



# No Votes for Genocide: Palestine and the US Election

August 2024

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London | Washington

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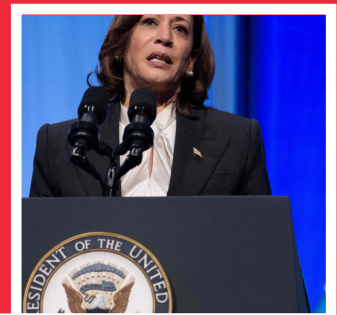
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**“To get our votes, the Democratic Party must fundamentally change course on Gaza specifically, and on Palestine in general. It cannot keep mistreating us, enabling and funding a genocide of our people, then expecting our votes by warning us that the alternative will be worse. Harris is part of an administration that is complicit in genocide and has done nothing to stop it. While she is seen as slightly better than Biden, this is a very low bar, and will not be enough to get our votes. To have a chance, Harris must distance herself from Biden’s policies in a clear and tangible way that goes beyond words. We will no longer accept crumbs. The bare minimum is to declare support for an arms embargo on Israel before the November vote.”**

**Huwaida Arraf**

a Palestinian-American

“uncommitted” alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention.<sup>1</sup>



01

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# The Importance of Palestine in the 2024 US Elections



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01

# The Importance of Palestine in the 2024 US Elections

The genocide in Palestine is of growing importance during the 2024 US Election campaign amongst Democrat voters.<sup>2</sup>

Initially, during the Democratic primaries, Democrat voters concerned about the genocide demonstrated their frustration with the Biden administration by voting “uncommitted”.<sup>3</sup> The campaign gained more than 700,000 votes, particularly from critical swing states like Michigan and Wisconsin.<sup>4</sup>

A poll in May 2024 found that 56 percent of Democrats believe Israel is committing genocide, and another survey in June showed 64 percent of likely voters support a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, with this number rising to 86 percent among Democrats.<sup>5</sup>

The importance of Palestine is widely believed to be the reason behind Harris choosing Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her Vice President over Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, whose strongly pro-Israel and Zionist stances on the student intifada, the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement (BDS), and genocide in Gaza, were perceived as harming Harris’ popularity amongst voters concerned about the genocide.<sup>6</sup>

Seemingly concerned about Harris’ unpopularity amongst Arab and Muslim Americans, on 14 August 2024 the Harris campaign team hired Afghan American lawyer, Nasrina Bargzie, to work specifically on outreach to Arab and Muslim voters. Bargzie has been working in Harris’ White House office since 2022 as a policy adviser on Muslim, Arab and Gaza-related issues.<sup>58</sup>

**“Kamala, you need to call for a ceasefire in Gaza. We demand an arms embargo and a free Palestine. Kamala, Kamala, you can’t hide, we won’t vote for genocide.”**

**Palestine activists**  
at a Democrat rally

**“If you want Donald Trump to win, say that. Otherwise, I’m speaking.”**



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**Kamala Harris’  
response<sup>7</sup>**



02

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# ‘Killer Kamala’ Harris’ Stance on Palestine



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02

# ‘Killer Kamala’ Harris’ Stance on Palestine

Kamala Harris, dubbed ‘Killer Kamala’ by Palestine activists, has supported Israel and been funded by the Israel lobby for years.<sup>8</sup>

**2014:**

Harris married Douglas Emhoff, a staunch Zionist.<sup>9</sup> The couple have travelled together to occupied Jerusalem.<sup>10</sup>

**2016:**

Harris criticised the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement (BDS), saying it is “based on the mistaken assumption that Israel is solely to blame for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict”, and that “we should not isolate Israel, the only democracy in the region”.<sup>11</sup>

**2017:**

Harris spoke at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) annual conference, stating: “Let me be clear about what I believe. I stand with Israel because of our shared values, which are so fundamental to the founding of both our nations”.<sup>12</sup> She also stressed her support for combatting “anti-Israel bias”.<sup>13</sup>

**2018:**

Harris repeated the racist notion that Israel “made a desert bloom”, erasing the history of Palestinian agriculture.<sup>14</sup> In particular, she stated that she “collected donations to plant trees for Israel” through the Jewish National Fund, ignoring the olive trees that generations of Palestinians have nurtured and grown.<sup>15</sup>

