

## <DRAFT> Policy Statement

for a vote at the Special Meeting on December 6th, 2023

### WCDCC Dec 2023 Statement on Israel & Palestine

As Oregonians and Democrats, we are dedicated to a better world- a world founded on peace, unity, equity, and genuine democracy for all.

We recognize that when communities such as Israel and Palestine are under threat, sometimes resistance is an expected response, and in certain cases may be justified. However, we denounce the attacks taking place in Israel and Gaza including those acts committed by Hamas who have targeted everyone from infants to the elderly.

We recognize that Hamas and Palestine are not the same and that the Palestinian people as a whole, have suffered greatly due to the actions of Hamas and the subsequent Israeli offensive. The majority of the thousands of dead are innocent Palestinians, Israelis, and immigrants predominantly from African and Asian countries who deserve to live long, happy, and full lives. As Democrats, we mourn all of them.

**We call for a ceasefire in Gaza, and the unconditional release and accounting of all Israeli hostages.** We call for an end to violence against innocent civilians. We firmly stand for peace, justice, and freedom for all, recognizing the legitimate aspirations of both the Palestinian and Israeli people. In the days ahead we remain committed to working together as allies and friends to prevent human suffering and environmental damage, establish humanitarian corridors, and support the Israeli and Palestinian people in efforts to create the conditions necessary for peace.

Our goal is a world where dialogue and cooperation prevail, and where the voices of all people, regardless of their background, are heard and respected. A world where anti-Semitism and Islamophobia are not part of our lives. We believe that there is a path forward for a peaceful, equitable, democratic solution rooted in shared values, empathy, and humanity.