



DNC Platform Committee
Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol St SE #3
Washington, DC 20003

April 28, 2020

To: DNC Platform Committee

I write today on behalf of National Iranian American Council Action (NIAC Action), the largest grassroots Iranian-American organization in the the U.S., to encourage the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) policy planning platform to adopt language endorsing an unconditional U.S. return to compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the full rescission of the Trump Administration's racist Muslim Ban. Both of these steps would clearly serve U.S. national interests and help demonstrate to Americans all that is at stake this November.

JCPOA Return

As you well know, the JCPOA was a landmark diplomatic achievement in which the Obama Administration invested years to secure. President Trump's reckless decision to halt compliance with the accord has led to dramatically heightened regional tensions that have endangered U.S. service members, completely preventable advances in Iran's nuclear program and the risk of further proliferation, diminished global leadership and credibility for the U.S., and increasing repression inside Iran. In place of diplomatic negotiations, the U.S. and Iran have edged to the brink of a catastrophic war twice in the past year.

The first step on Iran for a successor Administration is obvious: securing the mutual, unconditional return by the U.S. and Iran into full compliance with the JCPOA. Fortunately, this is a position that has already been endorsed by the DNC. In February 2019, the DNC passed a

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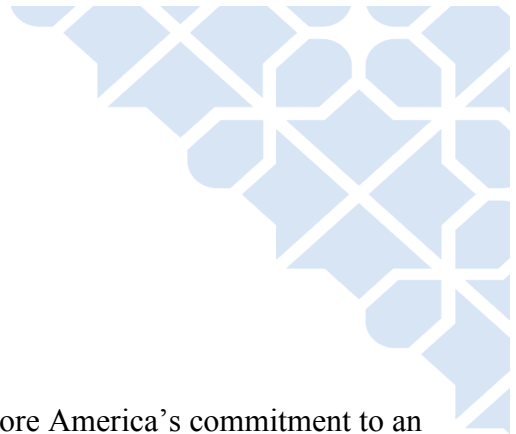


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resolution stating that “[r]eturning to the JCPOA will restore America’s commitment to an agreement made with allies and prevent a renewed nuclear crisis in the Middle East.”

Additionally, this is a position supported by the presumptive Democratic nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden. Writing in [Foreign Affairs](#), Biden said:

“The historic Iran nuclear deal that the Obama-Biden administration negotiated blocked Iran from getting a nuclear weapon...Tehran must return to strict compliance with the deal. If it does so, I would rejoin the agreement and use our renewed commitment to diplomacy to work with our allies to strengthen and extend it, while more effectively pushing back against Iran’s other destabilizing activities.”

Furthermore, this is not a position solely endorsed by Vice President Biden. Indeed, all major contenders for the nomination - including Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, and Mayor Pete Buttigieg - stated that they would return the U.S. to the Iran nuclear deal if elected President. Given this strong consensus, we encourage the platform to include clear support for returning to compliance with the JCPOA.

Ending the Muslim Ban

On January 27, 2017, President Trump began implementation of his campaign promise to impose "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" by banning nationals from seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the U.S. Minority communities were stunned as their family members’ visas were abruptly canceled, green card holders were unjustly detained, and our loved ones were deported with little to no warning. President Trump has since expanded the ban to include six other African countries, widening the breadth of the policy’s bigotry and racism.

While several iterations of Trump's Muslim Ban were struck down by the courts, the Supreme Court eventually allowed Presidential Proclamation 9645 to proceed. To this day, American families remain separated due to the President's bigoted and capricious political stunt and the ban was the precursor to the racist and damaging immigration policy the President has pursued since.

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This policy sent a signal to the world that America is no longer welcome to those looking for a better life.

The Democratic Party should make it a priority to reverse this discriminatory, un-American policy on their first day in the office and prevent America's standing from falling further. In the three years since the ban has been in place, a consensus has grown around the country for the ban to be repealed. Vice President Joe Biden [signed](#) a pledge to repeal the Ban on day one of his presidency, arguing that the ban “hurts our economy, betrays our values, and can serve as a powerful terrorist recruiting tool.” Furthermore, [more than 219 members of Congress](#) have signed on to the National Origin-Based Anti-Discrimination Act, which aims to repeal the ban and ensure that no President can impose a travel ban on the basis of religion or national origin again.

As the chorus of voices calling for the repeal of the Muslim ban grow louder, we believe it is imperative the platform includes a clear call for a repeal of the Muslim ban.

We believe these two commitments embody the stark contrast in values between Donald Trump's dangerous vision for America versus the America of inclusion and equity that so many communities seek to build. We believe it is critical that these commitments be included in the Democratic platform and look forward to working with you to ensure they are part of the party's vision for the future.

Sincerely,

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