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2021 DPCA Resolutions

The **13 resolutions** to be considered at the August Global Meeting (12 resolutions earlier deferred plus 1 received late)

Note: Final proofing and editing have been done for clarity, style, and consistency.

Drafters and sponsors should review your texts carefully, as final corrections can be made if your meaning has been inadvertently altered.

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8 #3

9 **In Support of Development of a DA messaging platform**
10 **for engaging members in Congressional outreach**
11 **in support of DA issues-advocacy initiatives**

12
13 *Proposed by: Carmelan Polce (DA Australia, DPCA Voting Rep; DA Taxation Task Force Chair)*

14 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

15
16 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad has greatly expanded its advocacy work promoting reforms
17 related to issues affecting Americans abroad and of importance to Democrats Abroad;
18 and

19
20 **Whereas** DA advocacy initiatives routinely feature outreach to U.S. federal and state
21 lawmakers and regulators; and

22
23 **Whereas** state of the art issues-advocacy programs provide activists with platforms that
24 facilitate messaging to elected representatives by: identifying the activist’s
25 representative(s); providing sample message language; and sending the message to the
26 activist’s representatives(s) via their official website, campaign website, or social media
27 pages; and

28
29 **Whereas** DA issues-advocacy coordinators would benefit from data indicating which
30 elected representatives are receiving messages from DA issues-activists, helping them to
31 target representatives for further or follow-up outreach; and

32
33 **Whereas** DA issues-advocacy coordinators would benefit from data, with GDPR
34 compliance, identifying campaign supporters, helping them to target activists for further
35 or follow-up communication; and

36
37 **Whereas** DA’s Taxation Task Force has learned from at least 10 years of committed
38 advocacy in support of tax reforms to eliminate double taxation; remove barriers to
39 banking, saving, and investing; and simplify filing from abroad; that reform will happen
40 when enough Americans abroad reach out to their elected representatives and demand it;
41 and

42
43 **Whereas votes** from abroad reach politicians for the most part only once every 2 years,
44 but **voices** from abroad can reach elected representatives – or candidates for office –
45 continuously and with focus; and

46
47 **Whereas** DA is blessed with volunteers who can set up and maintain a messaging
48 platform, but there will be origination and on-going maintenance costs that will consume
49 organizational funds; and

50
51 **Whereas** DA can access “white label” systems (“off the shelf” web-creation products
52 with functions already in place and ready to be customized) that would facilitate the

53 development of VoicesFromAbroad.org without the need to start from first principles;
54 and

55
56 **Whereas** DA advocacy teams with any area of focus could make use of the platform; and
57

58 **Whereas** the success of the Democratic Party in driving legislative and regulatory reform
59 is critical to the fate of the nation and the success of the Party in maintaining the support
60 of the U.S. electorate; and

61
62 **Whereas** the substantial growth of DA caucus and other issues-advocacy teams has
63 created the need for some overarching member-engagement infrastructure and
64 congressional-outreach architecture in order to efficiently facilitate member participation
65 in our campaigns as well as to sensibly coordinate the campaign activities of the issues-
66 advocacy teams;

67
68 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad seeks the support of the DPCA Excom
69 for establishment of an ad hoc committee to study the establishment of a messaging tool
70 for DA advocacy teams to engage activists to communicate with those holding elected
71 office or running for elected office about law or regulatory reforms; and

72
73 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad seeks the support of the DPCA Excom
74 to allocate resources in 2021 in support of the work of the ad hoc committee and for
75 reviewing and actioning the recommendations of the committee.

76
77 *Co-sponsors: Joe Smallhoover (DA France, DNC Member, International Counsel); Rebecca*
78 *Lammers (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep); Angela Fobbs (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep);*
79 *Annamarie Mattson (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep 2019-2021); Nathalie Bachiri (DA*
80 *Luxembourg, Chair); Allesandro Marra (DA Italy, DPCA Voting Rep); Martha McDevitt-Pugh*
81 *(DA Netherlands, DNC Member); Tre-Shawn Griffin (DA Netherlands, DPCA Voting Rep).*

82

83 #4

84 **In Support of Democrats Abroad Joining the RBT Coalition**

85

86 *Proposed by: Carmelan Polce (DA Australia, DPCA Voting Rep; DA Tax Task Force Chair)*

87 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

88

89 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad (DA) has invested heavily in advocacy in support of tax-
90 and financial-account-reporting relief for bona fide Americans abroad; and

91

92 **Whereas** DA is committed to Residency Based Taxation (RBT) as a policy reform that
93 would eliminate double taxation of income; remove barriers to saving and investing; and
94 greatly simplify tax-filing from abroad; and

95

96 **Whereas** arguments in support of this reform will have greater impact on lawmakers the
97 greater the number of individuals and organizations presenting them; and

98

99 **Whereas** DA has worked in collaboration or in parallel with many other organizations
100 representing Americans abroad; and

101

102 **Whereas**, in the area of tax advocacy, DA has a strong working relationship with
103 American Citizens Abroad (ACA); and

104

105 **Whereas** ACA is leading the establishment of an RBT Coalition to demonstrate broad
106 support for RBT [see proposal document below]; and

107

108 **Whereas** the DA Taxation Task Force Chair and members who have worked with ACA
109 are persuaded that ACA will be faithful to the terms and conditions outlined in the
110 proposal document and will guard against “mission creep”;

111

112 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad seeks the support of the DPCA Excom
113 to become a member of the RBT Coalition; and

114

115 **Be It Further Resolved** that the DPCA Excom reserves the right to withdraw from the
116 Coalition should it stray from what is profiled in the proposal document or for any other
117 reason.

118

119 *Co-sponsors: Joe Smallhoover (DA France, DNC Member, International Counsel); Nathalie*
120 *Bachiri (DA Luxembourg, Chair); Allesandro Marra (DA Italy, DPCA Voting Rep); Tre-Shawn*
121 *Griffin (DA Netherlands, DPCA Voting Rep); Rebecca Lammers (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep);*
122 *Ken Sherman (DA Canada, DNC Member, DPCA Voting Rep).*

123

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125 **Talking Paper** 126 **Coalition for Residency-Based Taxation**

127

128

129

130

These are preliminary thoughts about creation of a coalition supporting enactment of residency-based taxation – what it might look like, some elements that might be addressed, and some things that might best be avoided. (The coalition is herein referred to as “RBT Coalition”.)

