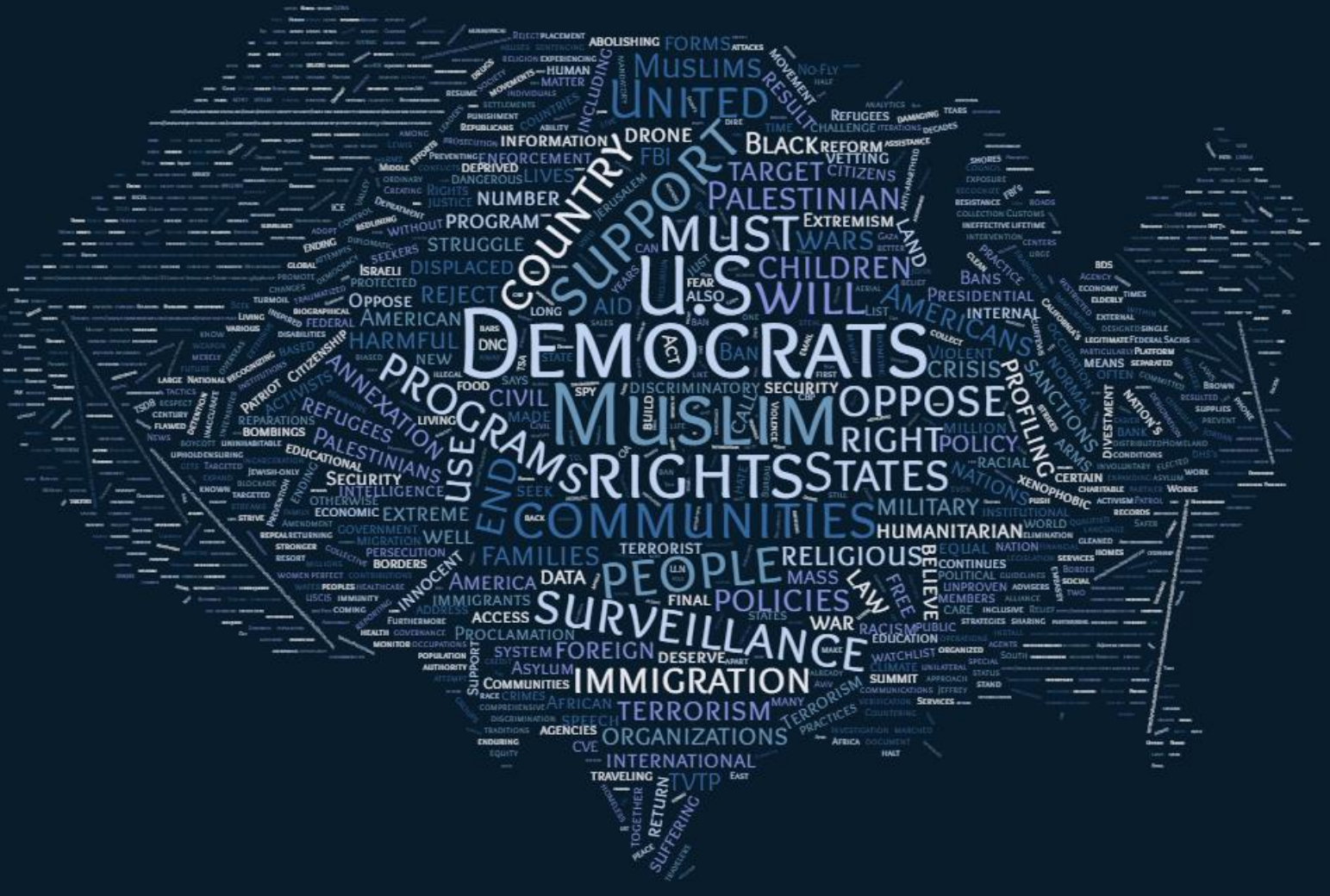


DRIVEN BY PEACE, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY



Muslim Coalition of DNC Delegates and Allies

Recommendations for the 2020 Democratic Party Platform

Contents

AUTHORS	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
PREAMBLE	4
ENDING SYSTEMIC RACISM	5
TARGETED SURVEILLANCE	5
TRAVEL RELATED RACIAL PROFILING	7
REVOKING CITIZENSHIP AND NO FLY LIST	7
CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS	8
ENDING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM	8
PALESTINE/ISRAEL	8
KASHMIR/INDIA	9
SYRIA	11
YEMEN	11
MYANMAR ROHINGYA (FORMERLY BURMA)	12
BRING AMERICANS TOGETHER AND REMOVE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITIES	12
RESPECTING FAITH AND SERVICE	12
PROTECT OUR VALUES	13
REVOKING CITIZENSHIP AND NO FLY LIST	13
DENOUNCING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN CHINA	13
MUSLIM/AFRICAN (REFUGEE) BAN	14
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS	15
CIVIL SOCIETY	15
TORTURE	16
CLOSING GUANTÁNAMO BAY	16
ENDORSERS	17

