. An important part of lobbying is **listening.**
- **Stay on message.** Politely steer the conversation back to the issue when it is off-track.
- Answer questions to the best of your ability, but **if you don't know the answer, don't fake it.** Instead use it as an opportunity to follow up with the information.
- **State a clear action** you want the Member to take. Press politely for a commitment.
- **Leave a fact sheet or packet** that outlines your position(s).
- **Don't be intimidated.** You know the issue well and have a responsibility to present the information to your legislators.
- At the end, restate any commitments or follow-up. **Thank the Member or staff for their time,** even if they disagreed with you.

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