131 I. What It Will Look Like
132 A. Overview
133 The RBT Coalition will be an informal group of organizations that openly support enactment of
134 residency-based taxation (RBT) in lieu of citizenship-based taxation (CBT).
135 The RBT Coalition will present widely-accepted arguments in favor of residency-based taxation. It
136 will assemble information about RBT and make this information available to the public and to
137 governments, including the U.S. government. It will also disseminate this information to the news
138 media.
139 It will be “informal” in that it will not be an association of any type or a separately organized entity.
140 Consequently, it will not file for any form of tax-exempt status with the IRS or be required to make
141 any tax filings. It will not advocate for enactment of a specific piece of legislation, such as, a
142 congressional bill or resolution, or a particular action by the legislative, executive or judicial
143 branch of the U.S. government. It will not conduct itself in a manner which would require it or any
144 entity or individual associated with it to have to register as a lobbyist. In no manner will it
145 participate in, or intervene in (including the publication and distribution of statements), any
146 campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. It will not collect monies.
147 It would not, directly or indirectly, give any gift or pay for the travel of any member or employee of
148 Congress. Any contributions, donations, or the like will not be made through the Coalition.
149 The RBT Coalition will not have officers or directors or spokesmen/spokeswomen.
150 Any action taken on behalf of the Coalition will require unanimous consent of all its participating
151 organizations, indicated in writing.
152 It will hold meetings when two or more participants call for meeting and a majority of participants
153 agrees, whether or not they wish to attend. Meetings may be “in person” or “virtual”, with notice to
154 all participants.
155 The records of the Coalition will be maintained and shared as agreed by the participating
156 organizations. “Records” could include minutes of meetings and correspondence.
157 B. Composition – at outset and evolving over time
158 At the outset, the RBT Coalition will be comprised of a group of participating organizations drawn
159 from different segments of the expat community.
160 1. Organizations representing Americans abroad – individuals and businesses. Examples
161 are American Citizens Abroad, AARO, FAWCO, Democrats Abroad, Republicans
162 Overseas, the US Chamber of Commerce (including sub-groups and similar groups, such
163 as, business councils).
164 2. Social and Business groups of Americans. Examples: American Clubs, American-
165 foreign trade associations, American overseas business associations.
166 3. Policy oriented groups and so called “think tanks”
167 4. Service providers that cater in some measure to expats. These individual service
168 providers include:
169 (a) Different segments of the broadly-defined tax return preparation services community.
170 Within this population are return preparers – large, medium-sized, and small
171 (b) Investment advisers and asset managers that are focused on the expat community.
172 This population ranges from medium-sized firms to offices or “shops” within large
173 organizations.
174 (c) Legal advisors. This includes some individuals and small firms but more often
175 “practices” within larger firms.
176 (d) Software providers and other tech-oriented groups. This is a small, specialist
177 population.
178 (e) Relocation agencies and similar organizations.
179 (f) Large public accounting firms and economic consultancies.
180 (g) Elements to be addressed
181 C. What is it expected to do?

182 Its focus will be entirely on replacing citizenship-based taxation with RBT. The principal
183 arguments in favor, such as, tax fairness and efficiency, will be agreed to by all participants.

184 D. How formal a structure?
185 There will be no formal structure, such as, a management committee or a committee of advisors.
186 There will be a list of participants with contact information. All participants will sign an agreed
187 expression of support for adoption of RBT in place of CBT.

188 E. Governance
189 No formal governance. No one participant or individual will be authorized to act on behalf of or
190 speak for the coalition. Members must unanimously agree on any actions, such as, signing a
191 letter to Congress. No one can sign on behalf of individual members. Individual members must
192 separately sign anything with their name on it.

193 F. How to proceed.
194 Start with a small group and build from there. The population of participants can be expected to
195 grow with signs of progress on the legislative front.

196 II. Things To Be Avoided
197 A. Anything that looks like a proposal.
198 B. Anything that could be characterized as lobbying.
199 C. Anything that is politically partisan.
200 D. Anything that is or appears to be self-promotional.
201
202

203 #7

204 **On Strengthening Democratic Institutions in the United States**

205

206 *Proposed by: Kee Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair)*

207 *Author: Vincent S. D'Agati (DA Guatemala)*

208 *Co-sponsor: John Chudy, (DA Guatemala, Vice Chair)*

209

210 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad is pleased that the House of Representatives is investigating
211 events that brought about the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 which
212 sought to disrupt our democratic institutions; and

213

214 **Whereas** over the past decade many historians, consumer advocates, economists, and
215 journalists such as Ralph Nader, Thomas L. Friedman, Nancy Maclean, Garry Kasparov,
216 and James Wiggins, have researched and analyzed the complex root causes of the
217 deterioration of our democratic form of government; and

218

219 **Whereas** it appears the President and his staff have yet to assimilate this information and
220 develop a comprehensive strategy to address these complex causes effectively; and

221

222 **Whereas** DA believes that the nation would be well served if a Presidential Advisory
223 Commission were formed to develop a comprehensive strategy;

224

225 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad encourages the Biden Administration
226 to appoint a Presidential Advisory Commission made up of leading national political
227 thinkers and public policy intellectuals including those cited above, to develop a strategy
228 to address the root causes weakening our democratic institutions; and

229

230 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA shall mobilize its members to urge their elected
231 representatives, candidates for office, the Democratic Party as a whole, and members of
232 the public to support the creation of such a Commission.

233

234

235 **ANNEX** (For information not for inclusion in the resolution)

236 Some of the issues that are destroying our democratic way of life are:

237

- Racism

238

- Xenophobia

239

- Blatant misinformation campaigns

240

- Under-employment due to globalization

241

- Dark money going into campaign funds and bribes

242

- Libertarian initiatives (eradicate government spending except for military and police)

243

- Restricting the right to vote

244

- Senate filibusters

245

- No term-limits for members of Congress

246

- Insider trading by legislators

247

- Numerous tax loopholes for large corporations

248

- Inadequate public education that should include civic education

- 249 • Foreign interference in our political processes
250 • Continued funding of traditional national defense without sufficient consideration of modern
251 cyber warfare strategies

252

253 Due to vested interests, it will be very difficult to address many of these issues through
254 national, state and local legislation. That is precisely why a well-thought, comprehensive
255 national strategy is required to address them. Unless we address these issues effectively,
256 the nation could slip into a fascist regime as happened in Germany during the 1930's.

257 The time has come for our brilliant consumer advocates, journalists, historians,
258 economists, and, yes, even a world-famous chess player to advise the President and to
259 develop a sound strategy to protect our democratic way of life.

260

261 #8

262 **On Polarization of the Electorate**

263

264 *Proposed by: Kee Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair)*

265 *Author: Mary Lou Ridinger (DA Guatemala)*

266 *Co-sponsor: John Chudy (DA Guatemala, Vice Chair)*

267

268 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad is concerned about the polarization of the U.S. electorate
269 and believes that steps should be taken to bring about better communication among
270 voters to strengthen our democracy; and

271

272 **Whereas** recent studies show that 38% of Americans do not prefer democracy as their
273 form of government; and

274

275 **Whereas** democracy should be promoted from the bottom up and not from the top down,
276 the teaching of civics should come with an economic incentive offered at the community
277 level to encourage participation; and

278

279 **Whereas** the USA was founded during the Age of Enlightenment and the founders
280 believed that, through science, the people could be led to value reason; and

281

282 **Whereas** polarization begets more polarization in a negative feedback loop; and

283

284 **Whereas** many Trump voters – who seem hindered by reality-distortion syndrome, don't
285 believe in science, and are receiving most of their news and forming their political
286 opinions through religious leaders or conspiracy theories promoted on social media or
287 through organizations promoting racial hatred – might benefit from civics education with
288 an economic incentive of future employment in local infrastructure projects;

289

290 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports establishment of a joint task
291 force between the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor to promote and teach civics
292 through community job-training programs, and

293

294 **Be It Further Resolved** that the task force, as part of this effort, should implement
295 Strategy 6 of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' 2020 study *Our Common*
296 *Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century*, which seeks to inspire
297 a culture of commitment to American constitutional democracy and to one another, and
298 thereby to strengthen our shared commitment to the common good.¹

299

¹ American Academy of Arts and Sciences, *Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century* (Cambridge, Mass.: American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2020).