**2019:**

Harris was praised by the lobbying group Democratic Majority for Israel (DMFI) for running to the right of Obama on the Iran deal.<sup>16</sup>

**2023:**

In December, two months into Israel’s genocide in Gaza, Harris stated: “Israel has a right to defend itself. And we will remain steadfast in that conviction [...] we support Israel’s legitimate military objectives to eliminate the threat of Hamas”.<sup>17</sup>

**2024:**

In June, Harris hosted a screening of the film *Screams Before Silence*, which is based on the Israeli lie that Palestinian resistance fighters committed “mass rape” on 7 October 2023, without any evidence.<sup>18</sup> At the same time as this film screening, media outlets had extensively reported on evidence of Israelis using sexual torture and forced sodomisation in Israeli prisons.<sup>19</sup>

On 25 July, Harris met Israeli Prime Minister and wanted war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu.<sup>20</sup>

Harris chose Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to run as her Vice President, who has refused to meet Palestinian Americans who lost friends and family in the genocide in Gaza.<sup>21</sup>



**“When people are demanding a ceasefire and arms embargo and an end to the genocide and you say that [means] we want Donald Trump to step in – it just shows a lack of accountability. It shows a lack of leadership, a lack of responsibility, a lack of ownership.”**

**Salma Hamamy**

one of the protestors at Kamala Harris’ rally in Michigan.<sup>22</sup>



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# Trump's Stance on Palestine



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## 03

# Trump's Stance on Palestine

Trump calls himself the “best friend Israel has ever had”, and simultaneously said his supporters were “not wrong” for chanting “Genocide Joe” at his rally.<sup>23</sup>

During his presidency, Trump moved the US embassy from occupied Jaffa (Tel Aviv) to Jerusalem and recognised Israel’s sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. He also cut funding to UNWRA and closed the Palestinians’ diplomatic mission in Washington.<sup>24</sup>

In October 2023, Trump declared that if returned to office he would “defend western civilization from the barbarians and savages and fascists that you see now trying to do harm to our beautiful Israel”.<sup>25</sup>

## Trump has also said that if re-elected, he will:

- Cut off all US aid to Palestinians and urge other nations to do the same
- Ban refugees from Gaza under an expansion of his travel ban on Muslim-majority countries
- Expel immigrants who ‘sympathise with Hamas’
- Revoke visas of foreign students deemed ‘anti-American’ or ‘antisemitic’
- Enact “strong ideological screening” to prevent the entry of foreigners who “want to abolish Israel”.<sup>26</sup>

In March 2024, Trump remarked: “Israel has to be very careful, because you’re losing a lot of the world, you’re losing a lot of support. You have to finish up, you have to get the job done. And you have to get on to peace”. In another interview he reiterated this stance, saying: “Let’s get back to peace and stop killing people”.<sup>27</sup>

The same month, Trump also stated, “that any Jewish American who backs the Democrats “hates their religion” and “everything about Israel” – remarks which have widely been regarded as antisemitic.<sup>28</sup> In April 2024, he repeated these remarks, saying: “any Jewish person that votes for a Democrat or votes for Biden should have their head examined”.<sup>29</sup>

Trump also used ‘Palestinian’ as an insult during a presidential debate against Biden, saying: “He has become like a Palestinian, but they don’t like him because he is a very bad Palestinian. He is a weak one.”<sup>30</sup>

## Trump statements on Israel during an election rally:

- “The streets of London, Paris and Brussels are overrun by mobs of Hamas supporters chanting their jihad slogans.”
- “In America, antisemitism is rampaging all throughout our cities: Democrat party, left-wing media institutions, a certain candidate for the presidency of the United States, in our colleges and universities...”
- “15 years ago, if you said anything bad about Israel or the Jewish people, you were finished as a politician - the most powerful lobby in this country by far, was Israel and Jewish people. Today it’s almost like, what happened? What happened to [Chuck] Schumer? Schumer’s like a Palestinian.”<sup>62</sup>

