

PRIORITIES FOR PROGRESS 2021

FOREIGN POLICY

Durable solutions to the problems we face won't come from small fixes around the edges. We need solutions that build power for everyday people to emerge from this crisis as a more resilient, just nation. The work ahead of the next president and the next Congress to achieve these goals is formidable. And we can't afford for them to fail.

To help ensure that we are ready to meet this extraordinary moment, organizations from across the progressive movement gathered together to develop policy agendas on key progressive priorities, including both legislative and administrative proposals.



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GOALS PRINCIPLES VALUES

LEGISLATIVE

U.S. foreign policy has too often relied upon the threat and projection of force on a global scale to protect what a tiny segment of the American corporate and political elites considered national interests.

These policies have not just failed to keep people in the United States safe, they have destabilized large parts of the world, created endless wars, fueled a wasteful proliferation of arms and fossil fuels, and diverted resources and political will away from coordinated global responses to urgent crises, including COVID-19. We reject the false assumptions that military force is the most effective response to nearly all international challenges; that other harsh policies, including sanctions, are somehow a kinder and gentler alternative; and that the U.S. must compete with other powerful nations to remain the world's hegemonic power.

In the face of a global pandemic, global calls for racial justice, and the existential threat that is climate change, we have a once in a generation opportunity to reimagine a foreign policy based on universal human rights, mutual respect, acceptance of differences, and the common good. A progressive foreign policy would prioritize cooperation over competition, dignity over dehumanization, equity and equality over white supremacy and patriarchy, and solidarity over exploitation. While reversing disastrous Trump policies is a vital first step, we must go further to democratize and demilitarize U.S. foreign policy to meet the most serious challenges of the 21st century.

We call upon the Congress and the next administration to:

- **End the endless wars** and reliance on military interventionism to solve conflict.
- **End the misallocation of national resources** to the Pentagon and massively downsize the U.S. global infrastructure of violence.
- **Invest in diplomacy, multilateralism, development, peacebuilding, and the enforcement of international law** to address the greatest challenges that face the United States and all of humanity.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FIRST 100 DAYS

Congress must continue to reassert its authority over matters of war and peace as a co-equal branch of government. In order to realize a progressive 21st century security policy, Congress must work alongside the administration within the first 100 days to enact bold, structural change.

SUNSET THE 2001 AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE (AUMF) WITHIN 240 DAYS, AND REPEAL THE 2002 AUMF

Doing so would require the removal of all U.S. military personnel from overseas conflict operations, an end to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and military drone strikes, and an end to manned bombing strikes. Although the U.S. government has failed to publicly reveal every location where the United States conducts military and intelligence operations under the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs, it has stated over time that it covers operations in the following countries: Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Libya, and Niger. The Trump administration has also recently stated that both the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs cover operations in Iran. There is widespread agreement in Congress and the legal community that the executive branch's legal interpretation of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs is often broad, legally dubious, and not as Congress intended.

END ALL U.S. MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN THE SAUDI/EMIRATI-LED COALITION'S WAR ON YEMEN

This includes an end to all arms sales for five years, a ban on mid-air refueling of coalition warplanes, intelligence sharing, targeting assistance, logistics support, spare parts transfers to Saudi, and coalition military personnel.



REALIGN SPENDING PRIORITIES

In FY2022, cut the Pentagon budget by at least 10 percent, end the Overseas Contingency Operations account, and curb major weapons programs. Require development of a plan for a Pentagon budget cut of \$350 billion or more per year, including funding the Office of Economic Adjustment to distribute economic transition aid for communities adversely affected by the drawdown of military spending. Invest in diplomacy, peacebuilding, and development assistance by increasing State Department funding and creating a UN-controlled global peacebuilding fund. Increase humanitarian aid and aid to women-led and grassroots efforts.

ENSURE THAT ANY COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF BILLS INCLUDE HUMANITARIAN FOREIGN AID

Ensure that any COVID-19 emergency relief bills include humanitarian foreign aid, and support for global debt relief and 2 trillion Special Drawing Rights – emergency financial resources – and do not include any funding for the Pentagon or extractive industries.