300 #9

301 **On Central American Immigration in 2021**

302

303 *Proposed by: John Chudy (DA Guatemala, Vice Chair)*

304 *Co-sponsor: Kee Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair)*

305

306 **Whereas** the Trump Administration over its four years implemented nearly 400 anti-
307 immigrant measures ranging from the mild of simply raising the costs of visa applications
308 to the inhumane such as its Zero Tolerance policy that separated 2,700 children from
309 their parents, leaving over 540 children in detention centers with no trace of their
310 parents;² and

311

312 **Whereas** the majority of irregular migrants currently arriving at the U.S. southern border
313 originate from Central America, mainly from the Northern Triangle countries of El
314 Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala;³ and

315

316 **Whereas** these countries together accounted for 71% (607,774) of all apprehensions at
317 the U.S.-Mexico border in 2019, far outnumbering those from Mexico (166,458);⁴ and

318

319 **Whereas** despite high deportations – for example, a record of 105,000 returned to
320 Guatemala in 2019, and over 43,000 in 2020 – the majority of deportees intend to return
321 to the USA because of growing poverty and pressing need;⁵ and

322

323 **Whereas** Hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020 directly affected over four million
324 people in Northern Triangle countries, with more than 200,000 families negatively
325 impacted by crop losses, with tens of thousands of climate refugees created in Honduras,
326 and with 133,000 in Guatemala displaced and housed in shelters with no home to return
327 to, many of them intending to migrate north;^{6,7} and

328

329 **Whereas** economic decline due to COVID-19, plus the added trauma of Hurricanes Eta
330 and Iota, has devastated formal employment, hitting Northern Triangle countries hardest,⁸
331 and

332

² Editorial Board, *“Trump’s Overhaul of Immigration is Worse Than You Think,”* New York Times, October 10, 2020

³ Capps, R., Meissner, D., Ruiz Soto, A.G., Bolter, J., Pierce, S., *“From Central America to Crisis: Changing Trends and Policies Reshaping U.S.-Mexico Border Enforcement,”* Migration Policy Institute, August 2019, pps. 1-2

⁴ Pew Research Center, November 1, 2019, *What’s Happening at the US-Mexico Border in Five Charts*

⁵ Jorge Ramos, *“The Perpetual Crisis at the Border and What We Can Do About It,”* New York Times, April 2, 2021

⁶ Prensa Libre, Guatemala, *Más de 133 mil pasarán navidad en albergues (More than 133,000 will spend Christmas in shelters),* December 24, 2020

⁷ Nicole Narea, *“Migrants are Heading North Because Central America Never Recovered from Last Year’s Hurricanes,”* Vox, March 22, 2021

⁸ Press Release, *“Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean,”* Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, December 16, 2020

333 **Whereas** in Guatemala alone 60% of the working population has been forced into
334 informal economic activities, and the number of children suffering from acute
335 malnutrition has risen to 25,000 compared with 15,300 in 2019;⁹ and
336
337 **Whereas** the decades-old phenomenon of Central American children forced out of homes
338 and communities has evolved from migrating to the streets of Northern Triangle capitals
339 to eventually migrating to the USA as unaccompanied minors, such as the 36,540
340 Guatemalan children who arrived at the U.S. southern border between October 2020 and
341 June 2021;¹⁰ and
342
343 **Whereas** the Biden Administration is familiar with the historical profile of Northern
344 Triangle countries, including: persistent poverty, political instability, increased gang
345 activity that targets unemployed youth, coupled with recent worsening of prospects for
346 people in the region due to the pandemic and hurricanes;^{11,12} and
347
348 **Whereas** the 2020 Democratic Party Platform calls for the U.S. to work with our regional
349 and international partners to address the root causes of migration in the Americas:
350 violence and insecurity, lack of educational and economic opportunity, and
351 environmental degradation;
352
353 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad expresses its support to the House
354 Committee on Foreign Affairs, the House Caucus on Central America, the Senate
355 Committee on Foreign Affairs and its sub-committee for the Western Hemisphere, and
356 the Biden Administration through Vice President Harris’s portfolio on the Northern
357 Triangle, for actions that include:
358 (1) Creating a family reunification committee that would allow deported family members
359 to return to the U.S. while their family members in the U.S. are being located;
360 (2) Passing the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021;
361 (3) Creating and leading a regional effort, engaging both regional governments and civil
362 groups, to strengthen Northern Triangle democratic institutions, general security, and
363 the fight against corruption and impunity;
364 (5) Raising awareness of the plight of street children; and
365 (6) Ending the Trump era Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and replacing them with a
366 streamlined process to allow entry of asylum seekers into the U.S.
367

6 Kevin Seif, *“The Reason Many Guatemalans are Coming to the Border? A Profound Hunger Crisis,”* Washington Post, April 1, 2021

¹⁰ Julia Ainsley, *“Record Number of Unaccompanied Children Crossed the Border in March,”* NBC News, April 2, 2021

¹¹ Dan Restrepo, *Central Americans Are Fleeing Bad Governments,* Foreign Affairs, March 5, 2021

¹² Naomi Roht-Arriaza, *“To Combat Central America’s Bad Governance, Biden Can’t Just Throw Money at the Problem,”* Just Security, March 29, 2021

368 #13

369 **To (1) Expand the Travel Fund to Include Stipends for Members**
370 **Interested in Attending DNC, ASDC, and DA Regional Meetings;**
371 **and (2) for Other Purposes**

372

373 *Proposed by: Sue Alksnis (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep); John Baumlin (DA Japan, Chair);*

374 *David Mivasair (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep)*

375 *Author: Orlando Vidal (DA United Arab Emirates)*

376 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

377

378 **Whereas** in March of 2014, during DPCA’s Global Meeting in Washington, D.C.,
379 Democrats Abroad resolved to establish a Travel Fund and Committee to grant stipends
380 pre-approved by the International Chair, in consultation with the International Treasurer
381 and the rest of DPCA’s Executive Committee, to active and deserving members who
382 wish to participate in DPCA global meetings in person, but who otherwise could not
383 afford to attend; and

384

385 **Whereas** thereafter the Travel Fund and Committee were established and, since then, the
386 Committee has awarded stipends of up to \$500 each to 27 active and deserving members
387 to attend DPCA global meetings in person; and

388

389 **Whereas** both the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the Association of State
390 Democratic Party Committees (ASDC) hold several meetings on an annual basis in
391 various parts of the United States; and

392

393 **Whereas** the International Chair, Vice Chair, and DA’s DNC delegation attend these
394 meetings on a regular basis; and

395

396 **Whereas** currently the Travel Fund Committee is not authorized to award stipends to
397 active and deserving members who wish to attend DNC, ASDC, or DA Regional
398 meetings; and

399

400 **Whereas** it is in the best interest of Democrats Abroad to:

401 (1) improve the transparency of and increase access to both the DNC and the ASDC;

402 (2) improve the understanding and increase the knowledge of our members in the
403 important role DA plays in these institutions;

