



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

### “We Are Stronger Together”

*The following is excerpted from the Democratic Party Platform adopted by the delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 25, 2016.*

It’s a simple but powerful idea: We are stronger together.

Democrats believe we are stronger when we have an economy that works for everyone — an economy that grows incomes for working people, creates good-paying jobs, and puts a middle-class life within reach for more Americans. Democrats believe we can spur more sustainable economic growth, which will create good-paying jobs and raise wages. And we can have more economic fairness, so the rewards are shared broadly, not just with those at the top. We need an economy that prioritizes long-term investment over short-term profit-seeking, rewards the common interest over self-interest, and promotes innovation and entrepreneurship.

We believe that today’s extreme level of income and wealth inequality — where the majority of the economic gains go to the top one percent and the richest 20 people in our country own more wealth than the bottom 150 million — makes our economy weaker, our communities poorer, and our politics poisonous.

And we know that race still plays a significant role in determining who gets ahead in America and who gets left behind. We must face that reality, and we must fix it.

We believe a good education is a basic right of all Americans, no matter what ZIP code they live in. We will end the school-to-prison pipeline and build a cradle-to-college pipeline instead, where every child can live up to his or her God-given potential.

We believe in helping Americans balance work and family without fear of punishment or penalty. We believe in at last guaranteeing equal pay for women. And as the party that created Social Security, we believe in protecting every American’s right to retire with dignity.

We firmly believe that the greed, recklessness, and illegal behavior on Wall Street must be brought to an end.

Democrats believe we are stronger when we protect citizens’ right to vote, while stopping corporations’ outsized influence in elections. We will fight to end the broken campaign finance system, overturn the disastrous Citizens United [v. Federal Election Commission (2010)] decision, restore the full power of the Voting Rights Act, and return control of our elections to the American people.

Democrats believe that climate change poses a real and urgent threat to our economy, our national security, and our children's health and futures, and that Americans deserve the jobs and security that come from becoming the clean energy superpower of the twenty-first century.

We believe in the power of development and diplomacy. We believe our military should be the best-trained, best-equipped fighting force in the world, and that we must do everything we can to honor and support our veterans. And we know that only the United States can mobilize common action on a truly global scale, to take on the challenges that transcend borders, from international terrorism to climate change to health pandemics.

Above all, Democrats are the party of inclusion. We know that diversity is not our problem — it is our promise. As Democrats, we respect differences of perspective and belief, and pledge to work together to move this country forward, even when we disagree.

We know that today's immigrants are tomorrow's teachers, doctors, lawyers, government leaders, soldiers, entrepreneurs, activists, and pillars of our communities.

We believe in protecting civil liberties and guaranteeing civil rights and voting rights, women's rights and workers' rights, LGBT rights, and rights for people with disabilities. America is and has always been great. What makes America great is our unerring belief that we can make it better. We can and we will build a more just economy, a more equal society, and a more perfect union — because we are stronger together.

## **Raise Incomes and Restore Economic Security for the Middle Class**

**Raising Workers' Wages.** Democrats believe that the current minimum wage is a starvation wage and must be increased to a living wage. We believe that Americans should earn at least \$15 an hour and have the right to form or join a union.

**Protecting Workers' Fundamental Rights.** Democrats will fight to pass laws that direct the National Labor Relations Board to certify a union if a simple majority of eligible workers sign valid authorization cards, as well as laws that bring companies to the negotiating table. We support binding arbitration to help workers who have voted to join a union reach a first contract. Democrats believe so-called "right to work" laws are wrong for workers and wrong for America. We oppose legislation and lawsuits that would strike down laws protecting the rights of teachers and other public employees.

**Supporting Working Families.** We will fight to secure equal pay for women. Democrats will make sure that the United States finally enacts national paid family and medical leave by passing a family and medical leave act that would provide all workers at **least** 12 weeks of paid leave to care for a new child or address a personal or family member's serious health issue. We will fight to allow workers the right to earn at least seven days of paid sick leave. We will also encourage employers to provide paid vacation.