AUTHORS

Nadia Ahmad, FL Delegate (CD-7), Junaid Akhter, FL Delegate (CD-21), Hanieh Jodat Barnes, CA Delegate (CD-45), A.J. Durrani, TX Delegate (Automatic Delegate), Gamal Gasser, FL Delegate (CD-15), Sudabeh Farokhnia, CA Delegate (CD-45), Saima Farooqui, FL Delegate (CD-22), Syed Fayyaz Hassan, TX Delegate (CD-22), Sam Hindi, CA Delegate (CD-14), Sarwat Malik-Hassan, NJ Delegate (CD-10), Sabina Mohammad, TX Delegate (At Large), Faisal Qazi, CA Delegate (CD-39), Faraz Rizvi, CA Delegate (CD-42), Ghazala Salam, FL PLEO (CD-23), Emad Salem, TX PLEO (CD-10), Aftab Siddiqui, TX Delegate (CD-10), Sameena Usman, CA Delegate (CD-17), Marcy Winograd, CA Delegate (CD-24)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Include contributions of Muslim Americans in Preamble of the DNC Platform and remove language that tokenizes and marginalizes Muslims, making them a suspect class.
- Seek to end institutional racism by abolishing mass incarceration, ending mandatory sentencing guidelines, the war on drugs, and qualified immunity.
- Support comprehensive immigration reform, protection of Civil Rights, abolition of ICE and detention centers, and the end of targeted surveillance, profiling, and educational redlining.
- Call for a repeal of the “Patriot Act” which was the first of many changes to surveillance laws that made it easier for the government to spy on ordinary Americans by expanding the authority to monitor phone and email communications and collect bank and credit reporting records.
- Oppose the damaging Countering Violent Extremism program and its various iterations, including the state of California’s Preventing Violent Extremism and Creating Safer Communities programs as well as the Department of Homeland Security’s new Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention program.
- Eliminate discriminatory and harmful policies and practices by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Customs and Border Patrol agencies that target Muslim travelers.
- Reject the use of unproven and dangerous extreme vetting analytics and tactics, and the use of surveillance data to prevent people from coming into this country based on biased and flawed information.
- Oppose the DHS’s attempt to install inaccurate and harmful “extreme vetting” programs such as: the involuntary collection and review of biometric and biographical data, intelligence streams gleaned from harmful mass surveillance programs that target certain communities like Muslims, extensive document verification designed to reject legitimate immigration efforts, information sharing with partner nations, foreign law enforcement and intelligence services.
- End the placement of U.S. citizens traveling overseas on the “No-Fly List,” that bars Americans from returning to the United States as a constitutionally protected right.
- Oppose any and all forms of internal and external terrorism.
- Disempower terrorist groups by eradicating U.S. aerial bombings, drone strikes, special operations, CIA arms supplies, military advisers as well as freezing international arms sales to countries in turmoil.
- Organize a diplomatic alliance among the United States and other nations to adopt a more inclusive approach to governance.
- Reject the elimination of aid to Palestinian refugees distributed through UN Relief and Works Agency, which has resulted in a humanitarian crisis for Palestinians living under Israeli control, enduring collective punishment, restricted movement, Jewish-only roads, and curfews, while suffering without access to clean water, healthcare, food, and education.

- End military aid to Israel, which continues to build and expand illegal settlements, steal land, and blockade Gaza, where two million people live in uninhabitable conditions.
- Seek the end of support of Israel in the U.N Security Council and urge the halt to annexation of Jordan Valley and any annexation of Palestinian land.
- Uphold the right of the Palestinian people, as a population under occupation, to resort to forms of resistance such as boycott, divestment, and sanctions, strategies inspired by traditions of the civil rights and anti-apartheid movements in our country and South Africa.
- Oppose the Indian government's occupation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Call for an immediate cease-fire by all parties in Syria and a comprehensive international arms embargo.
- Support the joint resolution to remove the United States from hostilities in Yemen as Congress did not authorize U.S. military involvement.
- Condemn the widespread genocide, torture, rape, displacement, and religious freedom violations against Rohingya Muslims and Christians in Myanmar.
- Support the US Commission on International Religious Freedom's recommendation to: re-designate China as a "country of particular concern", impose targeted sanctions on Chinese government agencies and culpable officials if the situation is not reversed, publicly express concerns about Beijing hosting the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, support the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (H.R.6210/S.3471), which would prohibit the importation to the United States of textiles, cotton, and other goods from Xinjiang, and prosecute U.S. companies that provide components and financing for China's surveillance industry tied to the detentions.
- Oppose the designation of Muslim charitable organizations as terrorist organizations.
- Stand up to discriminatory and xenophobic policies such as Presidential Proclamation 9645 and Presidential Proclamation 9983 otherwise known as the "Muslim and African Bans", that tear families apart, harms communities, and intensifies exposure to hate crimes within the borders of the United States.
- Support the right of return for all displaced peoples. The world is experiencing a refugee crisis with more than 60 million people displaced as a result of U.S. military intervention and economic sanctions as well as internal conflicts, discrimination, climate crisis migration, and fear of persecution.
- Support U.S. reparations for those made homeless as a result of U.S. wars, occupations, and drone attacks and call for an international summit to address this humanitarian challenge. Refugees, particularly women, children, and the elderly traumatized by wars and human rights abuses, deserve financial assistance to resume normal lives.
- Agree with military and national security experts who acknowledge that torture is not an effective interrogation technique.
- Remain committed to closing the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay and ending indefinite detention without trial or conviction.

PREAMBLE

We know that our nation's long struggle with race, religion, and unjust wars is far from over. More than half a century after Rosa Parks sat and Dr. King Jr. marched and John Lewis bled and Muhammad Ali protested, more than half a century after César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and Larry Itliong organized, race still plays a significant role in determining who gets ahead in America and who gets left behind. We must face that reality and we must fix it.

