

Charlie Angus Campaign – Response to CJPME Questionnaire

1. *As a leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, how strongly would you support linking Canada's commercial and diplomatic relations with the Middle East to the human rights record of the governments in question?*

While it is critical not to reward regimes with atrocious human rights records with military and economic support, it is also important to remember that citizens are not their governments, and that any diplomatic or commercial restrictions need to consider human welfare.

2. *As a leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, to what degree would you believe Islamophobia requires special attention at this time in Canada?*

Anti-Muslim sentiment is becoming increasingly worrying, with right-wing groups gaining in public visibility and organization. Special attention should be taken in monitoring and investigating violent anti-Muslim groups.

3. *As a leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, please indicate how closely you believe Canada should adhere to the proposed mechanisms set forth in the International Arms Trade Treaty?*

Given the role of Canadian weapons in aggravating Middle Eastern conflicts, I believe that our exports deserve the utmost scrutiny.

4. *As a leader of the NDP, please select your position, from 1 to 5 below, on whether you would acquiesce to this voting of the Trudeau government at the UN, or whether you would oppose it?*

I would oppose Justin Trudeau's voting pattern at the UN, and would support resolutions that further the peace process in Israel and Palestine and recognize the right of the Palestinian people to the occupied territories.

5. *As a leader of the NDP, please select your position, from 1 to 5 below, on what position you would take vis-à-vis Canada and the international BDS movement.*

I stand opposed, and have publicly stood opposed in the House in the past, to any legislative condemnations of BDS because I believe that such a thing is wholly inappropriate for a peaceful civil society movement in a free, democratic society.

6. *As leader of the NDP, on a scale of from 1 to 5 below, would you favour action on this issue, such as the mandatory labelling of such products, or banning the entry of such products into Canada, as is the policy of the Green Party of Canada?*

Settlements in the occupied territories are among the biggest obstacles to lasting peace. I would consider labelling practices currently used in European Union member countries for goods coming from settlements in the occupied territories.

7. *Given the decades-long stalemate, and the day-to-day reality of millions of Palestinians living under a seemingly permanent regime of military rule, as NDP leader, would you support the use of targeted sanctions against Israel – e.g. such as military embargo – in order to pressure Israel into ending its military occupation of Palestinian land, and to negotiate in good faith towards the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state?*

I believe that sanctions almost inevitably serve to harden the resolve of targeted countries and regimes and to allow governments an easy scapegoat for their own shortcomings. As such, I do not think that sanctions are appropriate and will not help reach a lasting peace.

8. *As leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, would you consider a moratorium on NDP MPs accepting all-expenses paid trips to the region, until such trips give equal attention to the Palestinian narrative on the conflict?*

While I believe that sponsored fact-finding delegations of parliamentarians do have a role to play, their emphasis should be on fact-finding and not be taken as junkets intended to bias MPs to one side. All the same, I would be hesitant as leader to impose such a ban. I believe that MPs should be free to use their own judgment in accepting or rejecting such offers.

9. *As leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, to what degree would you oppose efforts to conflate criticisms of Israel's foundational laws and its policies with Antisemitism?*

The Ottawa Protocol embodies laudable values, but care must be taken to preserve the realm of legitimate disagreement over policies and the freedom to express those disagreements.

10. *As leader of the NDP, on a scale from 1 to 5 below, would you welcome efforts led by progressive Jewish Canadians to have the Minister of National Revenue initiate the review of JNF Canada's charitable status, to ensure that Canadian taxpayers do not*

subsidize discrimination?

I believe in grassroots advocacy and believe firmly in their right to take up progressive causes.