404 (3) allow for greater participation of our members who, by attending these meetings,
405 could actively assist our delegations in the important business being transacted there;

406 (4) further opportunities for accountability by our DA elected and appointed leaders;

407 (5) improve attendance at Regional meetings;

408 (6) increase participation of members who are younger, working-class, or from otherwise
409 under-represented communities; and

410 (7) facilitate the gaining by our members of experience and the development of
411 relationships that could, in turn, be helpful in the future to DA as these members
412 themselves and others may wish later to stand for elected and appointed positions
413 within DA;

414

415 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Travel Fund is hereby expanded to include stipends
416 for active and deserving members to also attend DNC, ASDC, and DA Regional
417 meetings (excluded from qualifying for these stipends are the International Chair and
418 Vice Chair who may otherwise benefit from pre-approved DA-budgeted funds to
419 subsidize their DA-related travel expenses); and
420

421 **Be It Further Resolved** that the Travel Fund Committee design and implement a
422 transparent mechanism to request and process such applications; and
423

424 **Be It Further Resolved** that, in the further interests of transparency and accountability,
425 all recipients of Travel Fund stipends shall submit a report to the Travel Fund Committee
426 within 30 days of attendance at any meeting for which the stipend was awarded,
427 describing the business transacted at the event and the recipient's individual
428 contribution(s) to the success of the meeting. The Travel Fund Committee shall make
429 those reports publicly available on the Travel Fund page of DA's website; and
430

431 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA DNC Members, in particular, and all Travel Fund
432 recipients, generally, are strongly encouraged to actively pursue fundraising opportunities
433 that will increase the resources available in the Travel Fund.
434

435 *Co-sponsors: Onélica Andrade (Vice Chair, DA Belgium); Kendra Borgen (Chair, DA*
436 *Netherlands); Lord Tre'Shawn L. Griffin-Noordermeer (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
437 *Netherlands; Co-Chair, Global LGBTQ+ Caucus); Geneva Louise Jones (Vice Chair,*
438 *DA United Arab Emirates); Alicia Kauffman (DPCA Voting Rep, DA United Arab*
439 *Emirates); Sam Khunaizi (Chair, DA United Arab Emirates); Diego Rivas (DPCA*
440 *Voting Rep, DA Germany); and Lissette Wright (International Treasurer, DA Canada).*
441
442

443 #14

444 **To Keep the Pershing Hall Collections and the Time Capsule in France**

445

446 *Proposed by: Anna Marie Mattson, Co-Chair of DA France Veterans and Military Families*

447 *Caucus and DA France DPCA Voting Rep*

448 *Co-sponsors: Max Dunitz, Drew Lombardi, and Dani Follett, DPCA Voting Reps, DA France*

449

450 **Whereas** in 1928 the American Legion Building at 49 rue Pierre Charron, Paris 75008
451 France – known as Pershing Hall – was purchased by the Legionnaires of Paris Post 1, as
452 The American Legion Building, Paris, Inc., to serve as a gathering place and recreation
453 center for U.S. veterans, U.S. civic organizations, and other American groups in France,
454 and as a monument and memorial to the World War I American Expeditionary Forces
455 (AEF) commanded by General John Pershing; and

456

457 **Whereas**, when the project began experiencing financial difficulties in 1936, the U.S.
458 Government drew on profits accrued in a fund – initiated by soldiers who had purchased
459 the World War I newspaper *Stars and Stripes* – to settle the mortgage and outstanding
460 construction costs, thus avoiding foreclosure, and establishing a memorial fund to defray
461 costs of building maintenance without using any U.S. taxpayer money; and

462

463 **Whereas** the building was the home and headquarters of the American Legion inaugural
464 unit Paris Post 1, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 605, and various French-American
465 associations until all were evicted in 1993; and

466

467 **Whereas** the historic artwork, furnishings, and documents comprising the cultural
468 heritage in Pershing Hall were seized by the U.S. government in 1993; and

469

470 **Whereas** a small portion of the artifacts in the building – according to a 1991 inventory –
471 have recently been found, after apparently being left abandoned in storage at French
472 national museums for almost three decades; and

473

474 **Whereas** in 2019 the historic Chateau Thierry stone, and the time-capsule containing
475 historic documents and artifacts commemorating the inauguration of the building and
476 belonging to Paris Post 1 of the American Legion, were extracted from Pershing Hall by
477 the American Battlefield Monuments Commission (ABMC) during renovations and
478 remain in its custody; and

479

480 **Whereas** the remains of this rich historic and cultural heritage risk being exported across
481 international borders by the ABMC, raising grave concerns that WW I and II veterans in
482 France will lose more of their history and culture; and

483

484 **Whereas** the Paris Post of the American Legion has requested our help in keeping these
485 valuable treasures in France;

486

487 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad urges the House Veterans Affairs
488 Committee of the U.S. Congress to call upon the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
489 and the American Battlefield Monuments Commission (ABMC) to assure that its
490 collection, as well as the time-capsule and its contents, remain in France and be stored,

491 restored, and displayed as part of the cultural and historical patrimony of, and serve as a
492 memorial to, the Americans who fought in World War I and World War II, serving as
493 well as a pilgrimage site for their descendants, as was the intent of U.S. lawmakers.
494
495

496 #17

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500

501 *Proposed by: Sue Alksnis (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep)*

502 *Authors: Carol Adamson (DA Sweden); Eero Carroll (DA Sweden); Salli Swartz (DA France)*

503 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

504

505 **Whereas:**

- 506 ● preventing atrocities is an imperative moral necessity and should be a central national
- 507 security interest for all governments; and
- 508 ● timely prevention can reduce human suffering and reduce the need for more onerous
- 509 policy measures once violence has broken out; and
- 510 ● there are no mechanisms that ensure enforcement of the UN Convention on the
- 511 Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948); and
- 512 ● the cross-departmental working group Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) that was
- 513 founded in 2012 in response to a directive from President Obama (PSD-10) and chaired
- 514 at the National Security Council, while not formally abolished, has only met
- 515 sporadically since 2016; and
- 516 ● the U.S. Department of State has previously supported the APB's work to identify
- 517 countries at risk, to monitor crisis situations under development, and to coordinate
- 518 regional and functional bureaus to follow up on risks and develop and disseminate
- 519 knowledge of analytical methods that work to predict and prevent atrocities; and
- 520 ● because the APB lacked dedicated resources (also during the term of its first
- 521 chairwoman, Samantha Power), it was unable to make significant contributions to
- 522 prevent or assuage civil conflicts in Syria, Iraq, and South Sudan; yet
- 523 ● because the APB was credited with preventing escalating post-election violence in
- 524 Burundi in 2015, and earlier also brought attention to evolving conflicts in Nigeria and
- 525 the Central African Republic, with the U.S. ultimately co-providing (together with the
- 526 UN) peacekeeping and conflict mediation assistance in the latter case; and
- 527 ● the Atrocity Early Warning Task Force (AEWTF) created in 2019 pursuant to the
- 528 requirements of the Elie Wiesel Act (2018) has been allocated dedicated resources and
- 529 has made progress in meeting regularly, issuing annual reports, , and pursuing a whole-
- 530 of-government approach to atrocity prediction and response as required by the Act; and
- 531 ● the AEWTF has during 2020 and 2021 responded to atrocities with sanctions directed
- 532 at China, South Sudan, Burma, Iraq, and Syria; but
- 533 ● the AEWTF no longer includes prevention in its title; and
- 534 ● the actions of the Executive Branch (as detailed in AEWTF's 2021 report) are largely
- 535 responses to violence which has already occurred; and
- 536 ● as stated in that report, the resources expended – only \$6.2 million in FY 2020 for both
- 537 the Department of State and USAID – appear inadequate, and
- 538 ● AEWTF's involvement of civil-society organizations has been mainly consultative and
- 539 focused only on U.S. organizations with representation in Washington;