END MILITARIZATION OF POLICE

Enact legislation to:

- End the 1033 program for the transfer of military equipment from the Department of Defense to law enforcement, and the 1122 program that permits the law enforcement agencies to buy militarized equipment at a reduced rate through the federal government.
- Prohibit the military from conducting domestic law enforcement, including in the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, and from deploying to the U.S. southern border.
- End U.S. funding for international police training programs and police-to-police international exchanges.

BEYOND 100 DAYS

ENACT LEGISLATION REASSERTING AND STRENGTHENING CONGRESS' ROLE AS A CO-EQUAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT IN NATIONAL SECURITY POLICYMAKING

Enact legislation reasserting and strengthening Congress' role as a co-equal branch of government in national security policymaking, including war powers, arms sales, and emergency powers reform legislation. Reform executive sanctions powers and roll back unilateral sanctions.

RATIFY INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

Ratify international treaties including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Mine Ban Treaty, and the Rome Statute of the ICC.

SUPPORT A JUST RESOLUTION TO THE ISRAEL/PALESTINE CONFLICT

Return to international law in recognizing Israeli settlements as illegal. Enact legislation to prohibit use of funds for annexation of Palestine, fully fund UNRWA's work in the West Bank and Gaza, and explicitly affirm the right of U.S. citizens to engage in protest, including boycotts.

END MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS AND INVEST IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING

Stop security assistance, including arms sales, security cooperation, and military training, to all governments that violate human rights, and those with authoritarian or repressive regimes. Provide a mechanism for congressional overturn of presidential waivers by a simple majority and require Congressional approval for weapons sales. Reinvest resources in a conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategy to help address and resolve conflict around the world.

REDUCE RELIANCE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Cancel the intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), support the New START extension, adopt a “no first use” policy, ban any new explosive nuclear weapons testing, end President Trump’s low-yield nuclear weapons programs, and cancel plans for new nuclear weapons.

ESTABLISH REPARATIONS

Invest in a fund for reparations to global communities that have been adversely affected by U.S. military actions or presence, U.S. economic sanctions, disparate use of fossil fuels and effects of climate change, and the U.S. military’s role in the enforced displacement of Indigenous peoples and protection of American slavery.

PRIORITIZE INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY AND RIGHTS

Prioritize Indigenous sovereignty and rights, including full implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and work to ratify ILO Convention 169.



DEVELOP A RESPONSIBLE 21ST CENTURY APPROACH TO MIGRATION

Declare the U.S. responsibility to accept a fair share of migrants in the face of international conflict and the disparate effects of climate change, and invest in refugee and migrant resettlement. Conduct reviews of the impact of U.S. foreign policy in causing or exacerbating mass migration, and include assessments of the potential impact on migration in U.S. decision-making.

AFFIRM UNIVERSAL REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Affirm universal reproductive rights by repealing the Helms Amendment, which deprives millions of people around the world of reproductive rights and access to healthcare, including by reducing the availability of safe, legal abortion and critical health information.

REMOVE DECISION-MAKING POWER FOR THE PROSECUTION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT FROM THE MILITARY

Remove decision-making power for the prosecution of sexual assault from the military chain of command and provide for independent decision-making and prosecution.

GOALS PRINCIPLES VALUES

ADMINISTRATIVE

U.S. foreign policy has too often relied upon the threat and projection of force on a global scale to protect what a tiny segment of the American corporate and political elites considered national interests.

These policies have not just failed to keep people in the United States safe, they have destabilized large parts of the world, created endless wars, fueled a wasteful proliferation of arms and fossil fuels, and diverted resources and political will away from coordinated global responses to urgent crises, including COVID-19. We reject the false assumptions that military force is the most effective response to nearly all international challenges; that other harsh policies, including sanctions, are somehow a kinder and gentler alternative; and that the U.S. must compete with other powerful nations to remain the world's hegemonic power.

In April of 2015, President Obama stated that “the days in which our agenda in this hemisphere so often presumed that the United States could meddle with impunity, those days are past.” The time is now to reinstate this principle not only with respect to this hemisphere, but the entire world. In the face of a global pandemic, global calls for racial justice, and the existential threat that is climate change, we have a once in a generation opportunity to reimagine a foreign policy based on universal human rights, mutual respect, acceptance of differences, and pursuit of the common good.

