

8/27/18 -- Approved by Israel Policy Task Force

9/12/18 – Approved by the JCRC Board

9/27/18 – Approved by the Community Council



**Jewish Community
Relations Council**

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

JCRC Communications Regarding the State of Israel

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation (JCRC) is the Milwaukee Jewish community's umbrella group for interfaith relations and public affairs. In that role, it is responsible for building consensus within the Jewish community and representing the Jewish community in external relations. JCRC works to increase knowledge and support for Israel in the Jewish community and the community-at-large.

Driven by its mission statement which includes the value of *Ahavat Yisrael*, the love of Israel, its people, land and state, the JCRC can best support the State of Israel by convening civil and thoughtful conversations, engaging in interfaith dialogues, and expressing opinions on policies and actions that are relevant to our community's shared values.

From ancient texts and throughout the course of modern history, Jews around the world have retained a deep connection with the land and people of Israel. As stated in Israel's Declaration of Independence, "The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped." Support for Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state was acknowledged absolutely by the world through the 1947 vote for partition in the United Nations and by Israel's admission as a full member of the United Nations in 1949. The Declaration further states that Israel will guarantee "complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions." The Milwaukee Jewish community endorses these guarantees and safeguards, and wholeheartedly affirms both our Jewish ties to Israel as well as our support for a Jewish political state.

Specific positions and actions of the government of Israel can spark differences of opinion in Israel, in the United States, and in our local community. Although conversations about Israel can become contentious, the JCRC seeks to build consensus, to be constructive, and to unify, rather than divide. This does not forbid thoughtful, critical statements. We support freedom of expression and the right of all individuals to express their opinions in a peaceful and civil fashion.

Since its founding in 1938, the JCRC has supported and will continue to support world Jewry, including a vibrant and democratic State of Israel.