540

- 541 **Therefore be it resolved:**
542 ● that Democrats Abroad will campaign for the reconstitution of the AEWTF as the
543 Atrocities Prevention Task Force (APTF) with sufficient resources to accomplish its
544 mandate; and
545 ● that DA will mobilize its members to urge their elected representatives, candidates for
546 office, the Democratic Party as a whole, and members of the public to support the
547 reconstitution of the AEWTF as the APTF; and
548 ● that DA will advocate this reconstitution by all other reasonable means, including
549 informing the government agencies that were members of the Atrocities Prevention
550 Board since its founding in 2012, informing members of the House and Senate, and
551 lobbying the Biden-Harris administration; and
552 ● that DA's International Chair is directed to constitute an Atrocities Prevention Task Force,
553 under the direction of the DA Excom, to further this effort; and
554

555 **Be it further resolved** that DA shall urge policymakers to reconstitute the APTF to assure
556 that:

- 557 ● the AETFW's current representation, which includes the Departments of State, Defense,
558 Treasury, Justice, and Homeland Security, be expanded with representatives from civil-
559 society organizations as either full or observing members; and
560 ● the APTF be tasked more consistently with formulating and executing comprehensive and
561 effective preventive programs against atrocities (including but not limited to ethnic
562 cleansing and other atrocity crimes defined in Section 6 of the Elie Wiesel Act); and
563 ● the reconstituted APTF place greater emphasis on developing common understanding
564 amongst the participating parties of what the prevention of atrocities actually entails,
565 expanding currently available training for employees of appropriate U.S. agencies and
566 departments, and developing concrete plans for preemptive action in cases of escalating
567 violence worldwide; and
568 ● the APTF play a more proactive role in strengthening contacts among the broader
569 international research and activist community – such as outreach to NGOs – dedicated to
570 atrocity research and prevention.

571
572 *Co-sponsors: Ed Ungar (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Bill Borden (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
573 *Sweden); Rajib Sengupta (Vice Chair, DA India); Dave Brauer (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Japan);*
574 *Ángela-Jo Touza-Medina (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Anya Leonhard (DPCA Voting Rep,*
575 *DA Germany); Daniel James (Chair, DA Spain); Kathryn Tullos (Vice Chair, DA Spain); David*
576 *Hoyt (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Marilyn Ball Brown (Vice Chair, DA Hungary); David*
577 *Mivasair (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Anny Schrader (DPCA Voting Rep, Mexico); Reno*
578 *Domenico (Acting Chair, DA Ukraine); Aaron Kruse (DNC Member, DA China); Quaide*
579 *Williams (DPCA Voting Rep, Germany).*
580

581 #18

582 **Virtual Residence-Based Taxation (RBT) for Ordinary Americans**
583 **while Keeping the Super-Rich, both in Law and in Practice,**
584 **firmly in Citizenship-Based Taxation (CBT) Where They Belong**

585 *Proposed by: Ed Ungar (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep)*

586 *Co-sponsors: Sue Alksnis and Marnelle Dragila (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Reps; Dave Brauer*
587 *(DA Japan, DPCA Voting Rep)*

588

589 **Whereas** the Democrats Abroad Taxation Task Force does an excellent job raising
590 awareness in Congress and among other decision-makers about U.S. taxation burdens on
591 Americans living abroad, collecting data on their experiences, and engaging them in
592 contacting their members of Congress to explain need for relief; and

593

594 **Whereas** it is beholden on us to make sure that DA is putting forward policy that most
595 effectively implements our aims and values; and

596

597 **Whereas** Democrats do not accept Republicans' basic belief that – to paraphrase the late
598 Harvard macroeconomist John Kenneth Galbraith – the rich don't have enough money,
599 and the poor have too much; and

600

601 **Whereas** shopping for tax shelters is a significant problem for governments around the
602 world, so that simply eliminating the citizenship basis for taxation would allow ultra-rich
603 Americans to avail themselves of residency in some Caribbean mansion (or similar tax
604 shelter) and evade paying their fair share; and

605

606 **Whereas** current wealth-tax proposals put forward by Democratic members of Congress
607 would not require Americans to pay a single penny on wealth below either fifty or
608 seventy-five million dollars; and

609

610 **Whereas**, according to the Wharton Business School, holding the ultra-rich accountable
611 via such a wealth tax could provide the U.S. government 2.7 trillion dollars over ten years
612 from the wealthiest fraction of 1% of Americans. and other credible estimates are higher,
613 up to 3.5 to 4 trillion; and

614

615 **Whereas** the ultra-rich should be blocked from using residence outside the USA to evade
616 and avoid paying their fair share of U.S. taxes including income tax; and

617

618 **Whereas** the American public, in polls, consistently and overwhelmingly support a
619 wealth tax and increased income taxes on the rich; and

620

621 **Whereas** the present system of tax for Americans living abroad rarely collects enough
622 from each person to cover the expense of processing our tax returns, so that we have in
623 effect a foreign accountants' income and job-enhancement program;

624

625 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that DA shall support measures to relieve well over 90% of
626 Americans living abroad from the needless burden and expense of reporting income in

627 two jurisdictions as well as measures to deny the ultra-rich the privilege of sovereignty-
628 shopping to avoid their fair share of taxation (in other words, the 90+% would have de
629 facto residence-based taxation while the ultra-rich would have both de facto and de jure
630 citizen-based taxation); and

631

632 **Be It Further Resolved** that in order to simplify the process of income tax reporting in
633 multiple jurisdictions and reduce the burden on Americans abroad, DA endorses:

- 634 • Introducing a very simplified, one-paragraph tax return for Americans abroad in the
635 case where they do not owe any tax; and
- 636 • Raising the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion from the current \$108,700 to \$400,000
637 indexed to inflation; and
- 638 • Introducing compatible reforms with regard to financial-asset reporting (FATCA and
639 FBAR); and
- 640 • Enacting capital gains tax relief for U.S. citizens upon sale of their primary residence
641 abroad, thus resolving the present inequity resulting from the fact that they are not
642 eligible for tax relief under the mortgage interest deduction; and

643 Combining these measures with a globally-assessed wealth tax on assets over 50 or 75
644 million dollars.

645

646 #19

647 **Supporting H.R. 2590: The Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian**
648 **Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act**

649 *Proposed by: Rabbi David Mivasair (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep); Sam Khunaizi (DA UAE,*
650 *Chair); Ridah Sabouni (DA UAE, Chair 2019-2021)*

651 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

652

653 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad values human rights, equality, and democracy for all
654 people; and

655

656 **Whereas** DA recognizes the importance of upholding U.S. law in all regards concerning
657 the use of American military foreign aid, and Congress must ensure that American
658 taxpayer dollars never support military detention or abuse of children; and

