

Since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, J Street laid out a range of policies and legislation to advance our core principles and priorities in this moment:

1. **We condemn Hamas unequivocally and support Israel's goal of removing the organization from operational control of Gaza, within the bounds of international law.** Hamas is a despicable, inhumane terrorist organization. It has committed clear crimes against humanity. The organization's leadership must be held accountable and cannot remain in operational control of Gaza post-conflict. Israel's response to Hamas must differentiate between Hamas and the civilian population of Gaza. Defeating Hamas will require a sustained, multilateral effort involving military engagement, as well coordinated diplomatic and political engagement to cut the supply of finance and weapons, degrade social and political support and isolate the group from its international benefactors.
2. **We support making every possible effort to secure the immediate release of the remaining hostages.** Following the recent seven-day cessation of hostilities – which included the release of over 100 hostages from captivity – over 130 hostages remain in Gaza. Military efforts thus far have secured the release of one hostage, and tragically resulted in the deaths of at least three hostages. All efforts, including diplomatic negotiations toward a longer-term halt in the fighting, should be pursued to ensure the safety of hostages and their swift release.
3. **We support a massive commitment to humanitarian relief by the United States that matches its commitment to security assistance for Israel.** Congress should approve a supplemental assistance package that includes significant, designated assistance for Gaza civilian relief – the Biden Administration must ensure conditions on the ground enable the rapid delivery of this urgent aid, including further breaks in hostilities. US funding of weapons and equipment for Israel brings with it responsibility for the well-being of the civilians in harm's way.
4. **We support the Biden Administration's warnings to Israel that it modify the nature of its military campaign.** The Netanyahu government's large-scale bombing and ground invasion have caused an

unfathomable level of civilian casualties, as well as a humanitarian crisis that had led to rising levels of disease, hunger and death. More must be done to protect civilian lives and facilitate humanitarian aid. As the US has stated, continuing the operation in this way is both strategically and morally unacceptable.

5. **We support consideration of alternative strategies and tactics for removing Hamas from operational control of Gaza that minimize harm to Palestinian civilians.** The relentless air campaign and the invasion underway on the ground have killed tens of thousands of noncombatants. The Israeli government must consider alternative strategies and heed the advice of military veterans of recent urban combat in Iraq among others offering alternatives. As US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has warned, Israel's current path risks a "strategic defeat."
6. **We support the Biden Administration's efforts to prevent regional escalation.** Regional actors from Hezbollah to Iran and other loosely affiliated groups continue to try to expand the field of fighting. The Biden Administration is right to send clear diplomatic and military signals that it does not want escalation but will not hesitate to respond appropriately to those who try to take advantage of or expand this crisis. The Biden administration must continue as well to press Israel to end violence and provocations in the West Bank, aimed at driving Palestinians from their villages and land.
7. **We urge the White House and Congress to impose clear guardrails on Israeli policy as it works to secure further security assistance from Congress in a supplemental aid package.** These include ensuring that Israel: take all possible measures to minimize civilian casualties and harm; facilitate robust humanitarian aid; enact zero tolerance for settler violence and bring a halt to all provocative policies and actions on the West Bank and East Jerusalem; and acknowledge that post-conflict arrangements will ultimately result in the creation of an independent Palestinian state.
8. **We call on the President to outline a clear vision to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.** This conflict did not start on October 7th. It has no military resolution. Only courageous diplomacy to achieve a political resolution leading to a Palestinian state can end this conflict

and provide the meaningful security both people crave and the freedom Palestinians must have from occupation, settlements and blockade. **J Street has outlined thoughts** about how to do this, and we believe the President should commit to recognition of a Palestinian state and lay out a clear vision now of the path to statehood that establishes the rationale for removal of Hamas from operational control of Gaza and clarifies the future the United States envisions.

9. **We urge leaders of all communities – Jewish, Arab, Christian, Muslim and more – to condemn antisemitism and Islamophobia and to express empathy for the suffering of all caught up in this conflict.** We are deeply concerned by the upswing in antisemitism, and hate generally, around this conflict. 21st century communications are driving people to extremes, and bad actors are stoking the divisions. All Palestinians cannot be held responsible for the actions of Hamas or other Palestinian groups nor can all Jewish people be held responsible for the actions of the state of Israel.
10. **We call on leaders in politics, education, business and other fields to refrain from silencing opinions they do not like.** Freedom of speech is the cornerstone of democracy, which must not be a victim of this conflict. Our commitment to fighting antisemitism is ironclad. We believe efforts to silence legitimate criticism of Israel's policies by labeling critics of Israeli policy antisemitic only undercuts our efforts to counter this scourge. This admonition applies as well to Israel where we oppose efforts by the government to crack down on organizations expressing alternative viewpoints.