



Advocacy Points

Support for Israel within America's Faith Communities

Our history-making coalition of over 300 rabbis, pastors, and faith leaders collectively represents millions of Americans whose faith informs their support for Israel, demonstrating that support for Israel is not a Jewish or Christian issue but an American priority. We are united by our shared Judeo-Christian values and heritage deeply rooted in Israel. We value Israel not only because of our heritage but also because it is the only Jewish state in the world and the only Middle Eastern nation where the Christian population is not diminishing and enjoys equal protection under the law as part of a vibrant democracy. We deeply appreciate Israel's dedication to preserving and protecting our spiritual heritage and holy sites in the land.

Despite the loud voices of a radical minority, support for a strong US-Israel relationship is a key voting issue for those in our communities of faith and beyond. The latest Harvard CAPS-Harris poll, published in February 2025, surveyed over 2,400 US voters and found that 77% of American voters support Israel over Hamas, including the majority (54%) of those aged 18–24.

Stop Iran from Nuclear Capability

- The proposed negotiations with Iran, spearheaded by President Trump and Steve Witkoff, present a dangerous path that echoes the flawed 2015 nuclear deal. As the previous agreement failed to adequately address Iran's long-term nuclear ambitions and destabilizing regional activities, this new endeavor risks repeating the same critical errors.
- Like the 2015 agreement, there is a significant risk that any new deal will offer Iran sanctions relief for temporary restrictions on its nuclear program. This approach has historically proven ineffective in curbing Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons. Concerns persist that verification mechanisms will not ensure full Iranian compliance, similar to the weaknesses identified in the previous agreement.
- Iran's recent aggression has exposed vulnerabilities in its military capabilities. Israel's effective defense against Iranian attacks demonstrates that Iran is not an invincible power. The October 2024 Israeli air strikes disrupted their nuclear development progress, creating a window of opportunity to pursue more stringent and lasting constraints.
- Iran's fundamental hostility toward Israel and the United States remains unchanged. Their leaders continue to express their desire to destroy Israel and pose a threat to America. Iran's support for terrorist organizations throughout the Middle East further destabilizes the region and poses a direct threat to American interests and allies.
- **We ask that any agreement the Administration signs with Iran must completely dismantle the regime's ability to build a nuclear bomb and a cessation of its support for terrorist organizations in the region and around the world. Temporary pauses or delays are unacceptable; permanent elimination of their nuclear weapons program is the only viable solution.**

Secure Release of Hostages Remaining in Gaza

- Out of the approximately 250 innocents taken hostage by Hamas into Gaza, 59 hostages, living and dead, remain in captivity after 19 months. There is one living American hostage, Edan Alexander (21), who looked emaciated and weak but alive in a Hamas video released last month. Hamas also holds the remains of four other Israeli-American dual citizens in Gaza.
- The released hostages have described severe malnutrition, dehydration, and significant weight loss

because of insufficient food and water. Many suffered in confinement from untreated injuries and developed infections. They report being held in underground tunnels with little to no access to daylight or fresh air. Their captors frequently moved them between different locations and sometimes held them in isolation.

- The involvement of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the staged releases of hostages by Hamas was an unacceptable spectacle. After failing to gain access to the hostages for 17 months, the ICRC's presence during these orchestrated events endorsed Hamas propaganda.
- **Please urge the administration to exert maximum pressure on Hamas and those who support them to release all remaining hostages immediately and unconditionally.**

Support Israel's Endeavor to Completely Remove Hamas from Power in Gaza

- After Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, Hamas eliminated the local Fatah leaders and security forces in a bloody coup in 2007. Since then, Hamas has governed over 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza, using the civilian population as human shields and redirecting international aid funds to build terror tunnels and purchase weapons, which has perpetuated the suffering of Gazans.
- For those demanding a ceasefire, there *was* a ceasefire on October 6, 2023. Hamas brazenly violated it by murdering, raping, and torturing innocent Israeli civilians within Israel's borders. If Hamas had released the hostages and surrendered, there would have been an immediate ceasefire at any point since October 7. Every Palestinian death is the fault of the terrorist leaders of Hamas.
- For the sake of both Gazans and Israelis, we must remove Hamas from power. This remains a core aim of the Israeli government's military operation. A long-term resolution for peace in the region requires a different governing structure for Gaza.
- **We ask that you support Israel's aim of a demilitarized Gaza free of Hamas.**

Combatting Antisemitism in America

- Since the October 7 attacks, antisemitism in the United States has seen a dramatic and sustained surge, reaching unprecedented levels. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported over 10,000 antisemitic incidents in the year following the attacks, an over 200% increase compared to the previous year. This alarming rise underscores the deep concern within the Jewish community about their safety and security in the United States.
- More recent reports from early 2025 by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) also highlight that a large majority of American Jews feel less safe and have witnessed increased antisemitism since October 7.
- A lack of counterresponse will embolden not only hateful rhetoric but also acts of violence against Jewish people, including Jewish students on US college and university campuses. Jewish students have been feeling hostility, discrimination, and bias for many years, but they now feel the need to censor their identities to avoid threats, intimidation, or attack.
- **Please continue to support efforts to investigate and deter antisemitic activity and actions.**

