

## Talking Points

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### Israel Safeguards Human Rights

Israel provides help and humanitarian aid around the world. When tragedy strikes, Israel sends rescue workers, doctors, and equipment to assist victims around the globe. Israel has aided tsunami victims in Southeast Asia, victims of civil strife in Kosovo and Darfur, earthquake survivors in Turkey, and AIDS victims in Africa.

### Israel Acts for Peace

Israel wants security and peace for its citizens.

Israel accepted a two-state solution as early as 1947. Israel immediately accepted the U.N. Partition Plan, which would have created two states, side by side. When Israel's Arab neighbors rejected the plan, Israel was forced to defend itself in the War of Independence.

Israel has made great sacrifices for peace.

- In 1976, in exchange for real peace with Egypt, Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula.
- In 1993, under the Clinton administration, Israel signed the Oslo Accords, taking a huge step to realize peace.
- In 1994, Israel signed a peace treaty with Jordan.
- In 2000, then Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Barak agreed to a Palestinian state in over 95% of the West Bank and Gaza. Despite the fact that Barak's generous offer was rejected and met by terror, Israel continues to hope and strive for peace.

The vast majority of Israelis do not want to govern the Palestinians. Israel has unilaterally withdrawn from Gaza with the hope that terrorism will end. Israel has accepted the Bush administration's Roadmap for Peace.

### Israel is the Only Democracy in The Middle East

All citizens, including Arab-Israelis, participate in free elections.

Israel's High Court of Justice safeguards the human and civil rights of every inhabitant, including Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Israel safeguards freedom of the press and as a healthy democracy ensures vigorous debate among its citizens. Israel's government urges its citizens to exercise their right to free speech, even if its own image suffers as a result.

Israel safeguards women's rights. Women in Israel have better access to health care, birth control, education, career opportunities, and representation in all branches of government than any country in the Middle East.

Arab-Israelis have more rights than any Arabs living in any other Middle Eastern country, enjoying freedom of speech, press, the right to vote, protection from sexual harassment, and the right to a fair trial.

Like America's democracy, Israel's is evolving and improving.

## **Israel is a Leader in World Health**

Israel is a world leader in medicine, scientific research, and technology. Israeli researchers have pioneered the development and use of countless life-saving medicines and technologies. From stem cell research to vaccines to nanotechnology, Israel is on the cutting-edge of medical, scientific, and technological breakthroughs.

Israel is a world leader in disaster management.

In Israel, everyone has the right to access quality healthcare.

Israel's healthcare ranks among the best in the world.

Israel's Hadassah Medical Organization is at the forefront of medical care and research.

## **Israel Has an Expanding and Productive Economy**

Like the United States, Israel's economy is based on free enterprise.

On a per capita basis, Israel has the largest number of biotech start-ups in the world.

Israel is ranked #2 in the world for venture capital funds, right behind the United States.

Israel produces more scientific papers per capita than any other nation.

Israeli inventions fill the global marketplace. The cell phone, voice mail technology, much of the Windows NT operating system, AOL Instant Messenger, Intel's Pentium MMX Chip, and the first PC anti-virus software were all invented in Israel.

Israel's Hadassah College Jerusalem trains future leaders.

## **Zionism Is About Hope**

"Zionism is nothing less than the dream and ideal of the Jewish people returning to live in their own land." –Martin Luther King

Zionism is the Jewish people's national movement for a homeland that brought about the establishment of the State of Israel. The Zionist movement continues to strive for a democratic and secure State of Israel and the well-being of Jews worldwide.

Zionism is based on the deep connection between the Jewish people and the land of Israel, dating back 4,000 years to biblical times. Following the Holocaust, in which six million Jews were murdered, the United Nations established the State of Israel.

Israel has welcomed and effectively absorbed three million Jewish immigrants from six continents, including Jews from Ethiopia, the former Soviet Union, and many Arab lands, where they were often persecuted or expelled.

Zionism fulfills the collective Jewish responsibility that includes struggling against anti-Semitism and safeguarding the rights of Jews everywhere.