659

660 **Whereas** the Israeli government receives billions of dollars annually in military
661 assistance from the U.S., far more than any other country;¹³ and

662

663 **Whereas** since 2000 an estimated 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by
664 Israeli security forces and prosecuted in Israeli military courts;¹⁴ and

665

666 **Whereas** independent monitors such as Human Rights Watch have documented that
667 these children are subject to abuse and, in some cases, torture, specifically citing the use
668 of chokeholds, beatings, and coercive interrogation of children aged 11 to 15;¹⁵ and

669

670 **Whereas** the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) also found that Palestinian children are
671 frequently held for extended periods without access to either parents or attorneys, and
672 both the U.S. State Department and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child have
673 raised serious concerns about the mistreatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military
674 custody;¹⁶ and

675

676 **Whereas** U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04) has introduced H.R. 2590, the *Defending*
677 *the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military*
678 *Occupation Act*, prohibiting Israel from using U.S. taxpayer dollars in the abuse or ill-
679 treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention or in Israel’s seizure and
680 destruction of Palestinian property and homes or unilateral annexation of Palestinian
681 territory in violation of international humanitarian law;¹⁷ and

682

¹³ Source: Congressional Research Service. “U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel”. November 16, 2020.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/details?prodcode=RL33222>

¹⁴ Source: <https://mccollum.house.gov/palestinianchildrensrights>

¹⁵ Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/04/11/palestine-israeli-police-abusing-detained-children>

¹⁶ Source:

https://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf

¹⁷ Source: <https://mccollum.house.gov/media/press-releases/mccollum-introduces-historic-legislation-defending-human-rights-palestinian>, https://www.congressfeed.com/bill_talk/HR2590.

683 **Whereas** twenty-nine other Democratic members of Congress have signed as co-
684 sponsors of H.R. 2590;¹⁸

685

686 **Therefore be it resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports H.R. 2590 (the *Defending the*
687 *Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military*
688 *Occupation Act*) and DA members may inform members of Congress, candidates for
689 federal office, and any other interested parties of this support.

690

691 *Co-sponsors: Sue Alksnis (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Onelica Andrade (Vice Chair, DA*
692 *Belgium); Natalie Bachiri (Chair, DA Luxembourg); Saba Brevli (Vice Chair 2019-2021, DA*
693 *UAE), Susan Brennan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Reno Domenico (Acting Chair, DA*
694 *Ukraine); Tim Ellis (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Matthew Goldman; (DPCA Voting Rep,*
695 *DA Belgium); Tre' Shawn L. Griffin-Noordermeer (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Netherlands); Geneva*
696 *Jones (Vice Chair, DA UAE); Alicia Kauffman (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UAE); Bruce Murray*
697 *(DPCA Voting Rep 2019-2021, DA Austria); Denise Roig (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada);*
698 *Rajib Sengupta; (Vice Chair, DA India); Ken Sherman (DNC Member, DA Canada); Angela-Jo*
699 *Touza-Medina (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Lissette Wright (International Treasurer, DA*
700 *Canada)), Antar Keith (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany, and DA Reparations Task Force*
701 *Chair), Robert Scott (DPCA Voting Rep, Germany), Max Dunitz (DPCA Voting Rep, France), Liz*
702 *Voss (Vice Chair, DA Switzerland), Camille Canter (DPCA Voting Rep, France).*

703

704 RESOURCES

705 CNN: [Israeli troops detained a 9-year-old Palestinian at school. 'becoming normal',](#)
706 [locals say](#)

707 Haaretz: ['Endless Trip to Hell': Israel Jails Hundreds of Palestinian Boys a Year. These](#)
708 [Are Their Testimonies](#)

709 Haaretz: [America's Unconditional Love for Israel Must End -- America needs an open,](#)
710 [honest discussion about why it still funnels billions of U.S. taxpayers' dollars to](#)
711 [Israel, a wealthy, developed country that routinely violates human rights on a](#)
712 [massive scale, with no questions asked](#)

713 VOX: [Arresting children here is becoming normal](#)

714 B'Tselem: [Unprotected: The Detention of Palestinian Teenagers in East Jerusalem](#)

715 The Times of Israel: [US aid should serve security purposes only -- The US is justified in](#)
716 [ensuring that its aid bolsters American values and not the occupation and](#)
717 [unjustified actions against Palestinians.](#)

718 [Full text of H.R. 2590](#)

719 [McCollum webpage re H.R. 2590](#)

720

721 **Congressional Co-sponsors:** Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1], Rep. Davis, Danny K. [IL-7], Rep. Carson,
722 Andre [IN-7], Rep. Newman, Marie [IL-3], Rep. Omar, Ilhan [MN-5], Rep. Pocan, Mark [WI-2], Rep.
723 Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-3], Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [MI-13], Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [MA-7], Rep. Bush, Cori
724 [MO-1], Rep. Bowman, Jamaal [NY-16], Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [NY-14], Rep. Garcia, Jesus G.
725 "Chuy" [IL-4], Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [TX-30], Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [WA-7], Rep. Blumenauer,
726 Earl [OR-3], Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC-AL], Rep. Evans, Dwight [PA-3], Rep. Huffman, Jared
727 [CA-2], Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [NJ-12], Rep. Pingree, Chellie [ME-1], Rep. Welch, Peter [VT-
728 AL], Rep. Chu, Judy [CA-27], Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [NJ-10], Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [DE-AL],

¹⁸ Source: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2590/cosponsors>

729 Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [CA-11], Rep. Speier, Jackie [CA-14], Rep. McNerney, Jerry [CA-9], Rep. Beyer,
730 Donald S., Jr. [VA-8].

731

732 **Endorsing Organizations:** Adalah Justice Project, Al-Haq, Americans for Peace Now, American-Arab
733 Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Friends Service Committee, American Muslims for Palestine,
734 Arab American Institute, Arab Resource & Organizing Center, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies,
735 Center for Constitutional Rights, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Jewish Allies for a Just
736 Peace in Israel/Palestine, Churches for Middle East Peace, Church of the Brethren – Office of
737 Peacebuilding and Policy, Coalition of Palestinian American Organizations, CODEPINK, Council on
738 American-Islamic Relations, DAARNA, Dallas Palestine Coalition, Defense for Children International –
739 Palestine, Democracy for the Arab World Now, Detention Watch Network, Disciples Israel Palestine
740 Network, DSA BDS and Palestine Solidarity Working Group, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran
741 Church in America, Eyewitness Palestine, Freedom Forward, Friends Committee on National Legislation,
742 Friends of Sabeel – Colorado, Friends of Sabeel North America, Good Citizens Of DFW, Grassroots
743 Global Justice Alliance, IfNotNow, Institute for Policy Studies – New Internationalism Project, Israel
744 Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA), J Street, The Jerusalem Fund, Jewish Voice
745 for Peace Action, Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, Justice Democrats, MADRE, Massachusetts Peace
746 Action, Middle East Children’s Alliance, Movement for Black Lives, MPower Action Fund, National
747 Council of Churches USA, National Lawyers Guild, National Union of Palestinian Youth, New Generation
748 for Palestine, NGP Action, Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestine American League, Palestinian Christian
749 Alliance for Peace, Palestine Legal, Peace Action, Presbyterian Church (USA), Progressive Democrats of
750 America, Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice, Rebuilding Alliance, Reconstructionist
751 Rabbinical Association, Reformed Church in America, ReThinking Foreign Policy, Sacramento Democrats
752 for Justice in Palestine, Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights, Tree of Life Educational
753 Fund, U.S. Palestinian Community Network, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, United
754 Church of Christ, United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network, United Methodists for Kairos
755 Response, United We Dream Network, U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, U.S. Palestinian Council,
756 Veterans For Peace, Virginia Coalition for Human Rights, War Resisters League, Win Without War,
757 Working Families Party.