A progressive foreign policy would prioritize cooperation over competition, dignity over dehumanization, equity over white supremacy and patriarchy, and solidarity over exploitation. While reversing disastrous Trump policies is a vital first step, we must go further to democratize and demilitarize U.S. foreign policy to meet the most serious challenges of the 21st century.

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A new administration must begin by ending the most disastrous Trump policies in the first 100 days, but it must not stop there. Global challenges and our own security demand an urgent and broad reorientation of U.S. foreign policy toward pursuit of the common good.

ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES

FIRST 100 DAYS

REVERSE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER DAMAGING HISTORICAL POLICIES

- **Provide for full U.S. participation in a global pandemic response. Return full funding to the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization**, and advance a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including full participation and support of the COVAX Facility to ensure global vaccine access, international coordination of global supply chains, medical research, universal vaccine access, and international investment in global public health infrastructure. Suspend unilateral U.S. sanctions for the duration of the pandemic, or at a minimum, significantly broaden humanitarian exceptions to such sanctions. Suspend the trade war with China and increase diplomatic overtures to China as part of a multilateral pandemic response. Adhere to and pressure countries to observe the UN global ceasefire, and ensure a leadership role for women and civil society in drafting, implementing, and monitoring ceasefires.
- **Direct an immediate end to U.S. military support and weapons sales to countries that are part of the Saudi/Emirati-led military intervention in Yemen and restore suspended humanitarian assistance to all parts of Yemen.**
- **Enhance diplomatic engagement to avert militarized and dangerous “Great Power Competition” with Russia and China** and to advance cooperation on key issues of mutual and global importance such as healthcare, pandemic prevention and response; climate change; global poverty; and infrastructure development.
- **Rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action**/the Iran nuclear deal with no new conditions, and reverse sanctions under President Trump’s failed “maximum pressure” campaign.
- **Rejoin the Paris Climate Accords**, and announce plans for a more ambitious U.S. and international climate response.
- **Reverse harmful immigration policies**, such as the Muslim Bans and policies that restrict the right to asylum in the United States, including rollbacks of the rights of domestic violence survivors and LGBTQ+ individuals to access asylum.



- **Reinstate funding** for the United Nations, including United National Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Aid (UNRWA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and bilateral and multilateral humanitarian aid.
- **Extend the New START nuclear treaty and cancel President Trump’s new nuclear weapons**, including the W76-2 and the W93.
- **Resume normalization of relations with Cuba and lift sanctions imposed by the Trump administration.**
- **Seek confidence-building measures with North Korea.**
- **Address human rights concerns multilaterally** to avoid politicizing them.
- **Issue an executive order, and sign legislation permanently ending the Pentagon’s 1033 and 1122 programs** that provide military equipment to law enforcement, to enshrine and expand upon changes enacted under President Obama and reversed under President Trump.
- **Support a just resolution to the Israel/Palestine conflict:** At minimum, use diplomatic leverage to end any potential for Israeli annexation of the West Bank.
- **Rescind the Mexico City policy**, also known as the “Global Gag Rule,” to ensure the reproductive rights and health of women and girls globally.
- **End the ban on military service by transgender people** and ensure full access and funding for appropriate medical care for transgender service members.

ADVANCE FORWARD-LOOKING FOREIGN POLICY REFORMS

- **End the endless wars:** Release a detailed plan for the full removal of combat and special operations forces and U.S. military contractors, and the end of lethal manned-and-unmanned strikes under the authority of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs, and any other relevant authorities, as well as a diplomacy-first strategy inclusive of women and civil society, to support national and regional actors in resolving existing conflicts and building sustainable peace within the first 240 days.
- **Suspend unilateral sanctions,** which have deprived civilians of access to food, medicine, and essential human needs, including economic sanctions on Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, Sudan, Syria, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere. Limit sanctions to military aid/trade/training and other forms that do not impact civilians by undermining the overall economy. Conduct a review of the impact of sanctions on civilians and seek to provide restitution for harms caused.
- **Realign spending priorities** with a presidential budget request that calls for a minimum ten percent reduction in military spending in the first year, elimination of the Overseas Contingency Operations account, and a 50% reduction in military spending in the out-years to allow for reinvestment.
- **Reaffirm Congressional war powers:** Commit to securing approval from Congress prior to any military action and to ending any unauthorized military action, and to signing legislation strengthening Congress's authority over war-making, arms sales, and emergency powers.
- **End illegal detention and torture:** Announce plans to close Guantanamo detention facilities and reaffirm the illegality of torture.
- **Establish a mechanism for government agencies to secure the free, prior and informed consent of Native American and Alaskan Native Tribes** before proceeding with any federal actions that would impact their lands, territories, culture, or livelihoods.
- **Impose an immediate moratorium on all international trade and investment rules that restrict government responses to the COVID-19 crisis.**

