

December 29, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I have found you to be a governor who listens and evaluates situations with an open mind and commitment to justice and human integrity, and I ask that you please apply those same values and qualities to your upcoming role as US Ambassador to the United Nations, most especially in regard to the Israeli - Palestinian conflict.

I am an advocate for Israel to be a state, and I understand the need for a people who have been systematically persecuted to need a homeland. However, I do not understand how a people who have been victims themselves can feel that victimizing another group is justified. There are two sides to every story. I implore you to look honestly at both sides of this conflict, to read extensively regarding both perspectives, and to speak firsthand with organizations where Israelis and Palestinians have worked diligently for peace among their people. There are many such organizations who decry the violence on both sides and believe that coexistence and mutual respect are the only solution. I commend to you the book *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*, written by Sandy Tolan, as a place to begin.

Governor Haley, I confess that I did not vote for you the first time you ran for office; however, you won me over with your calm, fair-minded, and measured response to the many crises that have confronted our state under your watch. I especially valued the way you handled the Mother Immanuel shooting and the subsequent removal of the Confederate flag from the statehouse grounds. I know that was not popular among much of your base, but you allowed human dignity and justice to inform your actions in a way that respected all voices. I implore you to bring that same measured evaluation and respect for human dignity and justice to your new role. The world, and especially the incoming administration, desperately need a thoughtful and measured voice that is able to look broadly and judge rationally with respect for all parties.

Governor Haley, you are the one bright spot for me in this new administration. I trust you and your track record in South Carolina, so I will hang on to that bright spot! I wish you well in your new role, and I pray you may bring grace and respect to the US positions in the world.

Respectfully,  
Flora McInnis Hobson  
Greenwood, South Carolina

