



26 August 2022

Dear Friend,

Last Saturday, Rebuilding Alliance brought seven senior Congressional staff to meet with the Right to Enter group in Ramallah and what we learned was heartbreaking — but we also learned that there’s an opportunity that can benefit from your attention.

On September 5th, Israel’s Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories will implement new procedures on entry to Palestine that restrict American visitors and/or residents in significant and troubling ways. Now’s the time to ask Congress to stop this.

Please [Email Congress Now](#)

- In February 2022, Israel published 97-pages of new restrictions on foreigner passport holders’ entry and residence in the occupied West Bank entitled, “Procedures for entry and residents of foreigners in the Judea and Samaria [West Bank] area”
- It enumerates discriminatory regulations specific to the West Bank that prevent Palestinian-Americans from visiting their families and restrict entry of foreign students, academics, business leaders, and volunteers from visiting Palestinian institutions and organizations
- For the 30+ universities and colleges in the West Bank, these restrictions limit the total number of foreign students and teachers to only 100 foreign scholars and 150 students

As you may know, the US. State Department and the Department of Homeland Security are currently weighing extending the U.S. Visa Waiver Program to include the citizens of Israel. **In turn, Israel must provide reciprocal Visa Waivers for U.S. citizens. Because fair and equal entry to all U.S. citizens without discrimination is a program requirement, this is our opportunity.**

Ask Congress to make two calls on your behalf and also provide constituent assistance to enforce the required reciprocity. Ask them to

1. Call the Israeli Embassy and press the government of Israel to repeal the “Procedure for Foreigners' Entry to and Residence in the West Bank”, which infringes on the rights of US citizens
2. Call the U.S. State Department and urge them to intervene on behalf of U.S. citizens who are experiencing discrimination at the border. Because reciprocity is a requirement of the US Visa Waiver Program, ask the State Department to open a hotline for impacted Americans and publish a monthly tally.

It's time for our Embassy and our members of Congress to intervene and ensure Americans fair entry to Palestine. Let's begin: [Email Congress Now](#)

Sincerely,

Donna Baranski-Walker

Founder and Executive Director, Rebuilding Alliance

P.S. This issue impacts the hundreds of thousands of Americans who care about Palestine. I ask your help to hire enough staff to coordinate Zoom-briefings and coach constituents on how to get their Senators and Representative to go to bat for them. Coming soon: a GlobalGiving crowdfunding campaign entitled, ***Ensure Americans Fair Entry to Palestine.***



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