

Black Muslim Leadership Council

Foreign Policy Agenda

Summary

As proud members and leaders of the Black American Muslim community in the United States, we assert our commitment to the inherent dignity of all people and affirm that the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. This Foreign Policy Statement reflects an overarching need to build a world with economic stability, demilitarization, and recognition of human rights, and without racism, economic exploitation, and militarism. Our commitment recognizes the marginalization of Black people on the African continent and in the diaspora in the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania.

Palestinian Safety & Statehood

As proud members and leaders of the Black American Muslim community in the United States, we assert our commitment to the protection of human rights in Palestine. Our commitment recognizes the distinctly marginalized presence of Afro-Palestinians, who are uniquely impacted by racism, superimposed upon the ethno-religious apartheid under which all Palestinians suffer.

Proposed Actions

1. During the unprecedented onslaught in Gaza and the ongoing oppression of Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, we call for an immediate ceasefire, the resumption of humanitarian aid without encumbrance, and the rebuilding of Gaza as a Palestinian region, with no Israeli oversight. We assert without qualification that all lives hold equal sanctity, as recognized by international laws. Collective punishment is prohibited by treaty in both international and non-international armed conflicts, specifically Common Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 4 of the Additional Protocol II.
2. We call for the protection of sacred Islamic sites, including the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, with the right of access, security, and freedom of worship for all Muslims; this includes protection against settler encroachment and ethno-nationalist violence in the West Bank.
3. We call for a two-state solution with full recognition of the sovereignty of the Palestinian people with all rights due to sovereign nations, and a return to the Palestinians of lands settled in breach of existing international covenants and laws.

Protection of Minorities from Ethno-Nationalism

Across the world, ethnic and racial minorities are targeted by political structures in power due to their identities. The rise in xenophobia, ethno-nationalism, and ethno-religious nationalism across the world is quickly exacerbating these issues, leading to human rights and civil rights abuses. This includes the targeting of civilians, including Muslims, in the following locations:

- **Sudan:** As internal conflict continues in Sudan, thousands are dead or injured, and over a million are displaced. The [United Nations has stated](#) that there are patterns of targeted attacks against civilians based on ethnic identities; this could amount to crimes against humanity.
- **India:** The Hindu nationalist government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is known to target Muslims with state violence and marginalization, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Tigray:** Civilians, particularly in Western Tigray, [have reportedly been targeted](#) and tortured due to their ethnic identities.
- **Yemen:** The Yemeni government and Houthi organization are both [known to inflict human rights abuses](#) on the local population, including recruitment of child soldiers, killings, and restrictions on freedom of expression.
- **Syria:** Discrimination based on religious affiliation has been reported across Syria as civil war in the country rages. The government is [known to monitor](#) and control religious sermons.
- **China:** Over one million Uyghur Muslims have been detained in inhumane “reeducation camps” by the Chinese government, where they are restricted to surveillance, labor, and torture.
- **Myanmar:** Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, particularly in the Rakhine state, have long been targeted by the Myanmar government, which [denies them human rights](#) and has been accused of [inflicting genocide](#) against the population.

Proposed Actions

1. We call for the protection of ethnic and racial minorities from ethno-nationalism and ethno-religious nationalism.
2. We call for international sanctions and travel restrictions on individuals who have been found to be responsible for or involved in human and civil rights abuses by unbiased international investigative and/or judicial bodies.
3. We call for international sanctions and aid restrictions for governments who have been found to be responsible for or involved in human and civil rights abuses by unbiased international investigative and/or judicial bodies.
4. We call for United States aid to other countries to be conditional upon governments not discriminating against ethnic and racial minorities.

Protection of Minorities from Exploitation

International corporations have long profited off of the economic, political, and environmental exploitation of minority and vulnerable groups in the Global South. Such exploitation has led to widespread poverty and food insecurity, environmental degradation, and mass displacement. This includes exploitation in the following instances:

- The [Nigerian oil crisis](#), which led to mass wildlife and ecological destruction, air, water, and land pollution, job loss, health issues, and cultural degradation
- Conflict over [minerals in the Congo](#), which led to forced evictions from homelands, human rights abuses, forced labor, and widespread environmental damage

Proposed Actions

1. We call for the protection of Indigenous people, ethnic minorities, and migrants from economic exploitation, environmental degradation, and displacement due to the greed of international corporations.
2. We call for federal investment in sustainably-sourced solar, gas, and wind power and in efficient, electric public transportation to cut down on natural resources exploitation and pollution of the Global South.
3. We call for the climate crisis to be named an instant humanitarian emergency and for significant international investment in cutting down CO2 emissions, the use of fossil fuels, and the conservation of water.
4. We call for the United States to remain in the Paris Agreement.
5. We call for the establishment of an international oversight body to address major known exploitation instances, such as those listed above, and create actionable steps to amend the situation in partnership with local leaders and civic institutions; this body must also have a research arm to seek out other such instances and create task forces to address them.

Human Rights During Times of Conflict

While international humanitarian law requires the protection of civilians during times of war, this is too often not followed. Research [has shown](#) that civilian populations often suffer the most from armed conflict. We believe in the inalienability of human rights at all times, and this includes during periods of violence and instability.

Proposed Actions

1. We call for upholding human rights during times of armed conflict and inter-communal violence. This violence includes, but is not limited to: torture; cruel or degrading treatment or punishment; slavery and forced labor; arbitrary arrest or detention; arbitrary interference with privacy; war propaganda; discrimination; and advocacy of racial or religious hatred.
2. We call for international sanctions and travel restrictions on individuals who have been found to be responsible for or involved in human and civil rights abuses during times of violence by unbiased international investigative and/or judicial bodies.
3. We call for international sanctions and aid restrictions for governments who have been found to be responsible for or involved in human and civil rights abuses during times of violence by unbiased international investigative and/or judicial bodies.

Protection of Children During Conflicts

UNICEF found that between 2005 and 2022, [over 105,000 children](#) were recruited as child soldiers and used in violent conflict; the actual number is believed to be higher. This often includes abduction, threats, and brainwashing, and subjects these children to unimaginable violence. This is a violation of international humanitarian law and is a global travesty that must be addressed.

Proposed Actions

1. We call for children exploited during conflicts to be treated as victims and not treated as criminals or terrorists.
2. We call for the reintegration of former child soldiers into their societies, implementation of measures to prevent continued exploitation, and rehabilitation to support their quality of life.
3. We call for recognition of the rights of children to grow in safe spaces, protected from human trafficking, exploitation, and entrapment.