**“Save Israel. When I’m back in the Oval Office, I will support Israel’s right to win its war on terror. They have a right to win the war. And I will give Israel the support that it needs to win, but I do want them to win fast. Wouldn’t it be nice if they could win fast? And we have to let them win fast. To our enemies around the world: we want our hostages back, and they’d better be back before I assume office. If Kamala Harris and Tim Walz are elected, the radical left flag burners and Hamas sympathisers will not just be causing chaos on our streets, they’ll be running US foreign policy in the White House. And Israel will be gone. It will be gone. I never thought I’d say that a year ago – even two years ago. I never thought I’d say it but Israel will be gone, I believe.”**

**Donald Trump**  
during his New Jersey rally.<sup>63</sup>





# The Use of Trump to Silence Criticism of Kamala Harris





## 04

# The Use of Trump to Silence Criticism of Kamala Harris

Many US liberals have reiterated Kamala Harris' response to protestors that raising the subject of Israel's genocide in Gaza will lead Trump to win the election, and that this will be worse for Palestinians.<sup>31</sup>

However, the Biden-Harris presidency has been the most devastating U.S. government for Palestinians in history, and has funded Israel's ongoing genocide on a scale never witnessed before, including during Trump's presidency.<sup>59</sup>

Indeed, on 13 August 2024, despite 10 months of brutal genocide in Gaza, the US government approved a new sale of weapons to Israel, worth \$20bn, to continue the genocide.<sup>60</sup>

The spectre of a hypothetical Trump election and the hypothetical harm that will result from it is used to suppress critique of the actual genocide taking place, whilst also placing the blame on Palestine activists

and protestors instead of the Presidential candidate who fails to represent them.<sup>32</sup>

As a result, there is a clear failure in recognising that it is not the interjections of protestors who will cost Harris votes, but her own stance on Palestine since October 2023.<sup>33</sup>

Liberals have also claimed that those campaigning against voting for Harris due to the genocide do not care about minorities within the US because they will be treated worse under a Trump presidency.<sup>34</sup>

However, Harris' record of imprisoning Black men as a prosecutor, and her promise to bring in harsher border enforcement policies than Trump, reveals how Trump is weaponised to shut down descent to the Democrat Party's complicity in genocide, and their shift to the right more generally.<sup>35</sup>

**“It’s important for all of us to remember that none of these options are going to free Palestine or end the genocide and that appealing to Kamala Harris is not a solution in any way, shape, or form. What people seem to be forgetting is that she’s not just some random person who decided to run for president. She has been the vice president for all 300-plus days of this genocide, and could have said something in all of that time. She deliberately chose not to do that.”**

**Zainab Hakim**

one of the protestors at Kamala Harris’ rally in Michigan.<sup>36</sup>



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# The Use of Identity Politics to Silence Criticism of Kamala Harris



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# The Use of Identity Politics to Silence Criticism of Kamala Harris

Liberals have also criticised Palestine protestors for interrupting and trying to take down a woman of colour, which they claim has anti-Black undertones.<sup>37</sup>

This belief is built on two falsehoods: that Kamala Harris is less privileged than Palestinians facing extermination in Gaza, and that there are no Black or Afro-Palestinians being massacred in Gaza.<sup>38</sup>

This belief stems from identity politics, whereby individuals are believed to occupy fixed positions of privilege or marginalisation – instead of recognising how individuals' relationship to various power structures – such as class – shapes individuals' positions of privilege and allows them to reproduce the very damaging power structures their community, ethnicity, or gender suffers from.<sup>39</sup>

As the Democrat candidate for US President, Kamala Harris has gained a significant amount of capital, institutional support, and power that has afforded her a position of privilege within an institution of power.<sup>40</sup>

Harris has occupied this privileged position for years, first as a chief prosecutor, and then as Biden's vice president.<sup>41</sup> In both her positions as a prosecutor and as vice president, Harris has facilitated the oppression of less privileged Americans, in particular the prosecution of Black men and the genocide in Gaza.<sup>42</sup>

Harris weaponised her privileged position of power to silence protestors' criticisms of her stance on Palestine, saying "I'm speaking" – as if she has already not been speaking on national platforms for the past 10 months of the genocide or before.<sup>43</sup>

The liberal positioning of Harris as a woman of colour targeted by protestors due to her race and gender, also ignores the fact that many of the protestors were themselves from marginalised backgrounds as Arab Americans, and that the people of Gaza, are both structurally less privileged than Harris, and would be considered people of colour in the US, including a large number of Black and Afro-Palestinians.<sup>44</sup>

