

# CONNECTICUT POST

## Opinion: Where has the Democratic Party gone?

By Edward L. Marcus  
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*Photo: Associated Press*

*U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn, right, speaks, as U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich. listens, during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington.*

Where has the Democratic Party gone? That was a recent cry from Donald Trump. The basis for this comment was another press conference held by Congresswomen Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.

This one reinforced their continued heavy support of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, which advocates cutting ties with Israel until it ends what they consider to be the occupation of the West Bank. They have a right to their opinion, even as it is obviously anti-Israel and quite clearly, especially based on their previous statements and actions, seriously anti-Semitic.

Are they now the voice of the Democratic Party? No.

They are as much the voice of the Democratic Party as Trump is the voice of the American people.

However, the three of them — Trump, Omar and Tlaib — are feeding the hate mongers.

No one in the Democratic Party, at least that I know of, supports the hate and racial and religious divisions preached by Trump, Omar and Tlaib. But the vast majority of us support their right to say what they wish. It is up to the electorate to make a decision on the three of them in 2020.

Omar and Tlaib are in their first two-year term. They should be viewing this neophyte status as a learning experience. Instead they are embarrassingly hungry for news coverage, almost all of it negative, reinforcing Trump's promotion of hate, intolerance and bigotry.

How amazing that two supposedly far-left Congresswomen are using the same tactics as right-wing Trump!

The Democratic Party is still a party of the center and must resist any move to push it further to the left where people like Omar and Tlaib could easily become the norm. Extremism on the far left can be just as divisive as extremism on the far right.

What will Omar and Tlaib do when it is time to vote on matters that are vital to U.S. interests in the Mideast and Israel, the only country in that area that is with us no matter what? Will they criticize the flagrant human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations? Or will they only criticize Israel as it tries to defend against attacks on Israeli civilians, including schoolchildren?

Meanwhile, Trump just doesn't get it — no surprise since he has shown himself to be totally ignorant about American history or for that matter our Constitution. He has forgotten, if he ever knew, that free speech is one of the inalienable rights that you hold as an American citizen.

I don't like what Omar and Tlaib are saying. Unlike Trump, I do support their right to voice their opinion, however absurd it may seem. It seems that Trump, on the other hand, is not a supporter

of free speech, whether it is with Omar and Tlaib, with the news media or with anyone challenging his own hateful rhetoric.

Clearly, the Democratic Party is weakened by the rhetoric of people like Omar and Tlaib. Nevertheless, “dump Trump” will become fact in 2020 — provided Democrats nominate an electable candidate. So far there appears to be only one candidate that is a sure bet to swamp Trump and that is Joe Biden.

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