

Dear Vice President Harris and Governor Walz,

As leaders and groups 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.

We are committed to the fight against right-wing authoritarianism, and 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,

AAPIs for Civic Empowerment, Timmy Lu

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Christina Livingston

Arab American caucus of the California Democratic Party, Mirvette Judeh

Arizona Democratic Party Progressive Council, Kai Newkirk

Asian American Advocacy Fund, Aisha Yaqoob Mahmood

Asian American Midwest Progressives, Grace Pai

Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance (API PA), Mohan Seshadri

Bay Rising Action, Kimi Lee

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Graie Hagans

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Jamie Beran

Boston Clean Energy Coalition, James Michel

Boston Workers Circle, Rabbi Rebecca Hornstein

Building Beyond Collective, Anoa Changa

Caring Majority Rising, Ilana Berger

CASA in Action, Luis Zaldivar

Ceasefire Democrats, Kristina Beverlin

Center for International Policy, Matt Duss

Chicago Teachers Union, Jackson Potter

Christians for a Free Palestine, Rev. Alicia T. Crosby

Climate Connectors, Zachary Braunstein

Common Defense, Alexander McCoy

Community Of Hope AME Church, Rev Tony Lee

CTZNWELL, Kerri Kelly

CURYJ (Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice), Ray'Von Jones

Democracy Alliance, Sanaa Abrar

Democrats Abroad, Donna Sen Ghosh

Democrats for Justice in Palestine, Murad Sarama

Demos Action, Taifa Butler

Design Action Collective, Marlen Andrea Salazar

Detroit Jews for Justice, Allie Zeff

DRUM Beats, Fahd Ahmed

Emerge Arkansas, Stephannie Lane Baker

Emerge Georgia, Maggie Chambers

Escucha a NM, Samia Assed

Florida Rising, Andrea Mercado

Freedom Road, LLC, Lisa Sharon Harper

Gaia Energy, Nikhil Balakumar

Grassroots Collaborative, Carlos Fernandez

Grassroots Global Justice Action Fund, Cindy Wiesner

Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club, Edward Wright

HEAL Food Alliance, Navina Khanna

IfNotNow, Tom Corcoran

In These Times, Alex Han

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster

Jews For Racial & Economic Justice, Audrey Sasson

Just Works Consulting, Jonathan Rosenthal

Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice, Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

Lavender Phoenix, Yuan Wang

Long Island Progressive Coalition, Ryan Madden

Make the Road Action, Theo Oshiro

Make the Road Action PA, Diana Robinson

Michigan United Action, Ken Whittaker

Mijente, Marisa Franco

Mothering Justice, Danielle Atkinson
Movement Generation, Angela Aguilar
MPower Change Action Fund, Yasmine Taeb
Muslim Community Network, Dr. Debbie Almontaser
New Disabled South Rising, Dom Kelly
OLÉ/WFP National Committee Co-Chair, Andrea J. Serrano
Organized Power In Numbers, Neidi Dominguez
People's Action Power, Sulma Arias
POWER Interfaith, Mordechai Liebling
Philadelphia City Councilmember, Kendra Brooks
Puente, Natally Cruz
Rabbis for Ceasefire, Alissa Wise
Restore Oakland Inc., Zoe Parsigian
Rising Voices, Jasmine Rivera
Sacramento Community Land Trust, César Aguirre
Sagner Family Foundation, Deborah Sagner
San Francisco Rising Action Fund, Celi Tamayo-Lee
Showing Up for Racial Justice, Erin Heaney
Soapbox Project, Nivi Achanta
Solidaire Action, Isaac Lev Szmonko
TakeAction Minnesota, Elianne Farhat
UltraViolet Action, Shaunna Thomas
United Vision for Idaho, Adrienne Evans
United We Dream Action, Bruna Sollod
Uprise, Ginna Green
WDN & WDN Action, Leena Barakat

We The People Michigan, Art Reyes III

WMWD, Fauzia Rizvi

Women Donors Network, Kathryn Snyder

Women's March, Rachel Carmona

Writer/Filmmaker, Ayser Salman

Actor/Writer, Fawzia Mirza

Actor/Writer, Kylie Sparks