We will create a strong, stable, paid caregiving workforce to help meet families' needs, by raising wages, improving access to training, and giving workers the opportunity to come together to make their voices heard in support of a stronger system. We will take steps to expand and strengthen the home care workforce. We will increase investments to make quality childcare more affordable, boost wages for

childcare workers, and support the millions of people paying for, coordinating, or providing care for aging relatives or those with disabilities.

**Protecting and Expanding Social Security.** We will fight every effort to cut, privatize, or weaken Social Security, including attempts to raise the retirement age, diminish benefits by cutting cost-of-living adjustments, or reducing earned benefits. Democrats will expand Social Security so that every American can retire with dignity and respect. We will make sure Social Security's guaranteed benefits continue for generations to come by asking those at the top to pay more.

**Building Twenty-First Century Infrastructure.** We will put Americans to work updating and expanding our roads, bridges, public transit, airports, and passenger and freight rail lines. We will build twenty-first century energy and water systems, modernize our schools, and continue to support the expansion of high-speed broadband networks. We will protect communities from the impact of climate change and help them to mitigate its effects by investing in green and resilient infrastructure. And we will protect public health and safety by modernizing drinking and wastewater systems. Democrats will also create an independent, national infrastructure bank that will support critical infrastructure improvements.

**Creating Good-Paying Clean Energy Jobs.** We must help American workers and businesses compete for jobs and investments in global clean energy, high-tech products, Internet technology products, and advanced manufacturing and vehicles. We must make American manufacturing more internationally competitive by making it the greenest and most efficient in the world.

**Pursuing Our Innovation Agenda: Science, Research, Education, and Technology.** Democrats will nurture the next generation of scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs to make sure America continues to out-compete and out-innovate the rest of the world with our bold innovation agenda. Democrats will finish the job of connecting every household in America to high-speed broadband, increase Internet adoption, and help hook up anchor institutions so they can offer free WiFi to the public. Democrats support a free and open Internet at home and abroad, and will oppose any effort by Republicans to roll back the historic net neutrality rules that the Federal Communications Commission enacted last year.

**Supporting America's Small Businesses.** The Democratic Party will cut the red tape that holds back small businesses and entrepreneurs. We will open up access to credit. We will provide tax relief and tax simplification. Democrats will provide targeted funding and support for entrepreneurship and small business growth in underserved communities.

## **Fight for Economic Fairness and Against Inequality**

**Reining in Wall Street and Fixing our Financial System.** Democrats believe that no bank can be too big to fail and no executive too powerful to jail. Democrats will support stronger criminal laws and civil penalties for Wall Street criminals who prey on the public trust. "Equal Justice Under Law" will be the standard that applies to Wall Street and all Americans.

We will also vigorously implement, enforce, and build on President Obama's landmark Dodd-Frank financial reform law, and we will stop every Republican effort to weaken it. We will stop Republican efforts to hamstring our regulators through budget cuts, and we will ensure they have the resources and independence to fully enforce the law and hold both individuals and corporations accountable when they

break the rules. We oppose any efforts to change the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) structure from a single director to a partisan, gridlocked commission and likewise oppose any efforts to remove the Bureau's independent funding and subject it to the appropriations process.

We will nominate and appoint regulators and officials who are not beholden to the industries they regulate — people with a track record of standing up to power and safeguarding the public trust. We will crack down on the revolving door between the private sector — jobs here in the United States. We will end deferrals so that American corporations pay United States taxes immediately on foreign profits and can no longer escape paying their fair share of U.S. taxes by stashing profits abroad. We will then use the revenue raised from fixing the corporate tax code to reinvest in rebuilding America and ensuring economic growth that will lead to millions of good-paying jobs.

We will ensure those at the top contribute to our country's future by establishing a multimillionaire surtax to ensure millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share. We will shut down the "private tax system" for those at the top, immediately close egregious loopholes like those enjoyed by hedge fund managers, restore fair taxation on multimillion dollar estates, and ensure millionaires can no longer pay a lower rate than their secretaries.