BEYOND 100 DAYS

- **Develop a broad national security strategy** based on a comprehensive view of threats and solutions, including climate change, global health threats, global inequality, corruption, and more. Such a strategy would cut the Pentagon budget in half over time, and reinvest in solutions to urgent threats including climate change, global public health, and inequality.
- **Oppose open or covert regime change interventions** and refuse to recognize non-electoral transfers of power, including in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Egypt. Closely scrutinize and discourage efforts to disqualify leading candidates in elections, as we have seen in recent years in Brazil and Ecuador.
- **Reassert enforcement of Executive Order 11905 banning political assassinations.**
- **Restart direct talks with North Korea** that pursue peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, an end to the Korean War, and in support of the Singapore Statement.
- **Demilitarize Africa policy and focus on diplomacy** and development assistance to support the African Union's goals and priority areas of its Agenda 2063, and eliminate the U.S. Africa Command.
- **Pursue justice and accountability:** Assist with the reinvigoration of international bodies dedicated to justice and accountability, including the International Criminal Court, and demonstrate that the U.S. is not above international law by signing treaties and seeking their ratification.
- **Reengage civil society:** U.S. diplomacy must devote new resources toward engagement with a broad set of local stakeholders, including local civil society, community organizers, youth, and women leaders, who are the engines for change within their societies.
- **Establish an immediate, minimum year-long moratorium on U.S. weapons sales and foreign military assistance** to countries that fail to meet international standards for human rights, participate in corruption, or commit mass atrocities.
- **Reconceptualize foreign assistance:** Security assistance and cooperation should have clear metrics, be limited in scope, must not engage in regime change operations, and should not be the primary tool for U.S. influence and engagement.
- **Address domestic and global white nationalism:** Convene nations, including civil society and human rights organizations, to discuss approaches to counter rising white nationalism, and join the global consensus in support of the historic World Conference Against Racism's Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA). Dismantle U.S. foreign and domestic policies that rely on dehumanization and xenophobia, particularly since 9/11, in advancing white nationalism in the U.S. and abroad. Prioritize the investigation and prosecution

of white nationalist violence. Create a comprehensive strategy to address white supremacy and nationalism within the U.S. military. Ensure that organizations with white nationalist views or ties are disqualified from any U.S. military assistance.

— **Reduce reliance on nuclear weapons:** Cancel the new ICBM, such as a ground-based strategic deterrent (GBSD), and agree to a no-first-use policy. Voice support for legislation that ends the president's sole authority for nuclear weapons use.

— **Provide debt relief:** Promote debt relief and forgiveness for the poorest countries. Ensure access to loans and grants free of conditions that impose austerity policies.

— **Overhaul the international economic system:** Prioritize dismantling global oligarchy and closing loopholes that protect the power of multinational corporations. Stop the race to the bottom in international taxation, particularly in relation to Big Tech.

— **Ensure a foundation of enforceable worker rights and enshrine the right to collective action.** Prioritize negotiating trade policies that offer labor, collective action, and human rights protections for women, migrants, informal laborers, and communities in the Global South, and allow countries to preserve their social safety nets.

— **Create international economic policies** that drive growth, increase incomes, improve working conditions and restore worker bargaining power. Explore options to create a global social protection fund.

— **Ensure enforceable protections for the environment** throughout the global economy. Eliminate trade rules that conflict with climate action to allow communities and governments to advance bold climate protections. Include enforceable commitments to implement international climate accords and to make climate-protecting policy changes, and measures to discourage trade in climate-polluting fossil fuels and limit fossil fuel emissions from international shipping and shifts in production, in relevant trade pacts.

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