

Resolutions Considered at the August 2021 DPCA Global Meeting

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

Resolutions in Gray: Not considered during the meeting

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Resolution #3 as amended ADOPTED

Amend line 53 by replacing “VoicesFromAbroad.org” with “such a platform” and Add another “be it resolved” clause on line 72: “Be it further resolved that the naming of this platform should be carefully considered to not cause confusion with any other DA platform, e.g., VoteFromAbroad.org / VFA” ADOPTED

#3

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

*Proposed by: Carmelan Polce (DA Australia, DPCA Voting Rep; DA Taxation Task Force Chair)
Co-sponsors: listed below*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas DA can access “white label” systems (“off the shelf” web-creation products with functions already in place and ready to be customized) that would facilitate the development of **such a platform** without the need to start from first principles; and

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

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

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

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

Be It Further Resolved that Democrats Abroad seeks the support of the DPCA Excom to allocate resources in 2021 in support of the work of the ad hoc committee and for reviewing and actioning the recommendations of the committee;

Be it further resolved that the naming of this platform should be carefully considered to not cause confusion with any other DA platform, e.g., VoteFromAbroad.org / VFA.

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

Resolution #4 as distributed ADOPTED

#4

In Support of Democrats Abroad Joining the RBT Coalition

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

Co-sponsors: listed below

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Talking Paper

Coalition for Residency-Based Taxation

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”).

I. What It Will Look Like

A. Overview

The RBT Coalition will be an informal group of organizations that openly support enactment of residency-based taxation (RBT) in lieu of citizenship-based taxation (CBT).

The RBT Coalition will present widely-accepted arguments in favor of residency-based taxation. It will assemble information about RBT and make this information available to the public and to governments, including the U.S. government. It will also disseminate this information to the news media.

It will be “informal” in that it will not be an association of any type or a separately organized entity. Consequently, it will not file for any form of tax-exempt status with the IRS or be required to make any tax filings. It will not advocate for enactment of a specific piece of legislation, such as, a congressional bill or resolution, or a particular action by the legislative, executive or judicial branch of the U.S. government. It will not conduct itself in a manner which would require it or any entity or individual associated with it to have to register as a lobbyist. In no manner will it participate in, or intervene in (including the publication and distribution of statements), any campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. It will not collect monies. It would not, directly or indirectly, give any gift or pay for the travel of any member or employee of Congress. Any contributions, donations, or the like will not be made through the Coalition.

The RBT Coalition will not have officers or directors or spokesmen/spokeswomen.

Any action taken on behalf of the Coalition will require unanimous consent of all its participating organizations, indicated in writing.

It will hold meetings when two or more participants call for meeting and a majority of participants agrees, whether or not they wish to attend. Meetings may be “in person” or “virtual”, with notice to all participants.

The records of the Coalition will be maintained and shared as agreed by the participating organizations. “Records” could include minutes of meetings and correspondence.

B. Composition – at outset and evolving over time

At the outset, the RBT Coalition will be comprised of a group of participating organizations drawn from different segments of the expat community.

1. Organizations representing Americans abroad – individuals and businesses. Examples are American Citizens Abroad, AARO, FAWCO, Democrats Abroad, Republicans Overseas, the US Chamber of Commerce (including sub-groups and similar groups, such as, business councils).
2. Social and Business groups of Americans. Examples: American Clubs, American-foreign trade associations, American overseas business associations.
3. Policy oriented groups and so called “think tanks”
4. Service providers that cater in some measure to expats. These individual service providers include:
 - (a) Different segments of the broadly-defined tax return preparation services community. Within this population are return preparers – large, medium-sized, and small
 - (b) Investment advisers and asset managers that are focused on the expat community. This population ranges from medium-sized firms to offices or “shops” within large organizations.
 - (c) Legal advisors. This includes some individuals and small firms but more often “practices” within larger firms.
 - (d) Software providers and other tech-oriented groups. This is a small, specialist population.
 - (e) Relocation agencies and similar organizations.
 - (f) Large public accounting firms and economic consultancies.
 - (g) Elements to be addressed

C. What is it expected to do?

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

D. How formal a structure?

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

E. Governance

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

F. How to proceed.

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

II. Things To Be Avoided

- A. Anything that looks like a proposal.
- B. Anything that could be characterized as lobbying.
- C. Anything that is politically partisan.
- D. Anything that is or appears to be self-promotional.