**Promoting Trade That is Fair and Benefits American Workers.** Any future trade agreements must make sure our trading partners cannot undercut American workers by taking shortcuts on labor policy or the environment. Democrats' priority is to significantly strengthen enforcement of existing trade rules and the tools we have, including by holding countries accountable on currency manipulation and significantly expanding enforcement resources.

We will oppose trade agreements that do not support good American jobs, raise wages, and improve our national security. We believe any new trade agreements must include strong and enforceable labor and environmental standards in their core text with streamlined and effective enforcement mechanisms. Trade agreements should crack down on the unfair and illegal subsidies other countries grant their businesses at the expense of ours. We should never enter into a trade agreement that prevents our government, or other governments, from putting in place rules that protect the environment, food safety, or the health of American citizens or others around the world. These are the standards Democrats believe must be applied to all trade agreements, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

## **Bring Americans Together and Remove Barriers to Opportunities**

**Ending Systemic Racism.** Democrats will promote racial justice through fair, just, and equitable governing of all public-serving institutions and in the formation of public policy. We will push for a societal transformation to make it clear that black lives matter and that there is no place for racism in our country.

**Closing the Racial Wealth Gap.** Federal policies must remove barriers to achieving sustainable homeownership, provide for greater diversity in Federal and State contracting practices, incentivize and expand access to retirement investment programs, increase opportunities for quality jobs and education, and challenge the deeply rooted structures that perpetuate and exacerbate current disparities and ultimately stagnate the Nation's economic growth and security.

**Reforming our Criminal Justice System.** Democrats are committed to reforming our criminal justice system and ending mass incarceration. We will reform mandatory minimum sentences and close private prisons and detention centers.

We will work with police chiefs to invest in training for officers on issues such as de-escalation and the creation of national guidelines for the appropriate use of force. We will encourage better police-community relations, require the use of body cameras, and stop the use of weapons of war that have no place in our communities. We will end racial profiling that targets individuals solely on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin, which is un-American and counterproductive. We will require the Department of Justice to investigate all questionable or suspicious police-involved shootings. We will remove barriers to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully re-enter society by “banning the box,” expanding reentry programs, and restoring voting rights. We encourage the Federal Government to remove marijuana from the list of “Schedule 1” Federal controlled substances and to appropriately regulate it, providing a reasoned pathway for future legalization. We will abolish the death penalty, which has proven to be a cruel and unusual form of punishment. It has no place in the United States of America.

**Fixing our Broken Immigration System.** Democrats believe we need to urgently fix our broken immigration system — which tears families apart and keeps workers in the shadows — and create a path to citizenship for law-abiding families who are here, making a better life for their families and contributing to their communities and our country. We should repeal the three-year, 10-year, and permanent bars, which often force persons in mixed status families into the heartbreaking dilemma of either pursuing a green card by leaving the country and their loved ones behind, or remaining in the shadows.

We must fix family backlogs and defend against those who would exclude or eliminate legal immigration avenues and denigrate immigrants. While we continue to fight for comprehensive immigration reform, we will defend and implement President Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans Executive actions to help DREAMers, parents of citizens, and lawful permanent residents avoid deportation. We will build on these actions to provide relief for others, such as parents of DREAMers. We reject attempts to impose a religious test to bar immigrants or refugees from entering the United States.

**Guaranteeing Women’s Rights.** Democrats will fight to end gender discrimination in the areas of education, employment, health care, or any other sphere. We will combat biases across economic, political, and social life that hold women back and limit their opportunities, and also tackle specific challenges facing women of color. We will finally enshrine the rights of women in the Constitution by passing the Equal Rights Amendment.

