

JEWISH INSIDER

1). Do you believe there is a concerning rise of antisemitism on the [Right or Left], including in your own party? How do you propose to address this issue?

2019 marked an alarming record year for antisemitic hate crimes. We know that antisemitism is not contained within a political party -- or a particular country, for that matter. We also know that the dangerous rise of antisemitism in the United States is correlated with an increase of racist, Islamophobic, and xenophobic hate crimes tied to the resurgence of violent white supremacy. We are seeing white supremacist and white nationalist language thinly veiled in the rhetoric of our elected officials in the Republican party, and we are seeing the president defend neo-nazi rallies and retweet white nationalists. We are seeing anti-Semitic attacks on Jewish members of Congress and Jewish philanthropists, and we are seeing age-old double-loyalty tropes lobbed at Jewish people from the president of the United States. I believe that there is a dangerous acceptance and propagation of anti-Semitism on the Right, and I believe the Left has a moral obligation to improve its analysis of anti-Semitism and continue to vigilantly fight back against all forms of hate.

In addition to speaking out against white supremacy, I believe we must increase public funding for security systems for synagogues (and other targeted houses of worship), and enact strong gun control legislation. We must also include in all of our schools an anti-racist curriculum that educates our nations' children about the terrifying outcomes of hateful ideologies-- both globally and domestically. This education must cover the Holocaust in Europe, and also the history of white nationalism in the United States, starting with a true telling of our nation's history.

I know there are critics of Israel who fall into dangerous anti-Semitic tropes and rhetoric, and that is not acceptable. But I believe we must make sure accusations of anti-Semitism do not become a political tool used to stifle legitimate criticism of Israel and divide communities who are pursuing peace and justice together. Weaponizing accusations of anti-Semitism will make it harder for us to confront and defeat it.

2). Do you think a two-state solution will facilitate peace between Israelis and Palestinians? If so, what are the basic parameters? If not a two-state solution, what do you suggest? What do you agree or disagree with about the Trump peace plan?

As an Arab Muslim woman who married into a Jewish family, I know how personal this issue can feel to our communities. I will fight for dignity, justice, liberation and self-determination of the Palestinians and the Israelis. We must amplify the voices of those working toward peace and we must fight for the Israeli and Palestinian people to be able to determine their own fates democratically. To ensure this, I will stand with the Israeli and Palestinian people against fascist regimes and the profiteers of war and

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will oppose sanctions that harm civilians. If the Israeli and Palestinian people vote for a two-state solution under democratic conditions, I will support it, and believe it will be necessary to make sure Area C (under Oslo Accords) is returned to Palestinian control and Israeli settlements are not used as grounds for illegal annexation.

The Trump peace plan has “peace” in name only. The plan allows for annexation of large swaths of the West Bank by Israel and the stripping of Israeli citizenship of 350,000 Israeli Arab citizens. I believe that Jerusalem must remain a shared city and that Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel was incendiary and antithetical to peace. As no Palestinians were invited for negotiations, I do not think that such a plan can be considered valid by the international community.

It is critical that America take a constructive and even-handed approach in negotiations. We must lead with a compassionate and principled diplomacy-first foreign policy rooted in human rights, democratic values, respect for international law, and moral clarity.

3). Why would you re-enter or stay out of the JCPOA with Iran? If re-enter, under what conditions or changes? How should the United States deal with the Iranian government on an ongoing basis? Should the U.S. military maintain a presence in the Middle East?

We negotiated and entered the JCPOA alongside many members of the international community, including Germany, the UK, France, Russia, and China. Leaving the JCPOA not only risks our national security, but it also further isolates the United States from our European allies and puts their security at risk, too. In agreement with national security experts from around the world, including Israel, I would re-enter the JCPOA with Iran.

It is important for the US to lead with a peace-first and human-rights centered foreign policy approach. We must strive to ease tensions and put the interest of civilian populations first. The American people and the Iranian people want peace. It is our government’s job to work toward it.

4). Should the U.S. increase, maintain or decrease the amount of foreign aid to Israel and other countries in the Middle East? Should the U.S. condition its aid for specific results? What does the U.S. benefit from its relationship with Israel?

It is absolutely essential that we defend Israel’s right to exist and thrive. We also must ensure a decent and dignified life for the Palestinian people. The current situation in Gaza is inhumane and unsustainable. We cannot give extreme, right-wing governments in Israel, Saudi Arabia, or any country, carte-blanche. If we are going to successfully

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work toward peace we must use the leverage we have to demand respect for human rights and democracy.

I would advocate for conditioning aid to prevent Netanyahu's stated goal of annexation and to defend against other human-rights abuses. I believe the U.S. must lead with a compassionate and principled diplomacy, and that means cultivating relationships with all countries who will join us in fighting for peace.