Resolution #7 WITHDRAWN

#7

On Strengthening Democratic Institutions in the United States

Proposed by: Kee Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANNEX (For information not for inclusion in the resolution)

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

- Racism
- Xenophobia
- Blatant misinformation campaigns
- Under-employment due to globalization
- Dark money going into campaign funds and bribes
- Libertarian initiatives (eradicate government spending except for military and police)
- Restricting the right to vote
- Senate filibusters
- No term-limits for members of Congress
- Insider trading by legislators
- Numerous tax loopholes for large corporations
- Inadequate public education that should include civic education
- Foreign interference in our political processes
- Continued funding of traditional national defense without sufficient consideration of modern cyber warfare strategies

Due to vested interests, it will be very difficult to address many of these issues through national, state and local legislation. That is precisely why a well-thought, comprehensive national strategy is required to address them. Unless we address these issues effectively, the nation could slip into a fascist regime as happened in Germany during the 1930's. The time has come for our brilliant consumer advocates, journalists, historians, economists, and, yes, even a world-famous chess player to advise the President and to develop a sound strategy to protect our democratic way of life.

On Polarization of the Electorate

Proposed by: Kee Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair)

Author: Mary Lou Ridinger (DA Guatemala)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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).

On Central American Immigration in 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas in Guatemala alone 60% of the working population has been forced into informal economic activities, and the number of children suffering from acute malnutrition has risen to 25,000 compared with 15,300 in 2019;⁹ and

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

⁹ Kevin Seif, *“The Reason Many Guatemalans are Coming to the Border? A Profound Hunger Crisis,”* Washington Post, April 1, 2021

Whereas the decades-old phenomenon of Central American children forced out of homes and communities has evolved from migrating to the streets of Northern Triangle capitals to eventually migrating to the USA as unaccompanied minors, such as the 36,540 Guatemalan children who arrived at the U.S. southern border between October 2020 and June 2021;¹⁰ and

Whereas the Biden Administration is familiar with the historical profile of Northern Triangle countries, including: persistent poverty, political instability, increased gang activity that targets unemployed youth, coupled with recent worsening of prospects for people in the region due to the pandemic and hurricanes;^{11,12} and

Whereas the 2020 Democratic Party Platform calls for the U.S. to work with our regional and international partners to address the root causes of migration in the Americas: violence and insecurity, lack of educational and economic opportunity, and environmental degradation;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Democrats Abroad expresses its support to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the House Caucus on Central America, the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and its sub-committee for the Western Hemisphere, and the Biden Administration through Vice President Harris's portfolio on the Northern Triangle, for actions that include:

- (1) Creating a family reunification committee that would allow deported family members to return to the U.S. while their family members in the U.S. are being located;
- (2) Passing the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021;
- (3) Creating and leading a regional effort, engaging both regional governments and civil groups, to strengthen Northern Triangle democratic institutions, general security, and the fight against corruption and impunity;
- (5) Raising awareness of the plight of street children; and
- (6) Ending the Trump era Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and replacing them with a streamlined process to allow entry of asylum seekers into the U.S.

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

#13

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

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

Author: Orlando Vidal (DA United Arab Emirates)

Co-sponsors: listed below

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

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

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

Whereas the International Chair, Vice Chair, and DA's DNC delegation attend these meetings on a regular basis; and

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

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

- (1) improve the transparency of and increase access to both the DNC and the ASDC;
- (2) improve the understanding and increase the knowledge of our members in the important role DA plays in these institutions;
- (3) allow for greater participation of our members who, by attending these meetings, could actively assist our delegations in the important business being transacted there;
- (4) further opportunities for accountability by our DA elected and appointed leaders;
- (5) improve attendance at Regional meetings;
- (6) increase participation of members who are younger, working-class, or from otherwise under-represented communities; and
- (7) facilitate the gaining by our members of experience and the development of relationships that could, in turn, be helpful in the future to DA as these members themselves and others may wish later to stand for elected and appointed positions within DA;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Travel Fund is hereby expanded to include stipends for active and deserving members to also attend DNC, ASDC, and DA Regional meetings (excluded from qualifying for these stipends are the International Chair and

Vice Chair who may otherwise benefit from pre-approved DA-budgeted funds to subsidize their DA-related travel expenses); and

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

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

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

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

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

*Proposed by: Anna Marie Mattson, Co-Chair of DA France Veterans and Military Families
Caucus and DA France DPCA Voting Rep*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore Be It Resolved that Democrats Abroad urges the House Veterans Affairs Committee of the U.S. Congress to call upon the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the American Battlefield Monuments Commission (ABMC) to assure that its collection, as well as the time-capsule and its contents, remain in France and be stored, restored, and displayed as part of the cultural and historical patrimony of, and serve as a memorial to, the Americans who fought in World War I and World War II, serving as well as a pilgrimage site for their descendants, as was the intent of U.S. lawmakers.

