

South Central Yearly Meeting, March 2021

Proposed minute for South Central Yearly Meeting, March-April 2021.

No Way to Treat a Child

(Based on Northwest Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, March 7, 2021: No Way to Treat a Child (<https://neym-ip.org/expanded-minute-for-palestinian-children-spurs-quakers-to-further-action-here-at-home/>)

We recognize our own involvement in the incarceration of children and youth, most of them Black and Brown, here in the United States. Whether in prisons or cages for recent immigrants, this is no way to treat children. We ask South Central Yearly Meeting to acknowledge the importance of this work and its alignment with our testimonies of Peace, Equality, Integrity, and Community.

Spirit leads the Peace and Justice Committee to ask South Central Yearly Meeting to engage wholeheartedly with American Friends Service Committee's No Way to Treat a Child campaign "which seeks to challenge and end Israel's prolonged military occupation of Palestinians by exposing widespread and systematic ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system." This rights-based effort to halt ongoing infringement of children's human rights stems from Friends' belief that no child should be denied due process or be tortured.

SCYM Minute 2020.10 asked SCYM monthly meeting Peace and Social Justice/Action Committees to continue to support legislation to protect children and eliminate funding for governments that continue to oppress and violate human rights, especially children's rights. With the new Congress, the Peace and Social Justice Committee requests that South Central Yearly Meeting renew its embrace of the No Way to Treat a Child campaign by calling upon Friends everywhere to endeavor to end these violations of children's human rights by:

- Learning how placing children in military prisons violates international law and impedes the right to a childhood,
- Talking with members of Congress to co-sponsor any future legislation addressing the military detention of children,
- Writing letters to local newspapers as one of many ways Quakers can join No Way to Treat a Child,
- Accompanying American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)—as led locally, nationally, and internationally—in that Quaker organization's effort to end "the Israeli occupation of Palestinians by exposing the systematic ill treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention,"
- Connecting what Friends learn about settler colonialism, here in the US, in other countries including in Israel/Palestine.