**Guaranteeing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights.** Democrats will fight for the continued development of sex discrimination law to cover LGBT people. We will also fight for comprehensive Federal nondiscrimination protections for all LGBT Americans, to guarantee equal rights in areas such as housing, employment, public accommodations, credit, jury service, education, and Federal funding. We will oppose all State efforts to discriminate against LGBT individuals, including legislation that restricts the right to access public spaces.

**Guaranteeing Rights for People with Disabilities.** Democrats will protect and expand the right of Americans with disabilities to get the accommodations and support they need to live in integrated community settings. We will improve access to meaningful and gainful employment for people with disabilities. We will provide tax relief to help the millions of families caring for aging relatives or family members with chronic illnesses or disabilities.

**Investing in Rural America.** Democrats will increase funding to support the next generation of farmers and ranchers, with particular attention given to promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. We will encourage programs to protect and enhance family farms. Democrats support strengthening rural water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure to make rural businesses more competitive.

**Ending Poverty and Investing in Communities Left Behind.** Democrats will develop a national strategy to combat poverty. We will direct more Federal resources to lifting up communities that have been left out and left behind. Democrats will protect proven programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — our Nation’s most important anti-hunger program — that help struggling families put food on the table. We will also help people grow their skills through jobs and skills-training opportunities. The Earned Income Tax Credit program should be expanded for low-wage workers not raising children, including extending the credit to young workers starting at age 21.

## **Protect Voting Rights, Fix Our Campaign Finance System, and Restore Our Democracy**

**Protecting Voting Rights.** We will bring our democracy into the twenty-first century by expanding early voting and vote-by-mail, implementing universal, automatic voter registration and same-day voter registration, ending partisan and racial gerrymandering, and making Election Day a national holiday. We will restore voting rights for those who have served their sentences. And we will continue to fight against discriminatory voter identification laws, which disproportionately burden young voters, diverse communities, people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, the elderly, and women. We support efforts to defeat ill-motivated voter suppression tactics.

**Fixing Our Broken Campaign Finance System.** Democrats support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court’s decisions in *Citizens United* and *Buckley v. Valeo* [1976]. We need to end secret, unaccountable money in politics by requiring, through Executive order or legislation, significantly more disclosure and transparency. We need to amplify the voices of the American people through a small-donor-matching public financing system. And we need to fight to eliminate super PACs [political action committees] and outside spending abuses.

**Strengthening Management of Federal Government.** Democrats believe that by making those at the top and the largest corporations pay their fair share we can pay for ambitious progressive investments that create good-paying jobs and offer security to working families without adding to the debt. We will also ensure that new spending and tax cuts are offset so that they do not add to the Nation’s debt over time. We will tackle waste, fraud, and abuse to make sure government dollars are spent wisely and efficiently. Democrats believe that we should not be contracting, outsourcing, or privatizing work that is inherently governmental in nature, including postal services, school services, and State and local government services.

## **Combat Climate Change, Build a Clean Energy Economy, and Secure Environmental Justice**

**Building a Clean Energy Economy.** We are committed to getting 50 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade, with half a billion solar panels installed within four years and enough renewable energy to power every home in the country. We will cut energy waste in American homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements; modernize our electric grid; and make American manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world. We will transform American transportation by reducing oil consumption through cleaner fuels, vehicle electrification, increasing the fuel efficiency of cars, boilers, ships, and trucks.

Democrats are committed to defending, implementing, and extending smart pollution and efficiency standards, including the Clean Power Plan, fuel economy standards for automobiles and heavy-duty vehicles, building codes, and appliance standards. We are also committed to expanding clean energy research and development. The Federal Government should lead by example, which is why we support taking steps to power the government with 100 percent clean electricity. We believe hydraulic fracturing should not take place where States and local communities oppose it. We support President Obama's decision to reject the Keystone XL pipeline. We support a comprehensive approach that ensures all Federal decisions going forward contribute to solving, not significantly exacerbating, climate change.

