

We the undersigned Christian leaders, as part of a broader interfaith effort,¹ respectfully urge Democratic Party leaders to ensure that the Israel/Palestine section of the Party's platform expresses support for the security and rights of both Israelis and Palestinians. United by values common to both Jewish and Christian faith traditions, we share the view of a majority of our communities that the United States should be an honest broker in the region. We ask the Democratic Party to make this a central element of its vision for the Middle East in its 2020 Platform.

Date: June 2020

To: The Democratic National Committee²

From: Christian Faith Leaders

Subject: Israel/Palestine in the Democratic Party Platform

The actions of the Trump administration have upended decades of bipartisan US support for a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They have provided the Israeli government with a green light to permanently reject Palestinian statehood, legitimize settlement expansion, entrench the occupation, and pave the way for annexation in the West Bank.

Past party platforms have rightly stated a commitment to Israel's security and included condemnations of threats and actions against our ally, in addition to embracing a two-state outcome. Those platforms have, however, also been silent on the rights of Palestinians, on Israeli actions that undermine those rights and the prospects for a two-state solution, and on the need for security for both peoples.

The 2020 platform should end this double standard by expressly stating both a commitment to Israel and its security and a commitment to Palestinian rights. It should include clear opposition to ongoing occupation, settlement expansion and any form of unilateral annexation of territory in the West Bank.

We ask that the platform address these issues—each of which has been exacerbated under the current administration—to make clear what a comprehensive Israel/Palestine foreign policy looks like under a future administration, which includes a commitment to security, democracy, and human rights.

Signed,

¹ <https://jstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DNC-Campaign-Vehicle.pdf>

² A companion to this letter is also being conveyed to the Republican National Committee.

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Stacy	Andersen	Seattle	WA
Jeff	Anderson	Burnsville	MN
Rev. Glenn	Bengson	Powell	OH
Deborah	Blue	Calumet Park	IL
Susan	Brogden	Harrison	OH
Rev. Charles	Brown	Holland	MI
Rev. Dr. Mae Elise	Cannon	Washington	DC
Rev. Ward "Skip"	Cornett	Delaware	OH
Rev. Dr. Rob	Dalrymple	Shafter	CA
Mike	Evans	Seattle	WA
Steven	Graybill	Silver Spring	MD
Lisa Sharon	Harper	Washington	DC
Rev. Bob	Harris	Falls Church	VA
Angie	Hong	Durham	NC
David	Husby	Chicago	IL
Russell	Jeung	San Francisco	CA
Rev. Kent	Johnson	La Crosse	WI
Rev. Dr. David	Kersten	Chicago	IL
Kathy	Khang	Chicago	IL
Kristyn	Komarnicki	Philadelphia	PA
Rev. Dr. Andrew	Larsen	Seattle	WA
Rev. Charlie	Lewis	Snohomish	WA
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Haynes	Lund	Bellevue	WA
Rev. Laura	Martin	Arlington	VA
Rev. Brian	McLaren	Marco Island	FL
Rich	Morse	Bellevue	WA
Rev. Abby	Norton-Levering	Schenectady	NY
Rev. Amy	Nyland	Tarrytown	NY
Rev. Sara Webb	Phillips	Atlanta	GA
Rev. Joshua	Rude	Duluth	MN
Rev. Alexia	Salvatierra	Los Angeles	CA
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Richard	Tait	Mercer Island	WA
The Right Reverend Cabby	Tennis	Seattle	WA
Rev. Les	Weber	Mount Prospect	IL