758

759 #20

760 **To Condition Military Aid to Israel**

761

762 *Proposed by: Ridah Sabouni (DA UAE, Chair 2019-2021) and Rabbi David Mivasair (DA*
763 *Canada, DPCA Voting Rep)*

764 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

765

766 **Whereas** the 2020 DA Platform states that “America is safest and at its most prosperous
767 when it acts abroad in accordance with its values, when it stands as a leader among
768 allies;”¹⁹ and

769

770 **Whereas** the U.S. provides more military aid to the government of Israel than to any
771 other country, including 38 billion dollars over the next decade, and more than 146
772 billion dollars since 1948;²⁰ and

773

774 **Whereas**, through its veto power in the UN Security Council, the U.S. provides Israel
775 with more diplomatic protection than any other country, blocking resolutions seeking to
776 hold it accountable for alleged violations of international law and human rights;²¹ and

777

778 **Whereas** a 2018 University of Maryland public-opinion poll found that 56% of
779 Democrats support imposing serious measures, including sanctions, against Israel if it
780 refused to end settlement expansion in the occupied Palestinian territories;²² and

781

782 **Whereas** Senator Bernie Sanders stated in 2019 that “At a time when we spend \$3.8
783 billion on military aid to Israel, we have the right to say to the Israeli government that the
784 United States of America and our taxpayers and our people believe in human rights, we
785 believe in democracy, we will not accept authoritarianism or racism, and we demand that
786 the Israeli government sit down with the Palestinian people and negotiate an agreement
787 that works for all parties... I would use the leverage, \$3.8 billion is a lot of money, and we
788 cannot give it carte blanche to the Israeli government or to any government at all, we
789 have the right to demand respect for human rights and democracy;”²³ and

790

791 **Whereas** President Jimmy Carter, the current and first-ever Honorary Chair of
792 Democrats Abroad, stated in his 2006 book “Palestine: Peace not Apartheid” that “The
793 bottom line is this: Peace will come to Israel and the Middle East only when the Israeli
794 government is willing to comply with international law, with the Roadmap for Peace,
795 with official American policy, with the wishes of a majority of its own citizens – and
796 honor its own previous commitments – by accepting its legal borders. All Arab neighbors
797 must pledge to honor Israel’s right to live in peace under these conditions. The United

¹⁹ Source: <https://www.democratsabroad.org/platform>

²⁰ Source: Congressional Research Service. “U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel”. November 16, 2020.
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/details?prodcode=RL33222>

²¹ Source: Jewish Virtual Library. U.N. Security Council: U.S. Vetoes of Resolutions Critical to Israel (1972 - Present). <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/u-s-vetoes-of-un-security-council-resolutions-critical-to-israel>

²² Source: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/11/americans-are-increasingly-critical-of-israel/>

²³ Source: <https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/467772-sanders-floats-leveraging-aid-to-israel-to-push-for-policy-changes>

798 States is squandering international prestige and goodwill, and intensifying global anti-
799 American terrorism, by unofficially condoning or abetting the Israeli confiscation and
800 colonization of Palestinian territories;”²⁴ and

801

802 **Whereas** numerous human rights organizations around the world, including Human
803 Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have concluded that the government of Israel
804 commits war crimes and gross human rights violations against Palestinian civilians,
805 including the use of torture, extra-judicial killings, and the indiscriminate bombing of
806 residential areas, which has led to the deaths of hundreds of children;²⁵ and

807

808 **Whereas** the U.S. State Department’s Human Rights Report has cited evidence that
809 “Israeli security services continued to abuse, and in some cases torture, minors whom
810 they frequently arrested on suspicion of stone-throwing to coerce confessions. Tactics
811 included beatings, long-term handcuffing, threats, intimidation, and solitary
812 confinement;”²⁶ and

813

814 **Whereas** numerous American Jewish groups including Jewish Voice for Peace and
815 IfNotNow have called for conditioning U.S. military aid on Israel ending its occupation
816 of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem;²⁷ and

817

818 **Whereas** U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04) has introduced H.R. 2590, the *Defending*
819 *the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military*
820 *Occupation Act*, prohibiting Israel from using U.S. taxpayer dollars in the abuse or ill-
821 treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention or in Israel’s seizure and
822 destruction of Palestinian property and homes or unilateral annexation of Palestinian
823 territory in violation of international humanitarian law;²⁸ and

824

825 **Whereas** the “Leahy Laws” – two statutory provisions which apply to the Dept. of
826 Defense and Dept. of State – prohibit the U.S. Government from funding units of foreign
827 security forces where there is credible information implicating them in the commission of
828 gross violations of human rights (GVHR), specifically stating that “the U.S. government
829 considers torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, and rape under cover of
830 law as GVHRs;”²⁹

²⁴ Source: Jimmy Carter, “Palestine: Peace not Apartheid”. <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/455407-palestine-peace-not-apartheid>.

²⁵ Source: Human Rights Watch (<https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/north-africa/israel/palestine>), Amnesty International (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/report-israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>).

²⁶ Source: U.S. Department of State, 2013 Human Rights Reports: Israel and The Occupied Territories - The Occupied Territories. <https://2009-2017.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2013/nea/220358.htm>.

²⁷ Source: <https://www.ifnotnowmovement.org/press-release-ifnotnow-welcomes-letter-calling-to-withhold-military-funding-if-israel-annexes>, <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/jewish-voice-for-peace-on-peace-u-s-military-aid-and-israel-2004/>

²⁸ Source: <https://mccollum.house.gov/media/press-releases/mccollum-introduces-historic-legislation-defending-human-rights-palestinian>, https://www.congressfeed.com/bill_talk/HR2590, <https://mccollum.house.gov/HR-2590>

²⁹ Source: U.S. Department of State, About the Leahy Law (Fact Sheet) <https://www.state.gov/key-topics-bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/human-rights/leahy-law-fact-sheet/>.

831

832 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports conditioning American tax-
833 funded military aid to the State of Israel, such that aid is contingent on Israeli government
834 compliance with international law, UN resolutions, and respect for human rights;

835

836 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports application of the Leahy Laws
837 to the State of Israel; and

838

839 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports H.R. 2590 (the *Defending the*
840 *Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military*
841 *Occupation Act*) and DA members may inform members of Congress, candidates for
842 federal office, and any other interested parties of this support.