**Securing Environmental and Climate Justice.** The fight against climate change must not leave any community out or behind — including the coal communities who kept America's lights on for generations. Democrats will fight to make sure these workers and their families get the benefits they have earned and the respect they deserve, and we will make new investments in energy-producing communities to help create jobs and build a brighter and more resilient economic future. We will also oppose threats to the public health of these communities from harmful and dangerous extraction practices, like mountaintop-removal mining operations.

**Protecting Our Public Lands and Waters.** Democrats will work to establish an American Parks Trust Fund to help expand local, State, and national recreational opportunities, rehabilitate existing parks, and enhance America's great outdoors — from our forests and coasts to neighborhood parks — so "America's Best Idea" is held in trust for future generations, and all Americans can access and enjoy natural spaces.

We oppose drilling in the Arctic and off the Atlantic coast and believe we need to reform fossil fuel leasing on public lands. We will phase down extraction of fossil fuels from our public lands, starting with the most polluting sources, while making our public lands and waters engines of the clean energy economy and creating jobs across the country.

## **Provide Quality and Affordable Education**

**Providing Relief from Crushing Student Debt.** Democrats will allow those who currently have student debt to refinance their loans at the lowest rates possible. We will simplify and expand access to income-based repayment so that no student loan borrowers ever have to pay more than they can afford. And we will significantly cut interest rates for future undergraduates. The government should offer a moratorium on student loan payments to all Federal loan borrowers so they have the time, and get the resources they

need, to consolidate their loans, enroll in income-based repayment programs, and take advantage of opportunities to reduce monthly payments and fees.

**Guaranteeing Universal Preschool and Good Schools for Every Child.** Democrats will invest in early childhood programs like Early Head Start and provide every family in America with access to high-quality childcare and high-quality preschool programs. We support efforts to raise wages for childcare workers, and to ensure that early childhood educators are experienced and high-quality. We must fulfill our national commitment to provide a meaningful education to students with disabilities, and work towards full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act so that students with disabilities can receive the extra resources and services they need.

We oppose high-stakes standardized tests that falsely and unfairly label students of color, students with disabilities and English Language Learners as failing; the use of standardized test scores as basis for refusing to fund schools or to close schools; and the use of student test scores in teacher and principal evaluations, a practice which has been repeatedly rejected by researchers. We support enabling parents to opt their children out of standardized tests without penalty for either the student or their school.

Democrats will launch a national campaign to recruit and retain high-quality teachers. We will ensure that teachers receive the tools and ongoing professional development they need to succeed in the classroom and provide our children with a world-class education.

We will invest in high-quality STEAM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics] classes, community schools, computer science education, arts education, and expand link-learning models and career pathways. We will end the school-to-prison pipeline by opposing discipline policies which disproportionately affect African Americans and Latinos, Native Americans and Alaska Natives, students with disabilities, and youth who identify as LGBT.

## **Ensure the Health and Safety of All Americans**

**Securing Universal Health Care.** Democrats will never falter in our generations-long fight to guarantee health care as a fundamental right for every American. As part of that guarantee, Americans should be able to access public coverage through a public option, and those over 55 should be able to opt in to Medicare. Democrats will empower the States to use innovation waivers under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to develop unique, locally tailored approaches to health coverage. This will include removing barriers to States which seek to experiment with plans to ensure universal health care to every person in their State. Democrats will fight any attempts by Republicans in Congress to privatize, voucherize, or “phase out” Medicare as we know it. We will keep fighting until the ACA’s Medicaid expansion has been adopted in every State.

**Reducing Prescription Drug Costs.** We will crack down on price gouging by drug companies and cap the amount Americans have to pay out-of-pocket every month on prescription drugs. We will prohibit anti-competitive “pay for delay” deals that keep generic drugs off the market, and we will allow individuals, pharmacists, and wholesalers to import prescription drugs from licensed pharmacies in Canada and other countries with appropriate safety protections. Democrats will also fight to make sure that Medicare will negotiate lower prices with drug manufacturers.



