Proposal for Ad Hoc Special Committee from the IH Section

MOTION: To form an ad hoc committee to organize a series of quarterly Member Engagement sessions over the course of the year culminating in a session at next year's meeting. These educational and interactive virtual sessions will be hosted by the APHA Governing Council and will feature experts in armed conflict and the reasons for them, and the health harms of these conflicts. There will be a special focus on conflicts fueled by racism, settler colonialism, and imperialism, and clear definitions of those terms as well as other important terms including genocide, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and occupation would be provided with current and historical examples. All members of the APHA would be invited to attend.

The rationale for the planning committee of this series of sessions is that public health practitioners must be able to understand the root causes of armed conflict, in addition to the harms wrought by armed conflict, to be able to advocate for a more healthy, equitable world. The growing number of conflicts in the world and the Association's difficulty wrestling with these topics demonstrates the need for more education. This is a new project, and does not duplicate any existing initiatives. In fact, it reinvigorates the discussions in 2014 Dr. Benjamin had with several IH members to plan an international study tour focused on the intersections of war and health. The International Health section and the Peace Caucus will organize experts from within APHA to give these sessions, prioritizing our public health colleagues in the areas most affected by these conflicts.

Committee appointment process: The Executive Board, the IH section leadership, and the Peace Caucus leadership will create a short application process and decide collectively on the 20 people to join the planning committee. Preference will be given to those with experience and published work on armed conflict.

Timeline: First session in January, next in April, next in July and final one in person at the convention in DC next year.