Democrats believe we are stronger and safer when America leads with peace, equity and justice, and we believe we should strengthen global diplomacy and international institutions, not weaken them. As Democrats we believe equity and justice also means not using debt or aid to impact other nations' sovereignty.

Above all, Democrats must be a party of inclusion. We know that diversity is our strength and our promise. As Democrats, we must respect differences of perspective and belief, and pledge to work together to move our country forward, even when we disagree. With this platform, we do not merely seek common ground—we strive to reach higher ground.

As a nation of immigrants we recognize our responsibility to uphold the rights of immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees and that we are teachers, doctors, lawyers, government leaders, soldiers, entrepreneurs, activists, PTA members, and pillars of our communities.

We believe in protecting civil liberties and guaranteeing civil rights, religious rights, voting rights, women's rights, workers' rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and rights for people with disabilities. As Democrats we support protest as protected free speech, including boycotts and demand for sanctions and divestment. We must also end the Department of Education's attempts to suppress free speech on college campuses, including attempts to target Middle Eastern studies courses by withholding Title VI funding, and punish Palestinian student activists. As Congressman John Lewis said, "Our struggle is a struggle to redeem the soul of America. It's not a struggle that lasts for a few days, a few weeks, a few months, or a few years. It is the struggle of a lifetime, more than one lifetime." These principles stand in sharp contrast to the Republicans.

But in 2020, the stakes can be measured in human lives— in the number of immigrants who would be torn from their homes and children, in the number of Muslims barred from even visiting our shores, in the number of allies alienated and dictators courted, in the number of Americans who would lose access to health care and see their rights ripped away.

This election is about more than Democrats and Republicans. It is about who we are as a nation, and who we will be in the future.

Two hundred and forty years ago, in Philadelphia, we started a revolution of ideas and of action that continues to this day. Since then, our union has been tested many times, through bondage and civil war, segregation and depression, two world wars and the threat of nuclear

annihilation. Generations of Americans fought and marched and organized to widen the circle of opportunity and dignity—and we are fighting still.

Despite what some say, America is and has always been great—but not because it has been perfect. What makes America great is our unerring belief that we can make it better. We can and we will build a more just economy, a more equal society, and a more perfect union—because we are stronger together.

ENDING SYSTEMIC RACISM

Democrats will reject any and all institutional and systemic racism in our society. We will challenge and dismantle the structures that define lasting racial, economic, political, social inequity and religious bigotry, and provide equal opportunities that seek to contribute to our communities, our educational system, and the growth of our economy.

By institutional racism we specifically mean abolishing mass incarceration, ending mandatory sentencing guidelines, the war on drugs, and qualified immunity. We also support legislating comprehensive immigration reform, restoring our Civil Rights, abolishing ICE and detention centers, and ending targeted surveillance, profiling, and educational redlining. Democrats will promote racial justice through fair, just, and equitable governance of all public-serving institutions and in the formation of public policy. Democrats support removing the Confederate battle flags and statues from public properties, recognizing that they symbolize this nation’s racist past that has no place in our present or our future.

As Democrats, we must push for a societal transformation to make it clear that Black lives matter and we recognize the institutionalized racism against our Indigenous, Black, and Brown communities. We will draft legislation that would limit presidential ability to restrict and/or exclude certain classes of people from US entry under the banner of immigration reform or to encourage hate and divisiveness in this Nation.

TARGETED SURVEILLANCE

We call for a repeal of the “Patriot Act” which was the first of many changes to surveillance laws that made it easier for the government to spy on ordinary Americans by expanding the authority to monitor phone and email communications and collect bank and credit reporting records. We oppose the FBI’s use of National Security Letters to obtain personal internet data.

We support reforming the federal government’s unconstitutional Terrorist Screening Database (TSDDB), commonly referred to as the “terrorism watchlist.” Currently, the watchlist includes more than one millions names. And yet, not a single person who has committed an act of terrorism was on the watchlist at the time they committed their crime. In other words, after almost two decades, the watchlisting system has demonstrated no ability to thwart terrorism. It is merely a list of innocent Muslims. This program is in dire need of reform. We

must adopt an TSDB inclusion standard that precludes innocent people—persons who have not been arrested, charged, or convicted of a terrorism-related offense—from being listed.

We also strongly oppose the damaging Countering Violent Extremism (“CVE”) program and its various iterations, including the state of California’s Preventing Violent Extremism (“PVE”) and Creating Safer Communities (“CSC”) programs, as well as the federal Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”)’s new Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (“TVTP”) program. CVE and TVTP programs use discredited ideological markers and behaviors to interpret everyday and salient forms of activities and expressions as so-called extremist indicators. These programs lead to religious and racial profiling and stigmatization of innocent behaviors such as growing a beard, wearing traditional garb, increased praying, traveling to a Muslim-majority country, criticizing foreign policy, being involved in social activism, or giving up drinking, smoking, or gambling. These programs dissolve trust in communities and have a chilling effect on speech, activism, and religious practice. Furthermore, we believe that houses of worship must be free of surveillance procedures or any policies of intimidation and entrapment, recognizing that such actions threaten religious freedom.

Given that Black activists have already been classified as “Black Identity Extremists” by the FBI, and Conservatives want to label anti-fascist activists (Antifa) as terrorists, TVTP is very likely to be used against organizers and those protesting in the Black Lives Matter movement given that TVTP language states that it will target “anti-government and anti-authority violent extremists”.

As Democrats, we oppose the FBI’s mapping of minority communities and the use of informants to prey on minors and those suffering from mental illness or other cognitive disabilities to lure them to engage in crimes that they would not commit otherwise to advance political objectives.

