

PROGRESSIVES FOR PALESTINE

Our Values
Our Strength

WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED

...to understand the issue of Palestine/Israel. Progressives believe in **equality, freedom, and justice for all**. Applying our progressive values to every situation of injustice allows us to envision and build the world we want.

PROGRESSIVES BELIEVE IN EQUALITY

Progressives believe all human beings are equal regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious faith or non-faith, or disability. We reject the myth of human hierarchy, and build towards a world where no one is discriminated against on the basis of who they are. **Equality means: no privilege and no subjugation, no exceptions.**

PROGRESSIVES PURSUE FREEDOM

The progressive vision for the world is one where all people are free. **All of us, or none of us** must be free to realize our purpose, free to demand our rights, and free from any system that confines our dreams. Walls and cages, like unequal access to the resources we need to thrive, keep individuals and our communities from reaching our potential.

PROGRESSIVES DEMAND JUSTICE

Progressives demand accountability for harm committed and work to dismantle the structures that disproportionately and systematically harm marginalized communities. When we raise awareness about injustice, progressives take a historically deep view, so that we can advocate for **solutions that address the root of the problem.**

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BELIEVING IN EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL IN PALESTINE/ISRAEL REQUIRES:

- Committing to a political solution that upholds the **equal rights of all people in Palestine/Israel**
- Rejecting any political paradigm grounded in an ideology of “**separate and unequal**”
- Supporting **Palestinian calls for Israel to become a state of all its citizens**

PURSUING FREEDOM FOR ALL IN PALESTINE/ISRAEL REQUIRES:

- Demanding an **immediate end to the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territory**
- **Lifting the closure of the Gaza Strip**
- Protecting the **right to boycott** entities complicit in human rights violations

DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR ALL IN PALESTINE/ISRAEL REQUIRES:

- **Holding powerful actors to account** when they violate international law
- Ensuring that **US aid to Israel is not used to commit human rights violations**
- Advocating for political solutions that **achieve historical justice**, including reparations and the right of return for Palestinian refugees

PROGRESSIVES FOR PALESTINE

Messaging
Our Values

SPEAKING ABOUT PALESTINE/ISRAEL LIKE A PRO(GRESSIVE)

Palestinians and Palestinian human rights defenders have been advocating for **equality, freedom, and justice** for decades. Here are some of the tactics used to silence progressive voices, and our value-driven responses:

"IT'S TOO COMPLICATED"

"Complexity" is often a tool of the powerful to silence opposition and maintain an unjust status quo. Progressives know that our issues – such as health care for all, climate justice, community safety, the people's history, fair immigration, and living wages – are not complicated; powerful actors would just rather we not feel empowered to talk about them. Palestine/Israel is difficult because those with power must relinquish their privilege in order to usher in a just future, but it's not complicated.

"WHY NOT FOCUS ON DOMESTIC CONCERNS?"

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Progressives believe that our freedom and well-being is tied to the freedom and well-being of others. And, the United States sends \$3.8 billion to Israel every single year, so Americans are particularly complicit and invested in the practices and policies of the Israeli government and military.

"THIS IS AN EXCEPTIONAL ISSUE"

There is an acronym in the movement for Palestinian rights, identifying individuals and institutions as PEPs: Progressive Except Palestine. Progressives aim for political coherence, and we make no exceptions to our values of equality, freedom and justice.

"ISN'T CRITICISM OF ISRAEL ANTI-SEMITIC?"

Our movement for justice and human rights demands an end to all systems of oppression, including anti-Semitism. The Israeli government has conflated "Jewish" with the State of Israel and claims that criticism of Israeli policies amounts to anti-Jewish sentiment. This faulty reasoning is used to silence those who promote Palestinian human rights. We believe such false claims and changing definitions harm important efforts to combat anti-Semitism.

"WHAT ABOUT PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE?"

Progressives work to root out all forms of human violence, both interpersonal and state-sanctioned. Progressives recognize that dangerous tropes are often used against marginalized people to characterize them as violent, terrorist, or criminal. These stereotypes serve to dehumanize individuals and delegitimize their just demands for human rights. Progressives believe that all perpetrators of human rights abuses must be held to account, and remember the words of Paolo Freire "With the establishment of a relationship of oppression, violence has already begun."

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WHAT ABOUT ISRAELI SECURITY?

Progressives believe that all communities deserve to live in safety and security. Both Palestinians and Jewish Israelis will be safe when equal rights are protected and historical justice is secured. Progressives reject walls, checkpoints and cages as necessary for safety, and build societies and systems of accountability grounded in respect of human rights.

ISN'T ISRAEL A DEMOCRACY?

Progressives believe that "substantive democracy" requires a foundation of equality. While Israel does tolerate "procedural democracy" by giving Palestinian citizens of Israel the right to vote and participate in political life, equality is not enshrined in Israeli law. The Israeli Knesset has passed over 65 discriminatory laws that directly or indirectly target the rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel, who make up 20% of the population, including a new constitutional law enshrining "separate & unequal."

DOESN'T EVERYONE WANT A TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Progressives ask: does the political solution protect human rights and human dignity? The "Two State Solution" has been the accepted political framework for the region since the 1990s, and imagines two states for two peoples: one for Jewish people and one for Palestinians. However, in Israel, 20% of the population is not Jewish - 1 in every 5 Israeli citizens is Palestinian. Meanwhile, Israel continues to colonize the territory designated for a future Palestinian state. Progressives know that political paradigms and partition necessarily compromise on human rights. We demand a rights-first approach, because only when the equal rights of all people are protected can a just political solution emerge.

"SHOULDN'T WE REMAIN NEUTRAL?"

Progressives are never neutral in situations of injustice, as being neutral means siding with the powerful. Progressives are not afraid to take sides, but not for one people against another. Progressives are on the side of equality, freedom, and justice for all, and know that when we develop policies and practices according to these values - whether in the US or in Palestine/Israel - we all win.

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