843

844 *Co-sponsors: Susan Alksnis (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada), Susan Brennan (DPCA Voting*
845 *Rep, DA Canada), Saba Brevli (Vice Chair 2019-2021, DA UAE), Tim Ellis (DPCA Voting Rep,*
846 *DA Canada), Geneva Jones (Vice Chair, DA UAE), Sam Khunaizi (Chair, DA UAE), Bruce*
847 *Murray (DPCA Voting Rep 2019-2021, DA Austria), Denise Roig (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
848 *Canada), and Rajib Sengupta (Vice Chair, DA India), Antar Keith (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
849 *Germany, and DA Reparations Task Force Chair), Robert Scott (DPCA Voting Rep, Germany),*
850 *Max Dunitz (DPCA Voting Rep, France), Liz Voss (Vice Chair, DA Switzerland), Camille Canter*
851 *(DPCA Voting Rep, France).*

852

853 #22

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858 *Proposed by: Chris Reilly (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain)*

859 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

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Whereas the relentless dissemination of fictions and lies by traditional and new-economy media companies, in return for profit and influence for the disproportionate benefit of a tiny group of unelected and unaccountable Founders & Directors, must be regulated and curtailed; and

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Whereas conscious propagation of outright lies and disinformation must have significant penalties for boards of directors of said media companies and their parent companies; and

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Whereas the ability of unelected and unaccountable individuals to influence the outcomes of democratic elections through deliberate targeted manipulation of facts, information, and fictional messages, aka “fake news”, must end;

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Therefore Be It Resolved that Democrats Abroad – through representation on the DNC and directly to Congress – supports measures to hold individual board directors personally responsible for permitting use of their technology platforms and algorithms to amplify and disseminate lies, disinformation, and misinformation and/or to incite unlawful behavior; and

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Be It Further Resolved that measures considered must include enhanced government oversight; independent corporate advisory boards; algorithmic transparency; robust regulation relating to privacy, antitrust, and ownership; and restoration of the Fairness Doctrine.

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Co-sponsors: Katie Solon (DNC Member, DA Germany); Julia Bryan (Global Chair at time of submission, DA Czech Rep); Maya Buchanan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Daniel James (Chair, DA Spain); Jim Mercereau (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Candice Kerestan (International Chair, DA Germany); Angela-Jo Touza-Mendoza (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Lissette Wright (International Treasurer at time of submission, DA Canada); Laura Rowstofske-Reilly (DPCA Voter Rep, DA Spain); Natali Bachiri (Chair, DA Luxembourg); Angela Fobbs (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Dana Rawls (DA Australia Black Caucus Co-chair), Angela Fobbs (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany).

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References:

Possible Legislation: <https://www.axios.com/democrats-strike-back-at-big-tech-menu-c962b61d-1c1c-48cd-bc67-c5a52ea8bad6.html>

Facebook: Role in January 6th Misinformation?

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2021/02/07/sheryl-sandberg-downplayed-facebooks-role-in-the-capitol-hill-siege-justice-department-files-tell-a-very-different-story/?sh=6fa411f510b3>

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Facebook: Role in Covid Misinformation?

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/apr/11/facebook-still-too-slow-to-act-on-groups-profiting-from-covid-conspiracy-theories>

903 | Stop Hate For Profit Campaign: <https://www.stophateforprofit.org>
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905 #27

906 **For Justice in Law Enforcement**

907

908 *Proposed by: Pat Klipp (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany)*

909 *Co-author: Don Ridgeway (DA Germany)*

910

911 **Whereas** legitimate and just policing requires a foundation of trust and shared
912 community among those sworn to protect and those policed;

913

914 **Whereas** the vast majority of law enforcement officers serve their communities with
915 integrity every day;

916

917 **Whereas** it is ultimately the responsibility of every American, no matter where in the
918 world we live, to secure justice for our fellow citizens;

919

920 **Whereas** for many nations the U.S. is a model of a non-militarized republic governed by
921 the rule of law and human rights, and members of Democrats Abroad are first-hand
922 witnesses to the harm done to the reputation and international standing of the U.S. when
923 law enforcement agencies fail to meet these expectations;

924

925 **Whereas** power without accountability leads to an overly aggressive policing culture that
926 values the appearance of safety and security over the rights and well-being of vulnerable
927 citizens;

928

929 **Whereas** policies such as the 1033 Program created by the National Defense
930 Authorization Act of 1997 made military tools available to police, thereby encouraging
931 aggressive approaches to law enforcement;

932

933 **Whereas** divisive policies such as racial and religious profiling and stop-and-frisk
934 contribute to the likelihood that minority groups will suffer abuse and should not be used
935 by police;

936

937 **Whereas** the perception that law enforcement officers' de-facto immunity from legal
938 consequences for violent misconduct creates an atmosphere of distrust and hesitancy to
939 call upon police for help or protection;

940

941 **Whereas** anything less than vigorous criminal prosecution of police brutality amounts to
942 tacit acceptance of the culture that produced it;

943

944 **Whereas** independent community oversight bodies that have access to police files and
945 records can help to change public perceptions;

946

947 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad fully endorses the 2014 DNC
948 resolution promoting community policing and justice for all; and

949

950 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad calls on federal, state, and local
951 governments to immediately address the urgent need to re-establish trust in law
952 enforcement through:

- 953 1. Independent community oversight bodies with access to police files and records so
954 that police can be held accountable;
- 955 2. Congressional expansion of the requirements of the Death in Custody Reporting Act of
956 2013 – which established a national database of deaths in police custody – by making
957 that database public (subject to appropriate privacy protections) and enforcing the
958 reporting requirements;
- 959 3. Congressional establishment of a wider national database of police shootings,
960 accusations of excessive force, and misconduct complaints, with aggregated data
961 publicly available;
- 962 4. Updated and strengthened Justice Department national guidelines and uniform
963 standards for the use of force by law enforcement agents;
- 964 5. Congressional increase of funding for the Department of Justice Office for Civil Rights;
- 965 6. Congressional creation and funding of programs that encourage community-controlled
966 and community-based policing practices;
- 967 7. Passage by Congress of the End Racial Profiling Act, which would build on the progress
968 made when the Attorney General issued the 2014 update to the 2003 Department of
969 Justice guidance regarding the use of race by federal law enforcement agencies;
- 970 8. Congress and the Department of Defense setting strict limits on the transfer of any
971 military equipment to local law enforcement under the 1033 Program, including
972 elimination of the requirement that it be used within a year;
- 973 9. State governors issuing executive orders requiring the appointment of independent
974 prosecutors for all cases involving unarmed civilians killed by police;
- 975 10. State legislatures passing laws requiring the appointment of independent prosecutors
976 for all cases involving unarmed civilians killed by police;
- 977 11. State legislatures repealing legislation that shields police officers from accountability;
- 978 12. Local police departments equipping all law enforcement officers with complete video
979 surveillance equipment and rules that require them to be held accountable for their full-
980 time use;
- 981 13. Local police departments mandating data collection on police encounters by redirecting
982 funding to community-based policing programs;
- 983 14. Local police departments being regulated by strong, independent, well-funded civilian
984 police accountability review boards;
- 985 15. Local police departments defining procedures regarding apprehension for
986 misdemeanors to prevent needless violence;
- 987 16. Local police departments improving public relations and community involvement;
- 988 17. Local police establishing training to prevent senseless and dangerous police chases;
- 989 18. Police departments not allowing an officer who is involved in unlawful use of violence to
990 resign in order to retain a pension.

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