

# TOWARDS A PROGRESSIVE VISION OF JUSTICE FOR ALL

## Legislative Guide

Right-wing, repressive, and anti-democratic governments are rising around the globe, from the Trump administration here in the U.S. to the governments of President Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel, and President Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines. This period of global crisis for freedom and human rights necessitates seizing the opportunity to strengthen and renew the progressive moment for justice.

A symptom of this crisis is the impending "peace plan" by the Netanyahu and Trump administrations that excludes the rights of the Palestinian people. Advocates for a just future for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples must use this moment of political and humanitarian crisis as an opportunity for political transformation towards a rights-based framework for Palestine/Israel politics on Capitol Hill.

Our values must guide us in ending U.S. complicity in the ongoing human rights violations that stand in the way of realizing a truly progressive vision for the world, with freedom and justice for all: equal rights, historical justice, and freedom—from the U.S. to Palestine/Israel.

## A PROGRESSIVE VISION REQUIRES NEW POLICIES CENTERING ACCOUNTABILITY AND RIGHTS.

**1. Support H.R. 2407 to advance Palestinian children's rights and challenge Israeli military occupation:** The Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act is historic legislation that paves the pathway to justice through accountability and respect for Palestinian rights. The bill aims to end U.S. funding for the Israeli military's systemic physical and psychological abuse of Palestinian children and lays the groundwork for achieving justice for child victims of Israel's military detention system.

**2. Support Dear Colleague letters to advance justice for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, challenge the Israeli blockade, and end the humanitarian crisis:** Palestinians in the besieged coastal enclave are trapped by Israel's land and sea blockade, targeted by routine bombings, and shot by Israeli military snipers when marching for their freedom. Restoring humanitarian assistance is only the first step. To address the root cause of the humanitarian crisis and ongoing injustice, progressives must demand an end to U.S. complicity in the Israeli siege of the Gaza Strip.



US Campaign for  
Palestinian Rights

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**3. Support legislative vehicles to create coherence in progressive foreign and domestic policy and challenge Israeli separate-and-unequal rule:** The U.S. must build respect for and protect human rights, equal rights, and justice for all here at home in order to set a standard by which to advance global justice. U.S. foreign policy must be consistent in reflecting the same progressive values as our domestic policy.

## ADOPTING A TRULY PROGRESSIVE VISION NECESSITATES TRULY PROGRESSIVE ALTERNATIVES TO THE STATUS QUO.

**1. Propose real progressive alternatives to S. 1727 and H.R. 3104:** The Partnership Fund for Peace Act of 2019 substitutes economic development for recognition of Palestinian political rights. Even center-left proponents of the bill acknowledge its alignment with the Trump administration's undermining of Palestinian rights. The U.S. should not pursue an economic band-aid approach as an alternative to freedom and self-determination.

**2. Move beyond the misleading framings of S. Res. 234 and H. Res. 326:** These resolutions aim “to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution,” but repeat damaging framing that undermines a just peace. As supporters of equality, we must recognize that false claims to U.S. neutrality in a “peace process” has provided cover for the Israeli government's decision to continue its brutal military occupation of Palestinian lands. We must embrace a rights-based approach that ends unconditional U.S. diplomatic and military support for Israel and embrace freedom, justice, and equality—moving beyond the current reality of Israel as an undemocratic state built on ethno-religious supremacy and the disenfranchisement of non-Jews (and debunking the harmful myth that Israel can be both Jewish and democratic).

**3. Support the right to boycott for justice and First Amendment-protected political speech by opposing S. Res. 120 and H. Res. 246:** Supporters of freedom in the U.S. and Palestine/Israel should challenge this resolution that lends legitimacy to attacks on First Amendment-protected free speech. This resolution singles out the movement for Palestinian rights in an attempt to criminalize political speech tactics used by social justice movements for decades; undermines work towards human rights and a just peace; and gives the right-wing Israeli government, which is closely aligned with President Trump, the green light to continue attacks on the Palestinian people. Instead of condemning and undermining calls for freedom, justice, and equality, as progressives we should amplify those calls.