**Enabling Cutting-Edge Medical Research.** We must make progress against the full range of diseases, including Alzheimer's, HIV and AIDS, cancer, and other diseases, especially chronic ones. We recognize the critical importance of a fully funded National Institutes of Health to accelerate the pace of medical progress.

**Combating Drug and Alcohol Addiction.** The Democratic Party is committed to assisting the estimated 20 million people struggling with addiction in this country to find and sustain healthy lives by encouraging full recovery and integration into society and working to remove common barriers to gainful employment, housing, and education. We will continue to fight to expand access to care for addiction services, and ensure that insurance coverage is equal to that for any other health conditions.

**Treating Mental Health.** We must treat mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical health, support a robust mental health workforce, and promote better integration of the behavioral and general health care systems. We will work with health professionals to ensure that all children have access to mental health care. We must also expand community-based treatment for substance abuse disorders and mental health conditions and fully enforce our parity law.

**Securing Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice.** Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice. We will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people. We will continue to oppose — and seek to overturn — Federal and State laws and policies that impede a woman's access to abortion, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment. We will defend the ACA, which extends affordable preventive health care to women, including no-cost contraception, and prohibits discrimination in health care based on gender.

**Ending Violence Against Women.** We will continue to support the Violence Against Women Act to provide law enforcement with the tools it needs to combat this problem. We will support comprehensive services for survivors of violence and increase prevention efforts in our communities and on our campuses. Democrats will fight to bring an end to sexual assault — wherever it occurs.

**Preventing Gun Violence.** We will expand and strengthen background checks and close dangerous loopholes in our current laws; repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act to revoke the dangerous legal immunity protections gun makers and sellers now enjoy; and keep weapons of war — such as assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines (LCAMs) — off our streets. We will fight back against attempts to make it harder for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to revoke Federal licenses from law breaking gun dealers, and ensure guns do not fall into the hands of terrorists, intimate partner abusers, other violent criminals, and those with severe mental health issues. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must have the resources it needs to study gun violence as a public health issue.

## **Support Our Troops and Keep Faith with Our Veterans**

**Defense Spending.** We support a smart, predictable defense budget that meets the strategic challenges we face, not the arbitrary cuts that the Republican Congress enacted as part of sequestration. We must prioritize military readiness by making sure our Active, Reserve, and National Guard components remain

the best trained and equipped in the world. We will seek a more agile and flexible force and rid the military of outdated Cold War-era systems.

We must end waste in the defense budget. We will audit the Pentagon, launch a high-level commission to review the role of defense contractors, and take greater action against those who have been involved in fraud.

**Veterans and Service Members.** Our country has a sacred, moral responsibility to keep faith with all our veterans and wounded warriors. That is why we will push for more educational benefits and job training, end chronic homelessness and combat suicide, and protect and preserve the post-9/11 GI Bill for future generations. We will fight for every veteran to have timely access to high-quality health care and timely processing of claims and appeals. We must also look for more ways to make certain the VA [Department of Veterans Affairs] provides veteran-centric care, such as providing women with full and equal treatment, including reproductive health services; expanding mental health programs; continuing efforts to identify and treat invisible, latent, and toxic wounds of war; treating post-traumatic stress; and expanding the post-9/11 veteran's caregiver program to include all veterans. We reject attempts by Republicans to sell out the needs of veterans by privatizing the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## Confront Global Threats

**Terrorism.** We must defeat ISIS [Islamic State of Iraq and Syria], al Qaeda, and their affiliates, and prevent other groups from emerging in their place. Democrats will continue to lead a broad coalition of allies and partners to destroy ISIS's stronghold in Iraq and Syria. We will dismantle the global network of terror, which supplies terrorists with money, arms, and fighters, and stop them from recruiting and inspiring potential radicals. We will improve our intelligence capabilities, with appropriate safeguards here at home, and ensure that the intelligence community and law enforcement is prepared to deal effectively with the threats we face. We will harden our defenses as well as those of our partners against external and homegrown threats. We will secure the homeland, investing more resources to improve mass transit, aviation, infrastructure, and port security.