These programs use profiling and surveillance as a means of securing prosecution against Black and Brown communities. They expose already overpoliced communities to additional law enforcement contact. The Patriot Act, CVE, and TVTP have caused irreparable damage to communities. We must end these ineffective government-led surveillance programs that single out and stigmatize American Muslims, especially Muslim children.

As Democrats, we seek to remove discriminatory loopholes in federal guidance regarding the use of race and profiling by federal law enforcement agencies. Since late 2014, American Muslims, civil rights groups and members of congress have expressed serious concerns over and called for removal of “Muslim and Hispanic carve-outs” from the DOJ’s then updated Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies that authorize DHS to discriminate at airports and at borders, and allows the FBI to “map” minority communities to spy by placing informants. The federal government must update this guidance by removing all loopholes, prohibiting FBI mapping of minority communities, related domestic spying programs based on racial and religious profiling.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention, <https://www.dhs.gov/tvtp>.

Umar A. Farooq, *New name, same game: American Muslims vow to fight new ‘counter-terror’ initiative*, Middle East Eye, June 5, 2020, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/new-name-same-game-us-muslims-aim-to-combat-tvtp-new-cve-initiative>.

TRAVEL RELATED RACIAL PROFILING

Over the years, Transportation Security Administration (“TSA”) profiling against the Muslim community has stigmatized a large number of Muslim travelers. We oppose discriminatory and harmful policies and practices by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”), and the Customs and Border Patrol (“CBP”) agencies that target Muslim travelers. We reject the use of unproven and dangerous extreme vetting analytics and tactics, and the use of surveillance data to prevent people from coming into this country based on biased and flawed information. We oppose the DHS’s attempt to install inaccurate and harmful “extreme vetting” programs such as: the involuntary collection and review of biometric and biographical data, intelligence streams gleaned from harmful mass surveillance programs that target certain communities like Muslims, extensive document verification designed to reject legitimate immigration efforts, information sharing with partner nations, foreign law enforcement and intelligence services. A healthy democracy that has welcomed large immigrant populations to its shores should not promote the use of junk science, unproven algorithms, and indiscriminate and invasive mass surveillance, to determine who the “good immigrants” are.

Giving up essential liberty for false sense of temporary safety will not produce the intended results. As Democrats we will support and legislate policy, eradicating FBI border agents, USCIS, TSA, and CBP from continuing to target Muslims.

REVOKING CITIZENSHIP AND NO FLY LIST

The 14th Amendment Citizenship Clause states that all persons born or naturalized in the United States, are citizens of the United States and of the state they reside.

As Democrats we oppose the placement of U.S. citizens traveling overseas on the “No-Fly List,” that bars Americans from returning to the U.S., a protected right. When attempting to return home, these U.S. citizens find themselves placed on the No-Fly List, presumably by the FBI, and are often coerced into speaking with foreign law enforcement and FBI agents while deprived of legal counsel. Moreover, they are often put into situations of extreme duress where they are asked to spy on their religious communities.

Brennan Center for Justice, Muslim Ban & Extreme Vetting, <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/protect-liberty-security/targeting-minority-communities/muslim-ban-extreme-vetting>.

Blair Guild, What is Extreme Vetting?, CBS News, November 1, 2017, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/what-is-extreme-vetting/>.

Natasha Duarte, Automated Extreme Vetting Won’t Work and Will Be Discriminatory, November 16, 2017, <https://cdt.org/insights/automated-extreme-vetting-wont-work-and-will-be-discriminatory/>.

American Muslim Advocacy Priorities in the 116th U.S. Congress, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS

ENDING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Terrorism is a repeated consequence of proxy wars, imperial rule and unilateral and irresponsible policies. As Democrats, we oppose any and all forms of internal and external terrorism. To disempower terrorist groups, we must end U.S. aerial bombings, drone strikes, special operations, CIA arms supplies, military advisers, freeze international arms sales to countries in turmoil, and organize a diplomatic alliance among the United States and other nations to adopt a more inclusive approach to governance. Escalating drone bombings have proven inhumane, and ineffective. Instead of weakening terrorism, these practices embolden new enemies to join the ranks to avenge the killing of their family members.

Poverty, natural disasters, food insecurity, joblessness, and climate change are threat-multipliers for terrorism. As a result, we should increase U.S. humanitarian contributions to the UN, World Health Organization, and agencies for the millions of refugees and internally displaced people –this irrespective of our political differences with other nations. According to Save the Children, starvation is being used as a weapon of war and has become the new normal.

Karen, McVeigh, “Starvation: a weapon of war that could kill 590,000 children by the end of 2018,” Guardian, September 10, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/sep/10/starvation-a-weapon-of-war-that-could-kill-590000-children-by-the-end-of-2018#:~:text=Starvation%20being%20used%20as%20a,according%20to%20Save%20the%20Children.&text=%E2%80%9CUsing%20starvation%20as%20a%20weapon,is%20putting%20children%20at%20risk.%E2%80%9D>.

Jeffrey Sachs, Ending America’s War of Choice in the Middle East, Horizons, June 29, 2018, <https://www.jeffsachs.org/articlesandmedia/n52cm2ste2sk95pdalpefsa5h3eetd>.

Jeffrey Sachs, “Ending Blowback Terrorism,” Project Syndicate, Nov. 19, 2015, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/islamic-state-blowback-terrorism-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2015-11?barrier=accesspaylog>.

