

Dear Colleague,

Please join me in writing Secretary of State Blinken and Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas regarding serious concerns about Israel's current policies that may render it ineligible for participation in the United States' Visa Waiver Program (VWP). The Administration's continued work to include Israel in the VWP is deeply troubling given that Israel appears to be, as the Institute for Middle East Understanding [notes](#), patently ineligible due to its flagrant discrimination against Palestinian, MENA, Muslim and pro-Palestinian American citizens at its points of entry – policies which have only intensified with the recently expanded COGAT restrictions on visitors to occupied Palestine.

A key requirement for eligibility for participation in the Visa Waiver Program is that the foreign state in question provide “reciprocal privileges to citizens and nationals of the United States.” As Yale law professor Muneer I. Ahmad notes, this language “implies that visa-free travel must also be travel free of discrimination, because citizenship, by its liberal meaning, does not permit differentiation among its members, the language of the statute necessarily requires the extension of reciprocal privileges to all U.S. citizens.” In essence – Israel cannot discriminate against any U.S. citizen at its borders if it wishes to join the Visa Waiver Program.

The Department of State's International Travel Information for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory contains ample documentation of the Israeli government's discriminatory entry regime. As such, this letter seeks critical clarifications from the Administration on key questions about whether Israel is even eligible for the Visa Waiver Program and how it intends to ensure that Americans seeking to travel to and from Israel are not discriminated against at its points of entry.

Treasury Secretary Yellen regarding U.S. charities that are funding and providing direct support to Israeli organizations that are working to expand and perpetuate Israel's illegal settlement enterprise in violation of international law, including supporting the dispossession and forced displacement of Palestinians from occupied East Jerusalem neighborhoods. The activities of these organizations clearly violate U.S. obligations under international law, as well as federal tax law, rendering them ineligible for 501(c)(3) status.

If you have any questions or would like to join this effort, please contact Andrew Myslik with Rep. Rashida Tlaib at Andrew.Myslik1@mail.house.gov by Close of Business Monday (6/6).

Sincerely,

Rashida Tlaib

Member of Congress