We reject Donald Trump's vilification of Muslims. It violates the religious freedom that is the bedrock of our country and feeds into ISIS's nefarious narrative. It also alienates people and countries who are crucial to defeating terrorism; the vast majority of Muslims believe in a future of peace and tolerance. We reject Donald Trump's suggestion that our military should engage in war crimes, like torturing prisoners or murdering civilian family members of suspected terrorists. We also firmly reject Donald Trump's willingness to mire tens of thousands of our combat troops in another misguided ground war in the Middle East, which would only further embolden ISIS.

**Syria.** Democrats will root out ISIS and other terrorist groups and bring together the moderate Syrian opposition, international community, and our regional allies to reach a negotiated political transition that ends Assad's rule. It is also imperative that we lead the international community in providing greater humanitarian assistance to the civilian victims of war in Syria and Iraq, especially displaced refugees.

**Afghanistan.** In Afghanistan, we will work with the NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization]-led coalition of partners to bolster the democratically elected government as it assumes a primary role in

tackling terrorism, forges a more secure future for the country, and safeguards advances, like securing women's rights.

**Iran.** We support the nuclear agreement with Iran because, as it is vigorously enforced and implemented, it verifiably cuts off all of Iran's pathways to a bomb without resorting to war. We will continue the work of this Administration to ensure that Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon and will not hesitate to take military action if Iran races towards one.

Democrats will also address the detrimental role Iran plays in the region and will robustly enforce and, if necessary, strengthen non-nuclear sanctions. Democrats will push back against Iran's destabilizing activities, including its support for terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah, counter Iran's ballistic missile program, bolster the capabilities of our Gulf partners, and ensure that Israel always has the ability to defend itself.

**North Korea.** North Korea has conducted several nuclear tests and is attempting to develop the capability to put a nuclear warhead on a long-range missile that could directly threaten the United States. The regime is also responsible for grave human rights abuses against the North Korean people. Democrats will protect America and our allies, press China to restrain North Korea, and sharpen the choices for Pyongyang to compel it to abandon its illegal nuclear and missile programs.

**Russia.** Russia is engaging in destabilizing actions along its borders, violating Ukraine's sovereignty, and attempting to recreate spheres of influence that undermine American interests. It is also propping up the Assad regime in Syria, which is brutally attacking its own citizens. We believe in strong alliances and will deter Russian aggression, build European resilience, and protect our NATO allies. We will make it clear to Putin that we are prepared to cooperate with him when it is in our interest but we will not hesitate to stand up to Russian aggression. We will also continue to push the government to respect the fundamental rights of its citizens.

**Cybersecurity and Online Privacy.** We will strengthen our cybersecurity, seek to establish global norms in cyberspace, and impose consequences on those who violate the rules. We will protect the privacy and civil liberties of the American people — standing firm against the type of warrantless surveillance of American citizens that flourished during the Bush Administration. We support recent reforms to government bulk data collection programs so the government is not collecting and holding millions of files on innocent Americans.

**Non-Proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Weapons.** Democrats want to reduce the number of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons around the world, as well as their means of delivery, while retaining a strong deterrent as long as others maintain nuclear strike capabilities. We will push for the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and stop the spread of loose nuclear material. Democrats will work to reduce excessive spending on nuclear weapons-related programs.

**Global Climate Leadership.** We believe the United States must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat on a scale not seen since World War II. In the first 100 days of the

next administration, the President will convene a summit of the world's best engineers, climate scientists, policy experts, activists, and indigenous communities to chart a course to solve the climate crisis.

We will not only meet the goals we set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support developing countries in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and invest in climate resilience and adaptation. We are against putting the region at risk through drilling in the Arctic Ocean or the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

## Protect Our Values

**Women and Girls.** Democrats are committed to advancing the rights and opportunities of women and girls and will continue to support the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. In addition to expanding the availability of affordable family planning information and contraceptive supplies, we believe that safe abortion must be part of comprehensive maternal and women's health care.