Jeffrey Sachs, “U.S. Military Should Get Out of the Middle East,” Boston Globe, April 2, 2017, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2017/04/02/military-should-get-out-middle-east/k0lcRcUI9u9nJkUAKFIh6I/story.html>

Phyllis Bennis, “Six Steps Short of War to Beat ISIS,” The Progressive, September 10, 2014, <https://progressive.org/dispatches/six-steps-short-war-beat-isis/>

“Living Under Drones: Death, Injury and Trauma to Civilians from U.S. Drone Practices in Pakistan” (Stanford, Sept., 2012)

PALESTINE/ISRAEL

As Democrats, we seek a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiated by the parties that guarantees equality, security, and democracy for all. No matter what the final resolution regarding states and borders, Israelis and Palestinians alike deserve peace, equal rights, dignity, and security. All deserve a normal life free from occupation, terror, and incitement. We oppose unilateral annexation of land, oppose recognition of Jerusalem as the sole capital of Israel, and support the right of all those who were forced from their homes to return to their homelands and receive reparations for their losses.

The final status of Jerusalem should be resolved through negotiation, and therefore we support relocating the American Embassy back to Tel Aviv, pending a final status agreement with the Palestinians. Furthermore, the Democratic Party supports reopening the American consulate in East Jerusalem, where the consulate had served as a de facto embassy to the Palestinians.

We reject the elimination of aid to Palestinian refugees distributed through UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This denial of aid has resulted in a humanitarian crisis for Palestinians living under Israeli control, enduring collective punishment, restricted movement, Jewish-only roads, and curfews, while suffering without access to clean water, healthcare, food, and education.

Additionally, we call for an end to military aid to Israel, which continues to build and expand illegal settlements, steal land, and blockade Gaza, where two million people live in uninhabitable conditions. We call for an end to support for Israel in the U.N security council and urge the halt to annexation of the Jordan Valley and any annexation of Palestinian land.

We uphold the right of the Palestinian people, as a population under occupation, to resort to forms of resistance such as boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS), strategies inspired by traditions of the civil rights and anti-apartheid movements in our country and South Africa. We will discourage our elected officials from authoring or sponsoring anti-First Amendment anti-BDS legislation that chills speech and infringes on rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. We support robust public discourse.

As we strive to be a democratic country struggling to secure equal rights for all, it is the height of hypocrisy not to hold Israel accountable.

Arwa Ibrahim and Rima Mustafa, "Israeli annexation final nail in coffin," Al-Jazeera, July 1, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/07/israeli-annexation-final-nail-coffin-palestine-200701181013373.html>.

American Friends Service Committee, "Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return," <https://www.afsc.org/resource/palestinian-refugees-and-right-return>

"Sanders says may relocate US embassy back to Tel Aviv if elected," Al Jazeera, February 26, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/sanders-relocate-embassy-tel-aviv-elected-200226090233559.html>

Jewish Voice for Peace, <https://www.commondreams.org/organization/jewish-voice-peace>

Palestine Legal/Right to Boycott, <https://palestinelegal.org/righttoboycott>

KASHMIR/INDIA

While we wish to build our long-term strategic partnership with India, we object to the treatment of its minorities, especially Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, and Dalits, who have been under increasing sectarian attacks. Hindu supremacist forces threaten India's unity and integrity, as noted in reports of the US Department of State and the United States Commission of International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). We affirm USCIRF's designation of India as a

Country of Particular Concern due to its serious violations of religious freedom, and will work to persuade India to repeal its divisive Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) that discriminates against Muslims. India must dismantle the detention centers built to house millions of Muslims declared as aliens, and withdraw plans to seek decades' old proof of citizenship from its 1.3 billion people.

Democrats oppose the Indian government's occupation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. On August 5, 2019, the authoritarian right-wing government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed a nearly year long communications lockdown, abrogating Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, and the detention of ordinary Kashmiris including civilians, political prisoners, and minors. We demand that the right to self-determination enshrined in various UN resolutions be placed at the forefront of any negotiations that are UN brokered, multilateral or bilateral, between India and Pakistan, namely that the Kashmiri people be given the opportunity to determine their form of governance.

We recognize the right of return for all those displaced from Kashmir and unable to safely return, including Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus.

In addition, we demand that India cease the harassment and detention of civil society members including journalists, human rights activists, and lawyers documenting incidents of violence and abuse by the Indian government, its military forces, and other non-state actors. We ask for the immediate establishment of a commission of inquiry that would conduct comprehensive, independent international investigations into allegations of human rights violations in Kashmir, as per the recommendations of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights.

By revoking the autonomy of Kashmir and advancing laws to displace indigenous Kashmiris with Indian citizens, the Indian government escalates the risk of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan over the issue of Kashmir.

Recent changes to domicile laws by the Indian government are intended to strip indigenous Kashmiris of their residency rights and create a process for redefining domicile to forcibly alter the demographics of Kashmir. The Indian Government is creating conditions ripe for the ethnic cleansing of indigenous Kashmiris and potentially foreclosing on the right of self-determination.

As an ally of the United States, India must urgently lift the communications blockade, cease human rights violations, and seek an end to the conflict by holding a referendum in accordance with international law. The U.S. should not enter into a new trade deal with India unless there is accountability for the Indian government's actions in Kashmir and across the region. A free press, an independent and unbiased judicial system, a withdrawal of Indian armed forces from residential towns and villages, and a respect for human rights must be preconditions for doing business with the U.S. Similarly, future U.S. military assistance to the Indian government should be suspended pending a comprehensive and independent review of human rights violations in Kashmir, in accordance with the Leahy Law.

