



2024 Conference: Progressive Foreign Policy as a Political Force February 6, 2024

PROGRAM

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM - 1:20 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks Dr. Diana Ohlbaum, Chair of the Board of Directors, Center for International Policy Dr. Nancy Okail, President & CEO, Center for International Policy
1:20 PM - 2:15 PM	Prioritizing a Progressive Foreign Policy Agenda As 2024 opens with active conflicts in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa, as well as dire threats to democracy, global climate and health, what should progressives urge US and world leaders to prioritize as achievable objectives? Is current US foreign policy on track toward meeting these critical goals, and if not, how could it be reoriented to do so? A panel of top experts will explore the current challenges to human security and the opportunities for progressive advocates to shape a more constructive approach to foreign policy. <u>Panel:</u> María José Espinosa Carrillo, Executive Director, Center for Democracy in the Americas; CIP Senior Non-Resident Fellow Terrell Jermaine Starr, Journalist, <i>Black Diplomats</i> podcast; CIP Senior Non-Resident Fellow Ali Wyne, U.S.-China Senior Research and Advocacy Advisor, International Crisis Group Moderator: Nancy Okail, President & CEO, Center for International Policy
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Coffee Break

2:30 PM - 3:25 PM

Congress and Progressive Foreign Policy

Congressional action defines much of the legal and political space in which the president can act in international affairs. In this panel, some of Congress' most prominent voices for new directions in US foreign policy will identify the key challenges and opportunities for lawmakers to shape American priorities on the world stage and advance broadly shared interests and human security -- and how progressive movements can help.

Panel:

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA-7)

Congressman Jason Crow (CO-6)

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (MN-5)

Moderator: Matt Duss, Executive Vice President, Center for International Policy

3:25 PM - 4:20 PM

The Political Necessity of a New Foreign Policy

Polling indicates that foreign policy issues are having a material impact on voters' decision making in 2024. A panel of some of the nation's most experienced advocates will explore the lessons both for politicians and progressive activists about how to harness this focus and momentum for positive change, as well as the costs of failure to do so.

Panel:

Rahna Epting, Executive Director, MoveOn

Cathy Feingold, Director of the International Department, AFL-CIO

Patrick Gaspard, President and CEO, Center for American Progress

Sara Haghdoosti, Executive Director, Win Without War

Moderator: Nayyera Haq, Journalist and Host, SiriusXM Talk Radio

4:20 PM - 5:00 PM

Keynote Address

Senator Bernie Sanders (VT)

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Happy Hour

About our Presenters

Congressman Jason Crow represents Colorado's Sixth Congressional District, encompassing Aurora and parts of Arapahoe, Adams, and Douglas Counties. A former Army Ranger and Bronze Star recipient, Rep. Crow served in the Army's storied 82nd Airborne Division and in the elite 75th Ranger Regiment, deploying to both Iraq and Afghanistan. Following his military service, Rep. Crow worked as an attorney helping veterans across Colorado, being named Denver's Pro-bono Lawyer of the Year for work helping service members transition from military to civilian life. Rep. Crow serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and House Foreign Affairs Committee, on which he is the Ranking Democrat of the Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee.

Matt Duss is Executive Vice President of the Center for International Policy. Before joining CIP, Duss was a visiting scholar in the American Statecraft Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. From 2017-22, Duss was foreign policy advisor to Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt). From 2014-17, Duss was the president of the Foundation for Middle East Peace. From 2008-14 Duss was a National Security and International Policy analyst at the Center for American Progress. Duss's work has been widely published, including in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, The Nation, The American Prospect, and Foreign Policy.

Rahna Epting is the Executive Director of MoveOn, the member-led grassroots progressive organization working to make this country a place where everyone can thrive. Rahna leads both MoveOn Civic Action, which works to advance progressive policies and social change, and MoveOn Political Action, which works to elect candidates who are committed to standing up for an inclusive, progressive agenda. Rahna has led issue and electoral campaigning at MoveOn in the Chief of Program and Election Program Managing Director roles. Previously, she served as Chief of Staff at Every Voice, where she managed state and national campaigns to make democracy work for everyone. Prior to joining Every Voice, Rahna worked at the Service Employees International Union in various capacities.

María José Espinosa Carrillo is the Executive Director of the Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA) and a CIP Senior Non-Resident Fellow. A foreign policy expert and economist with over fifteen years of experience in policy research, advocacy, and international relations, she has developed advocacy, policy recommendations, and communication strategies, focusing on regional migration, U.S.-Cuba relations, LGBTQI+, and women's rights. She has been a driving force in fostering dialogue and amplifying voices from Latin America and the Caribbean within the U.S. policy sphere. Earlier in her career, Espinosa Carrillo worked as an international affairs analyst on economic, political, and social implications of U.S. relations with Asia and Oceania. She began her career as a professor in the School of Economics at the University of Havana. María José was recognized by New America as one of the 2020 Latino National Security & Foreign Policy Next Generation Leaders. In 2024, she was selected as a National LIO Yearlong Fellow at the Rockwood Leadership Institute.

Cathy Feingold is Director of the International Department at the AFL-CIO. A leading advocate on global workers' rights issues, Feingold is a committed and passionate advocate, strategic campaigner and policy expert. In 2018, Feingold was elected Deputy President of the International Trade Union Confederation, the organization representing 200 million unionized workers worldwide. She brings more than 20 years of experience in trade and global economic policy, and worker, human and women's rights issues. In 2022, Secretary Blinken appointed Feingold to his Foreign Affairs Policy Board where she provides input on a worker centered foreign policy agenda. She leads coalition efforts to shape global labor standards, including the recently ratified International Labor Organization Convention 190 to eliminate violence and harassment at work.