**Trafficking and Modern Slavery.** We will stop the scourge of human trafficking and modern slavery of men, women, boys, and girls. We call for increased diplomatic efforts with foreign governments to root out complicit public officials who facilitate or perpetrate this evil. We will also work to increase the provision of services and protections for trafficking survivors.

**Refugees.** The world is experiencing a major refugee crisis, with more than 60 million people displaced as a result of conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. We support President Obama's call for an international summit to address this crisis so that every country assumes its responsibility to meet this humanitarian challenge.

**Closing Guantánamo Bay.** The Democratic Party remains committed to closing the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay and ending indefinite detention without trial or conviction.

**Global Health.** America has made critical investments in global health, including in the areas of maternal and child health, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. It is vital that we continue this work — which has saved millions of lives around the world and is essential to our nation's health security. Democrats are ready to limit the reach of Zika — just as we did with Ebola — and support funding for diagnostic tests for the virus, vaccine, and treatment. We will also prepare for potential pandemics by working with first responders and health officials to reduce the risks associated with unintentional or deliberate outbreaks of infectious diseases.

## Leader in the World

**Asia-Pacific.** We will deepen our relationships in the region with Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand. We will honor our historic commitment to Japan. We will continue to invest in a long-term strategic partnership with India. We will stand up to Beijing on unfair trade practices, currency manipulation, censorship of the Internet, piracy, and cyberattacks. And we will look for areas of cooperation, including on combatting climate change and nuclear proliferation. We will promote greater respect for human rights, including the rights of Tibetans. We are committed to a "One

China” policy and will continue to support a peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues that is consistent with the wishes and best interests of the people of Taiwan.

**Middle East.** Democrats will push for more inclusive governance in Iraq and Syria that respects the equal rights of all citizens; provide support and security for Lebanon and Jordan; maintain our robust security cooperation with Gulf countries; and stand by the people of the region as they seek greater economic opportunity and freedom. We will always support Israel’s right to defend itself, including by retaining its qualitative military edge, and oppose any effort to delegitimize Israel. We will continue to work toward a two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that guarantees Israel’s future as a secure and democratic Jewish State with recognized borders and provides the Palestinians with independence, sovereignty, and dignity.

**Europe.** Democrats will stand with our European allies and partners to deter Russian aggression, address security challenges to Europe’s south, and deal with unprecedented economic and social challenges. We will maintain our steadfast commitment to the United Kingdom and the transatlantic partnership with the European Union. We will seek to strengthen our strategic partnership with Turkey while pushing for reforms and continue to support a close relationship with States that seek to strengthen their ties to NATO and Europe. We will maintain our collective security commitments to NATO because we are stronger when we have our allies at our side. And we will continue to push NATO members to contribute their fair share.

**Americas.** We will pursue strong, fruitful partnerships across the region, from Canada to Latin America and the Caribbean. We will strengthen the U.S.–Caribbean regional relationship through economic development and comprehensive immigration reform. In Cuba, we will build on President Obama’s historic opening and end the travel ban and embargo. We will also stand by the Cuban people and support their ability to decide their own future. In Venezuela, we will push the government to respect human rights and respond to the will of its people. In Haiti, we will support local and international efforts to bolster the country’s democratic institutions and economic development.

**Africa.** Democrats will strengthen our partnership and collaboration with the African Union, emphasizing trade while increasing development assistance to bolster the continent’s domestic economies. We will engage our African partners on the full range of global challenges and opportunities, and we will continue to strengthen democratic institutions and human rights, fair trade and investment, development, and global health.

**Global Economy and Institutions.** Democrats believe that global institutions and multilateral organizations have a powerful role to play and are an important amplifier of American strength and influence. Many of these organizations need reform and updating, but it would be reckless to turn our back on the international system that our country built. It has provided decades of stability and economic growth for the world and for America.