"J&K's New Domicile Order: Disenfranchising Kashmiris, One Step at a Time," The Wire, 2020, <https://thewire.in/rights/kashmir-domicile-law>.

Office of the United Nations Human Rights of High Commissioner, “Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Kashmir,” 2018, <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/PK/DevelopmentsinKashmirJune2016ToApril2018.pdf>.
“USCIRF–Recommended for Countries of Particular Concern (CPC)- India”, in USCIRG.Gov <https://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/India.pdf>.

“Frequently Asked Questions: IRF Report and Countries of Particular Concern”, in State.Gov, <https://www.state.gov/frequently-asked-questions-irf-report-and-countries-of-particular-concern>.

SYRIA

The Democratic Party reaffirms that the war in Syria began with the uprising of the Arab Spring, during which the regime of President Bashar al-Assad attacked its own people for demanding an end to repression and release of political prisoners.

The United States should engage with Russia to urge the United Nations to take the lead in restarting international negotiations for a political resolution to the brutality of the government. Furthermore, the United States should work with the United Nations Security Council to delegate the International Criminal Court to conduct an independent investigation of all human rights abuses by the regime and his allies. All stakeholders must be involved, including Syrian civil society activists, women, and representatives of Syrian, Palestinian, and other refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) forced from their homes in Syria. All outside parties to the conflict – Syria’s neighbors and other international actors, including Iran – must be included. Washington must insist that any agreement provide protection for all communities in Syria and guarantee the right to safe return for all refugees.

As Democrats, we call for an immediate cease-fire by all parties in Syria and a comprehensive international arms embargo. We must stop sending arms to opposition forces while simultaneously renewing pressure on Russia, China, and others to stop sending arms to the Syrian government. Such a call would carry far more credibility if it were linked to a public U.S. commitment to end its own arms sales.

We support a UN Security Council resolution imposing a complete arms embargo and efforts to create local cease-fires and truces inside Syria. As Democrats, we care about Syria’s surrounding countries, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, where millions of refugees have fled, weakening the infrastructure, economy, and security of the region. Turkey is the biggest host country of refugees and should be part of any final resolution.

“Five Things the US Can Do to End the Syria Crisis” (*The Nation*, 2014)
<http://www.thenation.com/article/179872/5-concrete-steps-us-can-take-end-syria-crisis>

YEMEN

As Democrats, we support the joint resolution to remove the United States from hostilities in Yemen as Congress did not authorize U.S. military involvement. We call for an end to the sale of U.S. weapons for Saudi Arabia’s failed proxy war on Yemen, which has pushed Yemen to the brink of famine, with 2.4 million children, according to UNICEF, at risk of starvation in one of the worst humanitarian crises in the last century. Continued U.S. support for the Saudi war

and blockade of Yemen will only increase anti-U.S. sentiment in the Persian Gulf and make our country less secure. The answer is not war, nor providing U.S. intelligence and weapons, such as tanks, combat ships, and bombs, to Saudi Arabia to kill innocent people in attacks on hospitals and homes. The answer is a negotiated peace settlement. Any U.S. military action without Congressional approval is unconstitutional and illegal.

UNICEF, “80% of Yemen’s population are in need of humanitarian aid and protection,
https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/yemen/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw3Nv3BRC8ARIsAPh8hgK_Caapu15CZV5_8rCfSB-lqKRpxNGe5eevC8VZ0GTSXLSYL3E002AaAvACEALw_wcB.

MYANMAR ROHINGYA (FORMERLY BURMA)

We condemn the widespread genocide, torture, rape, displacement, and religious freedom violations against Rohingya Muslims and Christians in Myanmar perpetrated by government security forces and ultra-nationalist Buddhist extremists.

According to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), as of July 2019, 120,000 are internally displaced and confined to camps with severe limitations on their movement. Nearly a million civilians have been forced to flee their homes to relocate to camps in Bangladesh, contributing gravely to the weakening of Bangladesh’s economy as well as impacting children who are being denied registration at birth, therefore lacking legitimate legal identity to secure refugee status.

In response to reports of the military indiscriminately killing civilians, destroying homes, mosques, churches, and food stores, Democrats support USCIRF’s recommendations to: re-designate Myanmar as a “country of particular concern,” or CPC; impose targeted sanctions on Myanmar government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom; reinstate the designation of a National Emergency in Myanmar terminated by executive order; increase funding for assistance programs to prevent genocide or atrocities. We believe that repatriation must be linked to restoration of rights and property, along with safety guarantees, such as the establishment of a UN-defended safe zone in Myanmar.

USCIRF-RECOMMENDED FOR COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN (CPC)
https://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/Burma_0.pdf.

Burma Task Force, <https://www.burmataskforce.org/>

BRING AMERICANS TOGETHER AND REMOVE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITIES RESPECTING FAITH AND SERVICE

As Democrats, we oppose the designation of Muslim charitable organizations as terrorist organizations. We respect the free exercise and practice of religion without promoting

conspiracy theories of faith-based organizations. We oppose the practice of arbitrary closure of bank accounts of Muslim entities and individuals with no justification, often times based on anonymous tips from foreign sources.

PROTECT OUR VALUES

REVOKING CITIZENSHIP AND NO FLY LIST

As Democrats, we recognize religious freedom as an inalienable right and are therefore committed to its preservation and advancement. We support the right of all countries to speak out against human rights abuses worldwide, including threats to religious freedom. An economic measure may be imposed in cases where the United States designates a “Country of Particular Concern” (CPC) or “Special Watch List”, in accordance with the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), and where non-economic policy options have been exhausted.

