

Avoid Purchase of Hewlett Packard Products

Budget Implications: None

Rationale: Hewlett Packard companies (HP) is complicit in human rights violations by developing systems used by the Israeli military to racially profile and control the movement of Palestinians. This resolution calls for United Methodists in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference to boycott HP until this company ends its human rights abuses.

Submitted by: Rev. Shannon Sullivan, Presbury United Methodist Church, Edgewood, MD
and the Baltimore-Washington Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action

Resolution:

Palestinians are forced to use Israeli controlled checkpoints to move within their own designated homeland, also known as the West Bank. Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), one of the family of Hewlett Packard companies (HP), is responsible for developing, integrating and maintaining the biometric system used by the Israeli military to control movement, and HPE profits from developing systems to racially profile and control the movement of Palestinians, and as such is complicit in a breach of Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

HP operates a development center in Beithar Illit, an illegal Israeli-only settlement city in the occupied West Bank built on land confiscated from the Palestinian villages of Wadi Fukin, Nahhalin, and Husan, and, as an employer in the settlement, HP profits from stolen land and contributes to the tax base and job opportunities that strengthen the settlement (<http://investigate.afsc.org/company/hp-inc-and-hewlett-packard-enterprise>). HP provides services and technologies to two of the other biggest Israeli-only, illegal West Bank settlements Modi'in Ilit and Ariel, and participated in the "Smart City" project in Ariel, providing a storage system for the settlement's municipality (<http://investigate.afsc.org/company/hp-inc-and-hewlett-packard-enterprise>).

Hewlett Packard Company recently split into two companies, HP Inc. and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), with more spin-offs projected and the various HP companies share certain logistical infrastructure, governance, supply chains, and technologies with one another, and they all draw on the HP brand's long history of close connections with the Israeli military and occupation (http://uscpr.org/hp2016woa_pr/).

The United Methodist Church has specifically and repeatedly condemned both the military occupation and the construction of Israeli-only settlements in the West Bank (2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6111, p. 602-606). United Methodists have participated in shareholder engagement with HP for more than eight years and have asked them to end their involvement with the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands (https://www.kairosresponse.org/uploads/UM_CorpEngagement_2004-11.pdf). There has been no meaningful progress with HP and no indication of any willingness to change their involvement in the occupation of foreign lands or the prison industrial complex, (https://www.kairosresponse.org/uploads/UM_CorpEngagement_2004-11.pdf).

More than 3,000 Palestinian Christians have implored Christians everywhere to put actions behind their words to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian land (<http://www.kairospalestine.ps/index.php/about-us/kairos-palestine-document>). The United Methodist General Conference asks all companies that profit from and/or support settlements through their business activities to examine these activities and stop any business transactions that contribute to violations of international law, promote systemic discrimination or otherwise support ongoing military occupation (2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6111, p. 605).

Nonviolent tools for education and ethical consumption are central to a living expression of discipleship, with Methodists participating in boycotts as an effective moral economic tool long used by people of conscience including such boycotts as Taco Bell and Mt. Olive Pickle Company, Inc to support farm workers; Nestle to challenge marketing of infant formula; and USA Today to support newspaper workers in Detroit.

The Presbyterian Church, United Church of Christ, Quaker Friends Fiduciary, Alliance of Baptists and Unitarian Universalists have divested from HP (<http://www.fosna.org/free-your-church-hp>). An international coalition of organizations and groups have come together to challenge HP's complicity in human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory and to ask the company to withdraw from such contracts and stop profiting from the Israeli occupation (<https://www.afsc.org/resource/campaign-boycott-hp>).

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62 Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2017 Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference calls on all boards
63 and agencies, conference offices, local congregations, campus ministries, and individual United Methodists
64 to refrain from purchasing HP products until this company ends its involvement with the Israeli occupation
65 and the aforementioned human rights abuses.

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67 **Effective Date:**

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69 **Co-Sponsors:** Dumbarton United Methodist Church

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71 *On March 4, the Connectional Table of the Baltimore-Washington Conference voted concurrence with this*
72 *resolution.*

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