

We, the undersigned Democratic Voters Living in Israel, 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 Israelis and Palestinians. We believe that the United States must be an honest and active broker in the region. A resolution of the conflict should be based upon a viable two-state solution, and we believe that unilateral annexation will endanger the best interest of Israelis, Palestinians, and the Americans. 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 Committee

From: Democrat Voters Living in Israel

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 inhibit 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 those Palestinians living under occupation, 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, and a commitment to help broker a resolution of the conflict based on a two-state solution, using an approach which aspires towards a new era of democracy, multilateralism, alliance-building and diplomatic engagement as the cornerstones of American foreign policy.

It should also express a readiness to work together with the League of Arab States in the spirit of the efforts facilitated by Secretary of State John Kerry in 2013/14 based upon the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative (API), in which all 22 Arab states, backed by the 57 member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), agreed to establish peace and normal relations with Israel after the establishment of a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders with mutually agreed upon land swaps and an agreed upon solution for the refugee problem.

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,

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