

JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DRAFT RESOLUTION ON SUPPORTING THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS
AND EXPANSION OF MIDEAST PEACE

Sponsored by JCPA's Policy Advisory Committee

1 In the past several months, beginning with the announcement in August 2020 that the
2 State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates were normalizing relations, followed by a
3 signing ceremony in September on the White House lawn, we have witnessed an
4 incredible breakthrough in Arab-Israel diplomatic ties and regional peace efforts. Israel,
5 with the assistance of the United States, has forged diplomatic agreements and achieved
6 varying degrees of normalization with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and
7 Morocco. Formal ties reportedly may be on the horizon between Israel and other Arab
8 nations as well. We are hopeful that we are seeing the early stages of greater regional
9 peace and stability.

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11 This diplomatic breakthrough is both a remarkable achievement and a departure from the
12 previous “inside-out” paradigm of peace-making in which a resolution of the Israeli-
13 Palestinian conflict was deemed a necessary precursor to peace between Israel and the
14 broader Arab world. Arab countries increasingly view Israel as a potential strategic
15 partner in countering the growing threat of Iran’s aggression in the region, which
16 significantly contributed to bringing about these historic, public moves toward
17 normalizing relations. Moreover, the parties recognize that they stand to benefit from
18 closer economic ties. Israel has become a high-tech powerhouse, and many Arab nations
19 wish to emulate the Israeli model of economic development and gain access to Israel’s
20 high-tech sector. It has also been heartening to see early progress in people-to-people ties
21 between Israel and its newfound Arab allies, particularly the UAE and Bahrain. We
22 fervently hope to see further expressions of a warm peace in the days to come.

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24 **The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes:**

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- 26 • All of the individuals and governments whose work resulted in the signing of the
27 Abraham Accords, including the United States, Israel, and Arab nations are to be
28 commended.
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 - 30 • Peace between Israel and its neighbors is an American interest that the U.S.
31 Government should continue to encourage.

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33 • The Biden Administration should seize upon the progress made in the Middle
34 East, as evidenced by the Abraham Accords, and use its voice and leverage to
35 expand the peace to include other Arab countries and as a another means for
36 encouraging the Palestinians to forge a lasting peace with Israel.

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38 • The “outside-in” approach should be pursued in tandem with any efforts to
39 encourage bi-lateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.
40 Neither approach should be held back because of progress or lack thereof in the
41 other, and the United States should approach each with the assumption that
42 success in either is good for the region and can be a precursor to the other.

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44 • Peace between Israel and the Palestinians remains an important and necessary
45 objective. JCPA continues to strongly support a two-state outcome as the only
46 way forward to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that will ensure Israel’s
47 future viability as a Jewish and democratic state. We urge the parties to continue
48 to explore possible steps to improving ties and to avoid taking any inflammatory
49 action that could set back peace-making, not just between Israel and Palestinians,
50 but between Israel and the larger Arab world.

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52 • Expanded people-to-people programs between Israel and Arab countries will be
53 crucial to long-term peace and stability, as a means for building greater
54 knowledge, understanding, and tolerance among people of all faiths, ethnicities,
55 and nationalities in the region.

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57 **The Jewish Community Relations field should:**

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59 • Urge the Biden Administration to build upon the progress achieved in the
60 Abraham Accords and other recent peace deals, using its voice and leverage to
61 expand efforts to add more Arab signatories and to encourage greater exchange
62 and dialogue between Israel and Arab countries.

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- 64 • Urge the incoming Biden Administration to encourage efforts at deepening
65 cooperation and trust-building between Israel and the Palestinian Authority,
66 including encouraging Arab signatories to the Abraham Accords to assist in these
67 efforts.
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- 69 • Work within our community, and with partner organizations in the general
70 community, to create an environment that is conducive to peace-making and
71 ensures that the US continues its historic and indispensable role as a broker of
72 peace in the region that reliably ensures Israel's legitimacy, wellbeing, and
73 qualitative military edge.
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- 75 • Encourages the Biden Administration as well as governments in the region to
76 take steps in the wake of these historic accords to promote tolerance and to
77 combat antisemitism.
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- 79 • Express our full support for people-to-people initiatives between Israel and Arab
80 countries and participate in such initiatives when appropriate, as well as other
81 efforts to appropriately show the benefits of peace to all the peoples of the
82 region.