

Israel is making moves to annex parts of the West Bank this summer.

This move immediately threatens Palestinians living there, whose land and lives will become more vulnerable to expropriation and violence. And it severely undermines prospects for a just peace, which would benefit both Israelis and Palestinians.

Because annexation is being coordinated with the U.S. government, American pro/pro/pro activists play a unique and urgent role in opposing this move.

Even if Israel decides not to formally annex parts of the West Bank, this is a critical moment for pro/pro/pro voices to speak up. These talking points provide clarity as you engage everyone from elected officials to family and friends.

For more detailed information about annexation, please read through our [comprehensive FAQs here](#).

For a sample letter to use with your Member of Congress, [please click here](#).

Ask your elected officials to:

- **Forcefully and publicly OPPOSE Israeli annexation**
 - Issue a statement condemning annexation and supporting efforts to bring a just, negotiated end to the conflict.
 - Communicate forcefully your opposition to the White House and the State Department.
- **FUND Palestinian and Israeli Civil Society Organizations**
 - Regardless of whether annexation passes, Palestinian and Israeli civil society organizations need support to lay the groundwork for peace
 - If they haven't already signed on, encourage support for 2019's **Partnership for Peace Act**, which already enjoys bipartisan support. If they have signed on, thank them and ask how you can support them.

Talking Points

1) Annexation is a unilateral move that condemns both Israelis and Palestinians to perpetual conflict.

- o *There's no good future for either Israelis or Palestinians without a good reality for both.*
- o *Annexation entrenches perpetual Israeli control over every aspect of Palestinian life.*
- o *Annexation permanently confines millions of Palestinian civilians within enclaves surrounded by Israel, not only violating their human rights, but also endangering Israeli security.*
- o *Annexation will immediately expose Palestinians to even greater threats against their lives and property.*

2) The only secure peace is an agreed peace.

- o *Annexation is a unilateral move, only favoring right-wing Israeli interests.*
- o *Annexation tramples on basic Palestinian human rights.*
- o *Annexation is illegal.*
- o *Annexation makes a viable two-state solution impossible and complicates any other solution.*
- o *Allowing such a critical issue to be decided by one party outside a negotiation process, with no accompanying concessions, makes getting a future deal significantly harder if not impossible. (And this comes on the heels of the US decision to move the American embassy to Jerusalem, which also gave Israel one of its key demands without any accompanying concessions.) This is no way to negotiate the "Deal of the Century."*

3) Annexation forecloses the possibility of an independent Palestinian state

- o *Formalizes and makes permanent the current reality:*
 1. *Israeli control of all movement in and out of Palestinian towns and villages.*
 2. *Accelerated expropriation of Palestinian land for settlement expansion.*
 3. *Millions of Palestinians further disconnected from each other, without an ability to control their own lives or build an independent sustainable economy.*
- o *Palestinians will lack political representation and still won't be able to vote in the government of the military that controls them. They'll also lack hope of ever achieving an independent state.*

4) For evangelical Christians:

- o *A growing number of us believe that we've got this wrong.*
- o *This is being done under the assumption that it is supported by and will appeal to American evangelical voters, but we are here to let you know that many evangelical Christians oppose actions like this that make peace harder to achieve.*
- o *We are committed to both praying and working for the peace of Jerusalem, and we know that the peace that Israelis and Palestinians seek can only come through the works of justice and reconciliation.*

5) For those concerned about Israel's future and democratic aspirations:

- o *No true friend of Israel can be silent as a momentous choice is being made that will fatally undermine the potential for a negotiated solution to the conflict.*
- o *Annexation, as a part of a series of unilateral and provocative actions, threatens the security cooperation between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israeli security services.*
- o *This lack of cooperation—and the potential for a complete collapse of the PA—risks chaos, increased conflict, and an even more robust Israeli occupation force being deployed to govern disenfranchised Palestinian lives.*
- o *Even absent the above, annexation will further and permanently relegate millions of Palestinians to live in Israeli-controlled enclaves which is a direct contradiction to Israeli aspirations to be a state committed to democratic governance and human rights.*
- o *Annexation will result in more criticism of Israel and increased support for international protest and boycott movements.*

6) Annexation imperils Jerusalem and Bethlehem's historic Christian community

- o *Palestinian Christians date back to Pentecost; they are the world's oldest Christian community. As a minority devastated by the modern conflict, annexation threatens to hasten their extinction and [must be opposed](#).*
- o *Annexation will deny access to and vitality of Palestinian Muslims and Christians in Jerusalem.*

7) Any meaningful way forward will ultimately promote security, dignity and freedom for both Israelis and Palestinians in equal measure.

- o *There's no good future for either Israelis or Palestinians without a good reality for both.*
- o *Any American pro-Israeli, pro-Palestinian, pro-peace activist needs to recognize this is being done with our money, our political capital, and in*

- our name—particularly Christian communities the President seeks to energize with this move.*
- o *Now is the time to share stories of your Israeli and Palestinian peacemaker friends.*
 - o *Check in and listen to what your Palestinian and Israeli friends need today—especially those most vulnerable.*
 - o *Meet with or contact your Member of Congress today, use these talking points, and let them know you believe in a just peace in Israel/Palestine should be an American priority—particularly if you come from a faith community. Annexation is a dangerous step that must be opposed.*