**“From when I was a young girl collecting funds to plant trees for Israel to my time in the United States Senate and now at the White House, I’ve had an unwavering commitment to the existence of the state of Israel, to its security, and to the people of Israel.”**

**Kamala Harris<sup>45</sup>**





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# The Importance of Criticising Kamala's Stance on Palestine

**WANTED**  
**KAMALA HARRIS**  
**FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY**



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# The Importance of Criticising Kamala's Stance on Palestine

As Professor Ruha Benjamin states: “Black faces in high places will not save us”. Kamala Harris has not just been co-opted into a genocidal system – she has been actively complicit in Israel’s genocide since October 2023 as Biden’s vice president.<sup>46</sup> In the same vein, Trump’s stance is not to be overlooked nor eradicated, but the reality remains that elected representatives must be held accountable to their constituents.

Only sustained public pressure will have an impact on Harris’ policies and her actions in office if elected, based on community and grassroots activism that seeks to hold her accountable to the will of the American public.<sup>47</sup>

It is a moral imperative for the American Left to demand better from the Democrat Party candidate’s stance on Palestine when the current genocide has taken place under a Democrat presidency – both for the Palestinian people facing extermination, and for any future semblance of ‘democracy’ in the US.<sup>48</sup>

Harris’ stance on genocide is revealing of a wider absence of leftist politics in the US, and challenging her position on Palestine has broader implications for revitalising a leftist critique of American politics and the absence of meaningful choice Americans face at the ballot box.<sup>48</sup>

Any immunity which allows Harris to fund and arm Israel’s genocide in Palestine without critique also allows her to criminalise and institutionalise marginalised communities within the US and on its borders.<sup>49</sup>

Therefore, criticising Harris’ stance on Palestine is important both for the Palestinian people experiencing genocide, and for all oppressed peoples who suffer from US imperialism and racism abroad and at home.<sup>50</sup>

**“Black faces in high places are not gonna save us. Just look at the Black proponents of Cop City in Atlanta’s leadership class.**

**Black faces in high places are not gonna save us.**

**Just look at the Black woman’s hand, the ambassador at the UN voting against a ceasefire in Gaza.**

**That is, our Blackness and our womanness are not in themselves trustworthy if we allow ourselves to be conscripted into positions of power that maintain the oppressive status quo.”**

**Professor Ruha Benjamin**  
African American Studies at  
Princeton University.<sup>51</sup>



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# The Third Option: Jill Stein



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# The Third Option: Jill Stein

Jill Stein is the Green Party's Presidential Candidate and a Jewish American peace campaigner who was arrested at a Palestine protest at Washington University in April 2024.<sup>52</sup> She was also arrested in 2016 for participating in the Standing Rock protests.<sup>53</sup>

Stein is the only Presidential candidate who has demanded an end to Israel's genocide in Gaza, an end to Israeli occupation and apartheid, and who has refused to take money from AIPAC and other Israeli lobbyists.<sup>54</sup>

She began her campaigning as an environmental activist in the late 1990s, co-authoring two reports on the subject, *In Harm's Way: Toxic Threats to Child Development* and *Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging*.<sup>55</sup>

Stein was previously a Democrat, but left to join the Green Party, who she has also represented during the 2012 and 2016 US elections.<sup>56</sup>

Stein has reportedly approached Palestinian Americans to be her vice president, including lawyer and activist Noura Erakat.<sup>57</sup>



**“To all of you who are trying to argue that Trump will be worse for Palestinians, please understand that there has been no U.S. administration in history that has been worse for Palestinians in Gaza than the Biden-Harris Administration. NONE. None are even close. There is no atrocity, no evil, no depravity that Trump could think of doing that hasn’t been sponsored by the Biden-Harris Administration’s unshakable support for Israel’s slaughter and torture of civilians in the guise of self-defence. You can argue all you want that he will be bad for America – but please, please don’t dare argue that he would be worse for Palestinians.”**

**Dr Taleed El-Sabawi**  
Palestinian American  
Law Professor.<sup>61</sup>



# Footnotes

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