The IRFA defines particularly severe violations of religious freedom as systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom, including practices such as torture, cruel punishment, prolonged detention without charges, abduction or clandestine detention, or other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of persons.

We condemn ISIS’ genocide and sexual enslavement of Christians, Yazidis, Muslims, and others in the Middle East, as well as the detention of over a million Muslims in China, and imprisonment of Baha’i faith leaders in Iran.

USCIRF Releases 2020 Annual Report with Recommendations for U.S. Policy, <https://www.uscirf.gov/news-room/press-releases-statements/uscirf-releases-2020-annual-report-recommendations-us-policy>.

DENOUNCING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN CHINA

Estimates of between 1–3 million Uighur, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, and other Muslims have been imprisoned in more than 1,300 Chinese concentration camps in Xinjiang for wearing long beards, refusing to consume pork or alcohol, or other such activities that are deemed to be indicators of “religious extremism”. In these camps, they have experienced torture, rape, sterilization, forced labor, deprivation of food, political indoctrination, and other abuses. A half million children have been separated from their families and placed in boarding schools designed to assimilate and indoctrinate them at an early age.

The China Tribunal has reported to the UN Human Rights Council that China has been forcefully harvesting organs from Uighers, members of the Falun Gong religious group, and other prisoners. Their report states that prisoners have been “cut open while still alive for their kidneys, livers, hearts, lungs, cornea and skin to be removed and turned into commodities for sale” and that as many as 90,000 transplant operations which utilize these organs occur every year.

We support the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)’s recommendation to: re-designate China as a “country of particular concern”; impose targeted

sanctions on Chinese government agencies and culpable officials if the situation is not reversed; publicly express concerns about Beijing hosting the 2022 Winter Olympic Games; support the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (H.R.6210/S.3471), which would prohibit the importation to the United States of textiles, cotton, and other goods from Xinjiang; prosecute U.S. companies that provide components and financing for China's surveillance industry tied to the detentions.

"China Putting Minority Muslims in Concentration Camps," U.S. says, Reuters, 2019, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-concentrationcamps/china-putting-minority-muslims-in-concentration-camps-us-says-idUSKCN1S925K>.

"In China's Crackdown on Muslims, Children Have Not Been Spared," N.Y. Times, 2020 https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/28/world/asia/china-xinjiang-children-boarding-schools.html?te=1&nl=morning-briefing&emc=edit_nn_20191229?campaign_id=9&instance_id=14846&segment_id=19927&user_id=846ef9ce39fc43f2738ba5abf4ec0810®i_id=89748364_nn_20191229.

Amy Qin, Uighur Concentration Camps in China: New Sanctions are Not Enough, 2020, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/06/uighur-concentration-camps-in-china-new-sanctions-are-not-enough/>.

MUSLIM/AFRICAN (REFUGEE) BAN

As Democrats, we must stand up to discriminatory and xenophobic policies such as Presidential Proclamation 9645 and Presidential Proclamation 9983, otherwise known as the "Muslim and African Bans", that tear families apart, harm communities, and intensify exposure to hate crimes within the borders of the United States. The latest iteration of the ban encompasses Eritrea, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Venezuela, and Yemen.

Numerous immigration and civil rights organizations have collected stories of families being separated, lives uprooted, children and grandchildren deprived of spending time with parents and grandparents, weddings being postponed, family members unable to care for sick relatives, or attend funerals, individuals deprived of life-saving health care, and blocked access to education. Communities across the country are grappling with what it means to be Muslim in the United States; living under a president who says that "Islam hates us," and has spun that prejudice into actual policy.

We will continue to work towards repealing the Muslim and African Bans that institutionalize the racial and religious profiling of people seeking to be reunited with their families while contributing to this country in pursuit of a better life.

We must push for the National Origin-Based Anti-discrimination for Non-immigrant (NO BAN) Act to keep families together by ensuring the end of the Muslim and African Bans, Refugee Ban, and Asylum Ban.

"Living with Muslim Ban", ACLU <https://www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights/living-muslim-ban>

"No Muslim Ban Ever" <https://www.nomuslimbanever.com/>

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we support the right of return for all displaced peoples. The world is experiencing a refugee crisis with more than 60 million people displaced as a result of U.S. military intervention and economic sanctions, as well as internal conflicts, discrimination, climate crisis migration, and fear of persecution.

We support U.S. reparations for those made homeless as a result of U.S. wars, occupations, and drone attacks and call for an international summit to address this humanitarian challenge. Refugees, particularly women, children, and the elderly traumatized by wars and human rights abuses deserve financial assistance to resume normal lives.

As an utter rejection of the long standing xenophobic policies, we must welcome refugees and look for ways to help innocent people who are fleeing persecution, while at the same time ensure security for our nation. No parent would take their child and travel thousands of miles on foot except under dire, dangerous circumstances.

Decades of disastrous global foreign policy decisions and bad trade deals have led to destabilization, poverty, and armed right wing militias. We support a summit of leaders from the most impacted countries to address the root causes of migration.

As Democrats, we reject the Asylum Ban that counters decades of law and policy, under which the United States had long provided refuge to those who fled their homeland in fear of prosecution or violence. As Democrats we support reuniting families separated by the current administration's horrid immigration policies and vow to work to reunite abducted children lost in the system. We will institute a just immigration court system and fund adequate resources for children and adults suffering from trauma. As Democrats we must ensure that all Asylum seekers are respected and not denied their right to seek Asylum, regardless of their country of origin.