Patrick Gaspard is the president and chief executive officer of the Center for American Progress and the chief executive officer of the Center for American Progress Action Fund. Gaspard was a key figure in President Barack Obama's administration and held a number of prominent positions during Obama's two terms in office, including serving as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of South Africa in the second term. From the fall 2011 until the spring 2013, Gaspard served as executive director of the Democratic National Committee. From 2009 until 2011, he was assistant to the president and director of the White House Office of Political Affairs. Gaspard most recently served as the president of the Open Society Foundations, where he confronted significant threats to open societies around the globe, including the rise of authoritarian regimes and the spread of COVID-19 worldwide.

Sara Haghdosti is the Executive Director of Win Without War and Win Without War Education Fund, a diverse network of activists and organizations working for a more peaceful, progressive U.S. foreign policy. A foreign policy expert with a unique background in political organizing and campaigning, Sara has spent more than a decade advocating for diplomatic solutions over failed military responses to crises involving nuclear non-proliferation, climate change, women's rights, and democracy. At Win Without War, Sara leads day-to-day operations, development, and organizational strategy. She previously worked at the Mozilla Foundation, Change.org, and GetUp Australia.

Nayyera Haq is a broadcast journalist and hosts hours of conversation on SiriusXM talk radio. She launched and hosted the nightly newscast, The World Tonight and was Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for the Black News Channel. Haq leads conversations in response to breaking news, helping people around the country understand the political and social currents of the moment. Nayyera's insights and personal appeal make her a regular television guest of hosts like Bill Maher, Joy Reid, and Jake Tapper. She publishes in outlets as varied as The Daily Beast, The Washington Post, Refinery 29, and The Root. Nayyera previously served as a Senior Director in the White House and Senior Advisor at the State Department during the administration of President Barack Obama.

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal represents Washington's 7th District, which encompasses most of Seattle and its surrounding areas. The first South Asian American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Jayapal is a member of the House Judiciary Committee, where she serves as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement. She also serves on the House Education and the Workforce Committee. She is the Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which represents nearly 50% of the entire Democratic caucus. Prior to serving in elected office, Rep. Jayapal spent twenty years working internationally and domestically in global public health and development and as an award-winning national advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights.

Dr. Diana Ohlbaum is the Chair of the CIP Board of Directors. Most recently, Dr. Ohlbaum served as Senior Strategist and Legislative Director for Foreign Policy at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Quaker peace lobby. From 2013-2018, Dr. Ohlbaum ran an independent consulting firm specializing in advocacy, political strategy, and legislative impact. For nearly 20 years before that, she served as a Senior Professional Staff Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. During the Clinton administration, Dr. Ohlbaum served as Deputy Director of USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives, and after that, as Director of Public Policy for InterAction, an alliance of NGOs engaged in humanitarian relief and international development.

Dr. Nancy Okail is President and CEO of the Center for International Policy. Dr. Okail is a leading scholar, policy analyst, and advocate with more than 20 years of experience working on issues of human rights, democracy, and security in the Middle East and North Africa region. In 2020, Okail was appointed as a visiting scholar at the Center for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) at Stanford University, focusing on accountability and the intersection of human rights and technology. Prior to joining Stanford, she served as Executive Director of the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP), which under her leadership became an internationally renowned policy research organization. Before coming to the United States, Okail worked on, managed, and evaluated foreign aid programs for several international organizations, including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar represents Minnesota's 5th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, which includes Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs. Rep. Omar is the first African refugee to become a Member of Congress, the first woman of color to represent Minnesota, and one of the first two Muslim-American women elected to Congress. Rep. Omar is the Vice-Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee. She also serves on the House Education and Workforce Committee, where she is a member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, Pensions (HELP). She is the Deputy Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Before running for office, she worked as a community educator at the University of Minnesota, was a Policy Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and served as a Senior Policy Aide for the Minneapolis City Council.

Senator Bernie Sanders is serving his third term representing Vermont in the United States Senate. Sen. Sanders Chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, and previously chaired both the Senate Budget and Veterans Affairs committees. Prior to being elected to the Senate, he represented Vermont for 16 years in the House of Representatives, and served four terms as Mayor of Burlington. Dubbed by the Almanac of American Politics as a “practical and successful legislator,” Sen. Sanders has focused throughout his career on the shrinking middle class and growing income and wealth gaps. A renowned champion for workers’ and human rights in the United States and around the world, Sen. Sanders has led several unprecedented legislative efforts to counter corporate greed, autocracy and violations of international humanitarian law.

Terrell Jermaine Starr is a journalist and the founder and host of *Black Diplomats*, a weekly podcast reporting on foreign affairs and Eastern European politics. Starr has been a Fulbright grantee and was formerly a nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center. Conversant in Russian, Ukrainian, and Georgian, he is a recognized authority on Ukraine-U.S. relations, Georgian politics, Central Asia, and American democracy. He was in Kyiv when the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in 2022 and his live, on-the-ground video stories for television networks such as CNN, MSNBC, and Al Jazeera Starr’s sixteen years in journalism include stints as FUSION’s national political correspondent covering the 2016 presidential campaign. From 2017 to 2021, he served as The Root’s national political correspondent.

Ali Wyne is International Crisis Group’s Senior Research and Advocacy Advisor, U.S.-China. He previously worked at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (2008-09), the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (2009-12), the State Department (2013), the RAND Corporation (2017-20), and Eurasia Group (2020-23). He has also been a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security and a nonresident fellow at the Modern War Institute. Ali is a security fellow with the Truman National Security Project, a former term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a former David Rockefeller fellow with the Trilateral Commission. He is the author of “*America’s Great-Power Opportunity: Revitalizing U.S. Foreign Policy to Meet the Challenges of Strategic Competition.*”