

Resolution on Supporting the Abraham Accords
Adopted by the 2021 Delegates Assembly

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

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

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes:

- All of the individuals and governments whose work resulted in the signing of the Abraham Accords, including the United States, Israel, and Arab nations, are to be commended.
- Peace between Israel and its neighbors is an American interest that the U.S. Government should continue to encourage.
- The Biden Administration should seize upon the progress made in the Middle East, as evidenced by the Abraham Accords, and use its voice and leverage to expand normalization to include other Arab countries and as another means for encouraging Israelis and Palestinians to forge a lasting peace.
- The “outside-in” approach should be pursued in tandem with any efforts to encourage bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Neither approach should be held back because of progress or lack thereof in the other, and the United States should approach each with the assumption that success in either is good for the region and can be a precursor to the other

- We urge all parties to continue to explore possible steps to improving ties and to avoid taking any inflammatory action that could set back peace-making, not just between Israel and Palestinians, but between Israel and the larger Arab world.
- Expanded people-to-people programs and commercial relationships between Israel and Arab countries are crucial to long-term peace and stability, as a means for building greater knowledge, understanding, and tolerance among people of all faiths, ethnicities, and nationalities in the region.

The Jewish community relations field should:

- At a time of an increasingly polarized partisan differences in Washington, DC, it is significant that the Abraham Accords enjoys wide support across the American political spectrum. The Biden Administration should seize upon the progress made in the Middle East, as evidenced by the Abraham Accords which the Trump Administration helped to bring about and use its voice and leverage to expand the relationships between Israel and Muslim countries, and as another means for encouraging the Palestinians to forge a lasting peace with Israel.
- Urge the Biden Administration to encourage efforts at deepening cooperation and trust-building between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, including encouraging Arab signatories to the Abraham Accords to assist in these efforts.
- Work within our community, and with partner organizations in the general community, to create an environment that is conducive to peace-making and ensures that the US continues its historic and indispensable role as a broker of peace in the region.
- Encourage the Biden Administration as well as governments in the region to take steps in the wake of these historic accords to promote tolerance, support human rights, and combat antisemitism.
- Express our full support for people-to-people initiatives and commercial relationships between Israel and Arab countries and participate in such initiatives when appropriate, as well as other efforts to appropriately show the benefits of peace to all the peoples of the region.