

NO MATTER WHERE WE STAND, WE STAND WITH ISRAEL

We, members of the Puget Sound Jewish Community, as organizational representatives or individually, speak in a unified voice as we make the following statement.

We represent a broad spectrum of opinion within the Jewish community. We frequently disagree on issues relating to Israel, including the best path towards security and well-being for Israel and the Jewish people.

Especially in trying times, such as during the upcoming Gaza disengagement, we expect vigorous debate and disagreement in Israel and between Jews everywhere, including here in Washington State.

While we have differences of opinion, we hope with this statement to make it very clear that Israel is always close to all our hearts and souls. Further, we are united in our commitment to respectful, constructive and civil dialogue concerning Israel. Such behavior strengthens our collective support for Israel and our community.

Therefore,

- We commit to practice *Derech Eretz*, exhibiting and nurturing respect and communication, trusting in each other's good intentions, and rejecting personal or malicious attacks, as we debate issues pertaining to Israel, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, peace in the Mideast, and the wider Jewish community.

Further, in spite of our differences, together we publicly state that we agree on several core principles:

- Israel has the right to exist, in peace, as the Jewish State.
- We support Israel's efforts to maintain itself as a democratic and pluralistic society, despite the pressures faced both within and without.
- Israel has the right, as a sovereign nation, to secure and recognized borders, to defend itself, and to protect its citizens.
- We support Israel's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Mideast.
- We fervently hope and pray for peace within Israel, among Jews everywhere, between Israelis and Palestinians, and between Israelis and all peoples of the region.

We therefore pledge ourselves to do all in our power to assist Israel in every way at this difficult time.

SIGNATORIES TO THE SEATTLE COMMUNITY DERECH ERETZ STATEMENT ON ISRAEL

Iantha Sidell, *Chair*, Ron Liebsohn, *External Affairs Chair*, and Barry Goren, *President and CEO*, on behalf of *The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle*

Mark Schuster, *Regional Board Chair*, Bernel Goldberg, *Chair, International Committee*, and Rob Jacobs, *Regional Director*, on behalf of the *Anti-Defamation League, Pacific Northwest Region*

Rainer Waldman Adkins, *Member, Executive Committee*, on behalf of *Brit Tzedek v'Shalom*

Robert Kaufman, *Campaign Consultant*, on behalf of the *Jewish National Fund*

Josef Herz, on behalf of the *Volunteers for Israel, Pacific Northwest*

Rabbi Chaim Levine, *Executive Director*, on behalf of *Aish Seattle*

Leslie Rosen, *President*, and Rabbi Anson Laytner, *Executive Director*, on behalf of the *American Jewish Committee, Greater Seattle Chapter*

Rabbi Rick Harkavy, *Executive Director*, on behalf of the *American Jewish Congress, Pacific Northwest Region*

Talby Gelb and Jennifer Alterman, *Co-Presidents*, on behalf of *Hadassah, Seattle Chapter*

Noah Tratt, *President*, and Rabbi Dan Bridge, *Executive Director*, on behalf of *Hillel, Foundation for Jewish Life at the UW*

Sharon Finegold, *Facilitator*, on behalf of the *Israel Advocacy Consortium*

Yaffa Maritz, on behalf of the *Israel Policy Forum*

David Brumer, *The Israel Project*

Rose Singer, *President*, and Lauren Simonds, *Executive Director*, on behalf of *National Council of Jewish Women, Seattle Section*

David Rind, *President*, and Barry Sohn, *Executive Director*, on behalf of the *Stroum Jewish Community Center, Mercer Island and Seattle*

Rabbi Ted Falcon, *Rabbi, Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, Seattle*

Rabbi Jonathan Singer, *Senior Rabbi*, Rabbi Beth Singer, *Associate Rabbi*, and Ruth Kahle, *President*, on behalf of *Temple Beth Am, Seattle*

Rabbi Bruce Kadden, *Rabbi, Temple Beth El, Tacoma*

Rabbi Seth Goldstein, *Rabbi, Temple Beth Hatfiloh, Olympia*

Rabbi Harley Karz-Wagman, *Rabbi*, and Cheryl Waldbaum, *President*, on behalf of *Temple Beth Or, Everett*

Rabbi Jill Borodin, *Rabbi*, on behalf of *Congregation Beth Shalom, Seattle*

Rabbi Moshe Kletenik, *Rabbi, Bikur Cholim-Machzikay Hadath Congregation, Seattle*

Rabbi James Mirel, *Senior Rabbi*, and Rabbi Yohanna Kinberg, *Assistant Rabbi*, on behalf of *Temple B'nai Torah, Bellevue*

Rabbi Daniel Weiner, *Senior Rabbi*, and Rabbi Philip Rice, *Assistant Rabbi*, on behalf of *Temple De Hirsch Sinai, Seattle and Bellevue*

Rabbi Tsurah August, *Rabbi*, on behalf of *Congregation Eitz Or, Seattle*

Rabbi Salomon Cohen-Scali, *Rabbi, Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, Seattle*

Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum, *Senior Rabbi*, and Rabbi Rachel Nussbaum, *Assistant Rabbi*, on behalf of *Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation, Mercer Island*

Rabbi Laurie Rice, *Rabbi*, and Carolyn Hathaway, *Immediate Past President*, on behalf of *Congregation Kol Ami, Woodinville*

Rabbi Michael Latz, *Rabbi*, on behalf of *Kol HaNeshamah, West Seattle*

Rabbi Mark Glickman, *Rabbi, Congregation Kol Shalom, Bainbridge*

Rabbi Simon Benzaquen, *Rabbi, Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation, Seattle*

This statement was also signed by 37 other community leaders as individuals and not as representatives of organizations, temples or congregations