

THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS

What does the Bible say?

“Look after him,” he said, “and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have. Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” **(Luke 10:35-37)**



How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. **(Psalm 82:2-4)**

The Lord’s justice will dwell in the desert, his righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. **(Isaiah 32:16-18)**

What does the United Methodist Church say?

Sanctions as political and economic tools of pressure and leverage can play a critical role in the mitigation and deterioration of conflicts. It is in this sense that sanctions are sometimes seen as a more tolerable alternative to war, but in no case should they impede the ability of people to have adequate access to food, water, and medicine. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4160, “Guidelines for the Imposition of Sanctions”)**



Those countries and entities who impose sanctions of any kind must always take care to protect the suffering and the innocents by means of the basic, uncompromised modicum of international human rights and humanitarian laws. We must guarantee the right to protection of human life, human rights, and civil liberties; sanctions should not be imposed at the expense of the vulnerable. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4160, “Guidelines for the Imposition of Sanctions”)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

What do the facts say?

- The United States is the world leader in imposing economic sanctions and supports sanctions regimes affecting nearly 200 million people.¹
- U.S. economic sanctions violate international law by causing economic hardship to sovereign states which undermines the human rights of their citizens.²
- Sanctions have caused the deaths of many around the world. For example, sanctions in North Korea led to more than 3,968 deaths in 2018 alone due to their impact on UN humanitarian programs.³
- Sanctions cause economic and social crises. In Iran, sanctions have contributed to unemployment, low incomes, and unsustainable living costs for millions. There have been several cases where crucial medicines listed on the humanitarian exemption list have been prevented from entering Iran due to sanctions.⁴
- The imposition of sanctions has a harmful effect on income inequality. Particularly U.S. economic sanctions predominantly affect the poorest people in the target countries.⁵



¹ Center for Economic and Policy Research, ² Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, ³ Korea Peace Now, ⁴ Human Rights Watch, ⁵ World Development Journal

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Engage** in prayer, reflection, and action calling for everyone around the world to have adequate access to food, water, and medicine.
- As sanctions are affecting vulnerable people around the world, **commit yourselves** to supporting humanitarian aid efforts through United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).
- **Advocate** to your lawmakers to demand assessments on the humanitarian impact of sanctions, broaden and enforce humanitarian exemptions to sanctions, and to ensure sanctions and embargoes meet the requirements of human rights and international humanitarian law.
- **Sign up** for email alerts focused on sanctions and other peace with justice issues at <https://www.umcjustice.org/>.



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