"Ninth U.S. Court of Appeals says Trump's ban on asylum seekers violates immigration law", San Francisco Chronicle, 2020 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/nation/article/Ninth-U-S-Court-of-Appeals-says-Trump-s-ban-on-15389482.php>.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Democrats support progress toward more accountable governance and universal rights. As autocrats around the world crack down on civil society and imprison those who demand greater freedom, we will continue to support groups and individuals who fight for fundamental human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

We will support strong legislatures, independent judiciaries, free press, vibrant civil society, religious freedom, and equality for women and minorities. We will support the development of civil society and representative institutions that can protect fundamental human rights and improve the quality of life for all citizens, including independent and democratic unions. Democrats will protect American citizens abroad. We condemn the practice of unlawful detention or imprisonment, especially of journalists and civil rights activists.

TORTURE

We will always seek to uphold our values at home and abroad, not just when it is easy, but when it is hard. That is why we oppose torture without exception and why Democrats condemn Donald Trump's statements that he would engage in torture and other war crimes. We agree with military and national security experts who acknowledge that torture is not an effective interrogation technique.

CLOSING GUANTÁNAMO BAY

The Democratic Party remains committed to closing the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay and ending indefinite detention without trial or conviction. Keeping the facility open is a disgrace that serves as a recruiting tool for extremists and undermines our standing in the world.

ENDORSERS

Kareema Abdul-Khabir, CA Delegate (CD-5)
Adeel Ahmed, NJ Delegate (CD-10)
Azhar Azeez, TX Delegate (At Large)
Nieko Adan, CA Delegate/Alternate (CD-17)
Virginia Applebaum, AL PLEO (CD-6)
Samia Assed, NM Delegate (At Large)
Huwaida Arraf (MI Delegate (CD-10)
Joey Aszterbaum, CA Delegate (At Large)
Zarina Baber, MN Delegate (At Large)
Jovanka Beckles, CA Delegate (CD-11)
Staci Berger, NJ Delegate (CD-15)
Karen Bernal, CA Delegate (CD-6)
Mark Bignell, MI Delegate (CD-4)
Barry Brendel, NJ Delegate (CD-12)
Michelle Brown, FL Delegate (CD-18)
Josie Caballero, CA Delegate (CD-53)
Janet Cannon, MI Delegate (At Large)
Cathay Cowen Becker, OH Delegate (CD-15)
Hae Min Cho, CA Delegate (CD-12)
Salauddin Choudhury, AZ Delegate (CD-5)
Chris Chu De León, TX Delegate (CD-17)
Thomas Crews, VA Delegate (CD-7)
Marcos de R. Antuna, TX Delegate (CD-19)
Samuel Doten, MN Delegate (PLEO)
Linda Sandoval Foley, TX Delegate (CD-12)
Emily Francia, TX Delegate (CD-6)
Deborah Gassett, TX Delegate (At Large)
Alexander Hagen, CA (alternate) (CD-14)
Mary Hsia-Coron, CA Delegate (CD-20)
John Hsu, NJ Delegate (CD-6)
Zeina Hutchinson, VA Delegate (CD-10)
Heather Johnson, CA Delegate (CD-31)
Rommy Joyce, CA Delegate (CD-19)
Kari Khoury, CA Delegate (CD-9)
Nicole Kurzynowski, NJ Delegate (CD-17)
James Langford, FL Delegate (CD-7)
Lyndsey Lefebvre, CA Delegate (CD-39)
Francis Li, CA Delegate (At Large)
Pesach Lubinsky, CA Delegate (CD-31)
Cheng-Sim Lim, CA Delegate (CD-28)
Arif Mahmood, TN Delegate (At Large)
Sara McCabe, FL Delegate (CD-2)
Mohammed Nasrullah, TX Delegate (CD-36)
Hatem Natsheh, CA Delegate (CD-31)
Alena Jun Nawabi, CA Delegate (CD-52)
Justin O-Hea, NJ Delegate (CD-7)
Kevin Patterson, TX Delegate (CD-10)
Eric Pierce, CA Delegate (CD-28)
Mindy Pfieffer, CA Delegate (CD-27)
Solveij Rosa Praxis, TX Delegate (CD-21)
Maha Rizvi, CA Delegate (CD-42)
Farrukh Shamsi, TX Delegate (Rules Committee)
Jeri Shepherd, CO Delegate (CD-4)
Sean Sindelman, CO Delegate (CD-4)
Birriion Sindohl, CO Delegate (CD-2)
Jonathan Sokolow, VA Delegate (CD-11)
Norman Solomon, CA Delegate (CD-2)
Karen Stevens, CA Delegate (CD-26)
Christina Stewart, FL Delegate (CD-9)
Andrew Swetland, CA Delegate (CD-47)
Nina Tatlock, FL PLEO (CD-16)
Samir Salhab, FL Delegate (CD-15)
Dara Thomas, FL Delegate (CD-15)
Victoria Thompson, CA Delegate (CD-7)
Ross Trivisonno, TX Delegate (At Large)
Shirley Toy, CA Delegate (CD-6)
Michael Allen Wackcher, CA Delegate (CD-29)
Khurram Wahid, FL Delegate (Platform Committee)
Adam Woodhall, FL Delegate (At Large)
Asad Zaman, MN Delegate (At Large)