

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Monday, January 29, 2024, at 1 pm

Barbara Dudley and Barbara Byrd, co discussion leaders, and Carol Penn, notetaker

Topics suggested by members in the League's 10-23 survey

Israel-Hamas: the tangled mess of Semitic history

The Palestinian experience

The war in Ukraine

Trauma for families and children

Immigration from Africa, the Middle East, Ukraine, China, South America and Central America

The effect on the US budget, on defense spending

The effect on America's relations with other countries

"Where is the place that works to benefit all citizens - support for families below poverty level, the humane treatment of houseless people and mentally ill people and people of color? What form of government does this? What culture?"

LWVPDX POSITIONS relevant to humanitarian crises-international relations

The page #s below are those in the **LWVPDX of Portland: Positions updated June 2023**
<http://lwvpdx.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/LWVPDX-Positions-June-2023.pdf>

Housing and Homelessness in Multnomah County (approved by concurrence May 2023) page 10

Support of equal opportunity in housing.

Support of measures to provide programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Multnomah County residents. Support for action at all levels of local government for the provision of affordable housing for all Multnomah County residents.

Details:

1. Programs and policies to provide equal opportunity for access to housing without discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.
2. An overall plan for development with integration of housing, land use and transportation and with attention to factors such as natural resources and basic human needs.
3. Financial assistance in the form of grants, loans, tax incentives and other means to encourage housing construction and rehabilitation.
 - a. Broad guidelines for use of these funds with more local decision making.
 - b. Use of fiscal incentives and disincentives to encourage enforcement of housing law.
 - c. Enforcement of use of redevelopment set-aside funds for low- and moderate-income housing.
4. Standardization and modernization of local building and zoning codes to conform with applicable codes that:
 - a. are enforced by trained inspectors
 - b. encourage new and innovative building materials and methods that can be used to cut housing construction costs
 - c. encourage the use of density bonuses; mixed, cluster and inclusionary zoning; second units; infill development; air rights; and increased density along transportation corridors.
5. Protection of the rights of both tenants and landlords.
6. Removal of barriers that inhibit the construction of low- and moderate-income housing.
7. Education of local communities concerning the need for affordable housing and methods by which this can be attained.

Teenage Girls at Risk (1995) page 12

The League of Women Voters of Portland, Oregon supports equal access to appropriate services for at risk girls and boys. These services should be comprehensive in nature and should include outreach, treatment and follow-up.

We support:

- Appropriate services that include consideration of gender, developmental phase, intellectual capacity, cultural identification, sexual orientation, as well as mental and physical clinical considerations.
- A comprehensive service directory plan that includes outreach, emergency services, case management, individual and family counseling, housing and follow-up. Effectiveness of these programs should be evaluated periodically.
- Emphasis on early detection and prevention of child abuse.
- The teaching of parenting skills.
- Strategies to prevent teenage pregnancy which include the following: school-based health centers, sex education programs, teacher training, and the availability of a range of contraceptives at the school-based health clinics.
- Group homes and improved foster care for youth under age 16 in need of housing. Group homes as part of transition services for youth leaving residential treatment programs.
- Gender specific drug and alcohol treatment programs.

(These two LWVPDX positions are included here because they represent our League's humanitarian support of housing and of appropriate services for families, for children of all genders, and for all residents of our community where needed.)

LWVUS Positions relevant to humanitarian crises - international relations

The page #s below are those in the **LWVUS Impact on Issues 2022-2024**

<https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues> Click on purple box to pull up document; click on page # to read position

US Relations with Developing Countries (1986) page 80

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that US interests in developing countries should reflect the reality of global interdependence. Paramount among these interests are reducing the risk of military conflict, promoting the sound management of global resources, protecting human rights,

stimulating economic growth, and improving the quality of life in developing countries. US policies toward developing countries should not be based on maintaining US preeminence.

LWVUS strongly believes that development assistance, which is designed to meet the long-term social and economic needs of developing countries, is the most effective means of promoting legitimate US interests. Military assistance and the direct military involvement of US forces are not appropriate means to further the League's stated paramount interests in developing countries.

Developing countries should not be the pawns or the playing fields for geopolitical competition. The relationship between the superpowers should not be an important factor in determining US policies toward developing countries. LWVUS supports efforts to reduce international competition in developing countries, including:

- Enhancing the role of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations.
- Supporting regional approaches to conflict resolution.
- Encouraging cooperative efforts to promote the sound management of global resources and improve the quality of life.
- Promoting measures to reduce tensions and increase communication, including scientific and cultural exchanges and other cooperative programs.

To read more of the history of this position, see pages 80-84, which begins with "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that long-term requirements for world peace, humanitarian obligations, and long-range national interests demand US policies that help developing countries reach self-sustaining economic growth."

Immigration (2008): page 143

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the United States.

To complement these goals, the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for individuals already living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the United States

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens.
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries.
- Economic, business, and employment needs in the United States.
- Education and training needs of the United States.
- Educational program opportunities.
- Lack of a history of major and/or violent criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status.
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers.
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers.
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies.

- More-effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States.
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the United States to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

US Residents Without Legal Permission to Earn Legal Status

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for individuals living in the country without legal permission to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, studying civics, and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting these immigrants who have no history of major and/or violent criminal activity.

Note: The book, My Promised Land, by Ari Shavit (read by the book group that includes Debbie Kaye, Jan Wolf and Judy Froemke) gives an even-handed history of Judea, Palestine, now Israel and explains the deep-seated hatred, rage and fears that exist in that land.