

# CONCERNED WOMEN *for* AMERICA

## “Peace to Prosperity”

### Trump’s Israeli-Palestinian Peace Plan: What’s in it and how should I respond?

#### Concerned Women for America Talking Points

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#### I. Peace to Prosperity at the High-Level

- The plan requires Israel to commit to making a significant transfer of land for a new Palestinian state that is “reasonably comparable” in size to the pre-1967 territory of the West Bank and Gaza. The plan recognizes this is land to which most believe Israel has a legal and historical right and that Israel has already withdrawn from at least 88% of territory captured in 1967 (an action that is in itself an “historical rarity”).
- Borders will be designated, however, with the aim of ensuring Israel’s security needs and of affirming their statehood and “valid legal and historical claims” to the land.
- [The plan also provides](#) substantial opportunity for economic growth for a new Palestinian state. The [economic part](#) of this plan (which makes up at least two-thirds of it) is particularly significant, as it hopes to empower and create stability among the Palestinians, breaking their cycle of terrorism, poverty, and reliance on foreign aid. The plan:
  - Recommends a massive investment of \$50 billion.
  - Provides for new infrastructure and “transportation links (to) allow for efficient movement between Gaza and the West Bank, as well as throughout Palestine.”
  - Aims to enhance the development and success of a new Palestinian state and integrate it into the regional and global economy.
  - Has potential to create an economic growth which the White House estimates will double the (currently stagnate) Palestinian GDP in ten years with the creation of over one million new jobs, cutting the poverty rate cut in half.
- Jerusalem: Although Jerusalem would remain Israel’s capital, the Palestinian state would have a capital east of Jerusalem.
- Settlements: Israel would have “effective sovereignty over contested Jewish settlements in the West Bank.” However, the plan avoids forced population transfer of both Arabs and Jewish settlements, incorporating about 97% of Israelis in the West Bank into “contiguous Israeli territory” and about 97% of Palestinians in the West Bank into “contiguous Palestinian territory.” The small percentage of Jews who remain in Palestinian territory will retain their Jewish citizenship and have the option of remaining in place with access to routes to Jewish territory. Palestinians who remain in Jewish territory will become citizens of the Palestinian state and have the option to remain in place and will have access to routes connecting them to the new state of Palestine.

#### II. Conditions and Criteria:

- Israel would only be required to meet their obligations if these conditions are met:

- The Palestinian Authority, or any governing body in the new Palestinian state, must explicitly commit to non-violence and recognize the State of Israel. They must make clear that they reject ideologies of terror and destruction.
- The Palestinian authority, or another governing body acceptable to Israel, has full control of Gaza. In addition, Gaza must be fully demilitarized and terror organizations must be disarmed within a mutually agreed upon timeframe.
- Once criteria are met, economic development will begin “in a phased approach whereby tranches of investment and state building aid will be released as milestones are achieved.”

### III. Regional Cooperation

- It is important that President Trump has secured the commitment of both Prime Minister Netanyahu and his chief political rival, Lt. General Gantz, to use the new plan as the basis for any direct negotiations with the Palestinians. Moreover, ambassadors from the U.A.E., Bahrain, and Oman attended the announcement of the plan.
- The UK prime minister expressed support, calling it “clearly a serious proposal ...” and it has garnered support or appreciation from many others such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Austria, Qatar, and France.

IV. Cooperation and working to normalize relations between Arab countries and Israel will also help “advance a just and fair resolution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.” One reason is the conflation of the conflict about territorial issues (and security, refugees), with the battle over spaces that have religious significance for both Jews and Muslims. An “absence of formal relations” exacerbates Israeli-Palestinian conflict and is used by extremists to further destabilize the region.

### V. Outcomes and Outlook

- For people living daily in poverty and terrorism, a deal like this is at least a great starting point for negotiations. But the Palestinian problem is “leadership” that is totally disinterested in peace or prosperity for their people. The Fatah, Islamic Jihad, and Hamas all benefit from war and corruption. Simply put, “there is no money for them in peace.” Neither is any one Palestinian leader able to effectively unite and speak for the majority of Palestinians who live in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank.
- Destruction of the Israeli state and death to Jews, in fact, seem the only consistent “plan” Palestinian leadership wants. This will not happen. In addition, their unwillingness to recognize military defeat (in mainly Palestinian-initiated conflict) since 1948 is not realistic. Continuing to claim refugee status and “the ‘return’ of land which by some analysis was never theirs, and by others were lost in battle,” is not realistic.
- Abraham Wagner, PhD, National Security Council staff under Presidents Nixon and Ford, believes the Trump administration deserves credit “for the most thoughtful and realistic effort regarding this issue in decades ... a plan that Israel can accept and gives the Palestinians more than they could realistically hope for.” At the same time the administration “achieved acceptance of this plan from neighboring Arab states—a feat that no prior administration ever accomplished.” However, he predicts “... the plan is doomed to fail, and the Palestinians have only themselves to blame ...”
- Peace to Prosperity is another example of President Trump’s unwavering commitment to Israel but also recognizes the Palestinian desire for statehood and need for economic stability. Both sides must recognize they are better off with an agreement, even one that requires compromise.