

23 October 2022



Rebuilding Alliance

Dear Friend,

On October 20th, the Govt. of Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) officially implemented new restrictions on the entry of foreigners to the West Bank. This onerous set of restrictions discriminates against Americans and is not in the interest of the Palestinian people, which Israel is obligated to assure as the occupying power.

Now is the time to reach out to your Senators and Representative and ask that they press the Govt. of Israel to repeal this 90 page set of restrictions.

[Email Congress](#)

These restrictions will impact many Americans and will further isolate Palestinians in the West Bank from friends, family, and the rest of the world. The restrictions may bar entry for (amongst others):

- 2nd degree relatives including Grandparents, cousins, uncles, and aunties who will not be allowed to visit families — not even for weddings or funerals
- Teachers and professors, Volunteers, and Business people,
- Americans born in countries that are not allowed entry.

Israel is currently being considered for entry to the American Visa Waiver Program- but the implementation of these restrictions, and the discrimination against Americans (which violates the reciprocity required by law in the VWP) should disqualify them from the program. A recent Haaretz article covered this, "[**U.S. Says Israel Still Not in Compliance With Visa Waiver Program Requirements**](#)".

[Email Congress](#) and tell them to reject these restrictions, which are contrary to American ideals. If they haven't signed on to Congressman Don Beyer's letter to the State Department requesting that they protect American citizens facing discrimination at Israeli controlled borders, request that they do so now.

Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Walsh

Deputy Executive Director, Rebuilding Alliance