

Dear Vice President Harris and Governor Walz,

As Black leaders committed to the fight for a more just world, here and abroad, we write with deep concern about the Democratic National Committee's decision to deny a speaking slot to a Palestinian American at the 2024 Democratic National Convention.

Last night, millions of Americans watched the powerful and moving testimony from the family of an Israeli hostage. Giving voice to families who want the loved ones taken by Hamas on October 7 returned home was the right thing to do. Now, we urge you to give voice to the pain and suffering of Palestinian Americans who have witnessed the unimaginable destruction of their homes, loved ones, and communities in Gaza, much of which has been fueled by bombs supplied by the U.S. government.

Blocking Palestinian American voices from the DNC stage recalls the summer of 1964, when Fannie Lou Hamer and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party were denied a voice at the Democratic Convention for the sake of the appearance of party unity. We can't afford to repeat the mistakes of the past.

To be clear, we are committed to electing Vice President Harris, as well as the broader fight against right-wing authoritarianism. We stand united against it here and abroad, from the streets of America to the besieged neighborhoods of Gaza, we recognize that these struggles are interconnected. The defeat of the far-right, embodied in the extremism of Donald Trump and his global allies, including the Netanyahu government, is imperative for the preservation of democratic value and upholding our commitment to US and international law.

Recognizing the pain of Palestinian Americans is both morally necessary and strategically sound to defeat the MAGA movement in November. Campaigns, at their core, are about building coalitions. To build a winning coalition, it is essential that all the constituent parts of that coalition feel seen, heard, and valued. By excluding Palestinian American voices from the convention, we fear that a critical opportunity to foster inclusivity and solidarity is being lost.

Most Americans want peace, human rights, and an end to this campaign of collective punishment that has killed 40,000 people and displaced millions more. Most Americans want an end to U.S.-funded bombs raining down on fathers, mothers, and children in Gaza.

Donald Trump was denied a second term by a multigenerational, multiracial coalition that included large swaths of Muslim Americans, young people and people of color deeply concerned with the plight of Palestinians in Gaza. We ask the Harris-Walz campaign to rebuild that coalition by embracing all voices, including those calling for a ceasefire, an arms embargo, and a path to peace for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

We ask you to reconsider the DNC's decision and let a Palestinian American speak at the convention. Vice President Harris, you have shown time and time again that you can listen. Now, it is time to act and to let the nation hear from those who have been silenced for far too long.

Sincerely,

Black Church PAC, Michael McBride

Black Jewish Liberation Collective, Shoshana Brown

Black Voters Matter Fund, LaTosha Brown

Alliance for Quality Education, Zakiyah Shaakir

M4BL, Mary Hooks

Center for Popular Democracy Action, DeMareo Cooper and Analilia Mejia

Until Freedom, Tamika D. Mallory

Community Change Action, Dorian Warren

USSW, Keith Bullard

Re:power, Karundi Williams

Elect Black Women PAC, Ruby Powell-Dennis

Southern Vision Alliance, Joshua Vincent

Georgia Conservation Voters, Brionté McCorkle

Workers Center For Racial Justice, DeAngelo Bester

Future Currents Action, Connie Razza

ALIGN, Theodore Moore

Inland Empire United, Sky Allen

Care In Action, Hillary Holley

People United for Sustainable Housing, Dawn Wells-Clyburn

Ava DuVernay, Filmmaker

Choose Democracy, Daniel Hunter

Soul Fire Farm, Leah Penniman

Black Voters Matter, April England Albright

Kendra Brooks, Philadelphia City Councilmember

Solidaire Action, Jas Wade

We Make The Future Action, Ernie Britt

The Prophetic Foundry, Rev. Michael-Ray Matthews

Young People's Liberation School, Keedra Gibba

Patrisse Cullors, Artist and Abolitionist