

*We the undersigned foreign policy professionals, 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 our years of experience working on Middle East policy, we share the view of prior administrations of both parties that the United States must 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: May 4, 2020

To: The Democratic National Committee

From: US Foreign Policy Professionals

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. In his "Deal of the Century," President Trump has provided the Israeli government with a green light to annex all West Bank settlements and the Jordan Valley and maintain its occupation in perpetuity, making a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian state impossible. These moves imperil Israel's future as a democratic homeland for the Jewish people, undermine the US-Israel special relationship and harm Palestinians.

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 nearly 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 expressly state a commitment to a resolution of the conflict that ensures both Israel's security and future as a Jewish and democratic state with equal rights for all its citizens, as well as Palestinian rights, including self-determination, security and freedom. It should include clear opposition to ongoing occupation, settlement expansion and any form of unilateral annexation of territory in the West Bank as well as clear opposition to violence, terrorism and incitement from all sides.

We ask that the platform address these issues—each of which has been exacerbated under the current administration—to make clear what a comprehensive effort to achieve a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should look like under a future Democratic administration, which includes a commitment to security, democracy, and human rights.

Signed,

Jarrett Blanc, Former Acting Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and State Department Coordinator for Iran Nuclear Implementation

Tess Bridgeman, Former Special Assistant to President Obama, Associate Counsel to the President and Deputy Legal Adviser to the National Security Council

Rebecca Brocato, Former Special Assistant to President Obama

Ruth Citrin, Former National Security Council Director for Syria and Lebanon

Megan Doherty, Former National Security Council Director for North Africa

Michael Fuchs, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs

Suzy George, Former Deputy Assistant to President Obama, Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff of the National Security Council

Ilan Goldenberg, Former Chief of Staff to the Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations

Phil Gordon, Former Special Assistant to President Obama and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf Region

Avril Haines, Former Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy National Security Advisor to President Obama

Morton H. Halperin, Former Director, Policy Planning Staff, Department of State

Amb. Martin Indyk, Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and U.S. Special Envoy for Israeli–Palestinian Negotiations

Prem Kumar, Former National Security Council Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa

Amb. Daniel Kurtzer, Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel

Anthony Lake, Former National Security Advisor to President Clinton

George Little, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense

Frank Lowenstein, Former Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations

Kelly Magsamen, Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs

Rob Malley, Former Special Assistant to President Obama and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf Region

Andrew Miller, Former National Security Council Director for Egypt and Israel Military Issues

Katrina Mulligan, Former Senior Attorney Advisor, National Security Division, Department of Justice

Jim O'Brien, Former Special Presidential Envoy

Ned Price, Former Special Assistant to President Obama

Bruce Riedel, Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Near East and South Asia Affairs

Ben Rhodes, Former Deputy National Security Adviser

Witney W. Schneidman, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Steven Simon, Former National Security Council Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa

Amb. Donald Steinberg, Former Deputy Administrator at the United States Agency for International Development and Director of the State Department's Joint Policy Council

Strobe Talbott, Former Deputy Secretary of State

Tommy Vietor, Former Special Assistant to President Obama and National Security Council Spokesman

Doug Wilson, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs

Sarah Yerkes, Former Member of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff