Our History in Israel/Palestine

AFSC’s history in the region dates back to 1948, when AFSC arrived in Gaza to assist Palestinian refugees and displaced persons during and after the 1948 war.

Today, while the conflict remains unresolved, AFSC advocates for a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel. AFSC affirms the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to live as sovereign peoples in their own homeland.

AFSC believes in freedom, justice and equality for all.

Resources and Information

Boycott! The Art of Economic Activism

AFSC is organizing a traveling poster exhibition that highlights historical boycott movements from the 1950s to the present. If you’d like to host this exhibit, visit www.afsc.org/boycott or e-mail boycottposter@afsc.org

We Divest Campaign

AFSC is part of the We Divest campaign, demanding divestment from corporations that profit from Israeli occupation. To learn more, check out www.wedivest.org

Interns and volunteers are always welcome to work in the Chicago AFSC Middle East program!

If you would like to get general updates on important actions and events in the Chicagoland area about Israel and Palestine, request to join our AFSC Middle East program e-mail list by contacting sdamra@afsc.org.
Our Program

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) works in the United States to educate audiences about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to challenge and change U.S. government and corporate policies and actions that support and sustain Israel’s continued military occupation.

Through engaging with the local community, our Chicago office works to bring together and share resources with social justice organizers and groups committed to economic activism and to ending U.S. military aid to Israel.

What We Do

Organizing events

AFSC’s Middle East program organizes events and hosts speakers to build awareness of on-the-ground realities in Israel and Palestine.

AFSC brings together organizers, students, academics, authors, journalists and others from Palestine, Israel, and the Middle East to Chicago and the Midwest to educate our community, move audience members to action, spark ideas for campaigns and foster relationship-building and critical discussions.

Engaging youth

AFSC in Chicago engages with college students through our internships, workshops, and seminars. Our interns often go on to organize events on their campuses and pursue careers as organizers for social justice.

Our interns learn grassroots organizing, research, design and communications skills for activist campaigns. We create an environment at AFSC where students can meet with one another and make connections with other organizers in the broader movement for justice and peace.

Supporting local campaigns

AFSC provides resources to faith-based and community groups working to challenge militarism and support nonviolent change.

AFSC supports the 2005 Palestinian call for nonviolent resistance against Israeli occupation through Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS).

AFSC Chicago serves as a hub for local organizations to get together and discuss, plan and strategize for boycott and divestment campaigns against corporations that profit from human rights abuses.