#17

**In Support of the Reconstitution of the
Atrocities Early Warning Task Force
to Focus More Proactively on Prevention**

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

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

Co-sponsors: listed below

Whereas:

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

Therefore be it resolved:

- that Democrats Abroad will campaign for the reconstitution of the AEWTF as the Atrocities Prevention Task Force (APTF) with sufficient resources to accomplish its mandate; and
- that DA will mobilize its members to urge their elected representatives, candidates for office, the Democratic Party as a whole, and members of the public to support the reconstitution of the AEWTF as the APTF; and
- that DA will advocate this reconstitution by all other reasonable means, including informing the government agencies that were members of the Atrocities Prevention Board since its founding in 2012, informing members of the House and Senate, and lobbying the Biden-Harris administration; and
- that DA's International Chair is directed to constitute an Atrocities Prevention Task Force, under the direction of the DA Excom, to further this effort; and

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

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

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

Resolution #18 NOT ADOPTED

#18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore Be It Resolved that DA shall support measures to relieve well over 90% of Americans living abroad from the needless burden and expense of reporting income in two jurisdictions as well as measures to deny the ultra-rich the privilege of sovereignty-shopping to avoid their fair share of taxation (in other words, the 90+%

would have de facto residence-based taxation while the ultra-rich would have both de facto and de jure citizen-based taxation); and

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

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

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

Resolution #19 POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

#19

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

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

Co-sponsors: listed below

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congressional Co-sponsors: Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1], Rep. Davis, Danny K. [IL-7], Rep. Carson, Andre [IN-7], Rep. Newman, Marie [IL-3], Rep. Omar, Ilhan [MN-5], Rep. Pocan, Mark [WI-2], Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-3], Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [MI-13], Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [MA-7], Rep. Bush, Cori [MO-1], Rep. Bowman, Jamaal [NY-16], Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [NY-14], Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [IL-4], Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [TX-30], Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [WA-7], Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [OR-3], Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC-AL], Rep. Evans, Dwight [PA-3], Rep. Huffman, Jared [CA-2], Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [NJ-12], Rep. Pingree, Chellie [ME-1], Rep. Welch, Peter [VT-AL], Rep. Chu, Judy [CA-27], Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [NJ-10], Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [DE-AL], Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [CA-11], Rep. Speier, Jackie [CA-14], Rep. McNerney, Jerry [CA-9], Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [VA-8].

Endorsing Organizations: Adalah Justice Project, Al-Haq, Americans for Peace Now, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Friends Service Committee, American Muslims for Palestine,

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

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

Resolution #20 POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

#20

To Condition Military Aid to Israel

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

Co-sponsors: listed below

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

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

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

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

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

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

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>

anti-American terrorism, by unofficially condoning or abetting the Israeli confiscation and colonization of Palestinian territories;²⁴ and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#22

To Regulate Social Media and Limit Negative and Divisive Effects on Society Around the World

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

Co-sponsors: listed below

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

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

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;

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

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.

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-Mendosa (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).

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-facebook-s-role-in-the-capitol-hill-siege-justice-department-files-tell-a-very-different-story/?sh=6fa411f510b3>

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>

Stop Hate For Profit Campaign: <https://www.stophateforprofit.org>

Resolution 22: New text distributed 22 August 2021- expected as amendment

Resolution to deter propagation of misinformation and disinformation by traditional and new economy media companies

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

Co-Author: Julian Becker (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK)

Co-Sponsor: Julia Bryan (Global Chair at time of submission, DA Czech Rep.)

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 curtailed;

WHEREAS, conscious propagation of outright lies and disinformation must have significant associated penalties for Board Directors of said media companies and their parent companies.

WHEREAS, the ability of specific 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;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the DPCA condemns the use of traditional and new-economy media platforms to amplify and disseminate lies, disinformation, and misinformation, including that which incites unlawful behavior; and

Be It Further Resolved that the DPCA calls for Congress to continue to work with subject matter experts to study the ways in which lies, disinformation, and misinformation are shared and amplified when using traditional and new-economy media platforms; and

Be It Further Resolved that the DPCA additionally calls for Congress to consider means of algorithmic transparency on new media platforms and creation of funding grants which will incentivize the creation of tools for users of new media platforms to combat disinformation and hypocrisy, whilst ensuring that any measures enacted in statute ensure full protection of the data privacy and civil liberties of the American people.

For Justice in Law Enforcement

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

Co-author: Don Ridgeway (DA Germany)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Independent community oversight bodies with access to police files and records so that police can be held accountable;

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