



Participating Organizations

Alexandria for Palestine
 Alliance of Baptists
 American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
 American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)
 Appalachian Peace Education Center (APEC)
 Arab American Association of Central Virginia
 Central Atlantic Conference (UCC) Palestine/Israel Network
 Defenders for Freedom, Justice, and Equality
 Episcopal Peace Fellowship—National Capital Regional Chapter
 Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church – USA (IPMN)
 Here4TheKids
 Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)
 National Arab American Women’s Association (NAAWA)
 New Dominion PAC
 Northern Virginians for Peace & Justice
 Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace (PCAP)
 Plowshares Peace & Justice Center
 Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine (RPIP)
 Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, Northern Virginia Chapter
 United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
 US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR)
 Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace (WIAMEP)

VCHR Urges General Assembly to Reject HB2438

The Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR) calls on the General Assembly of Virginia to reject [HB2438](#) – “A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-2241.2, 15.2-2288.7, and 15.2-2288.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to local regulation of solar facilities; special exceptions.” This bill would override the authority of local government in its review of utility-scale solar power plants and battery storage systems. This state override would usurp the civil rights of Virginians to live in communities that are governed by democratically elected bodies and would usurp the human rights of Virginians to live in environments free from toxic trespass.

HB2438 requires that local governing boards utilize only a state-mandated solar ordinance, whereas VCHR believes that land-use decisions should be made at the local level by Virginians utilizing their own zoning regulations.

HB2438 also places undue burden on local governing boards and county taxpayers by the weakening of financial assurances for developers of utility-scale solar power plants. These assurances, as written in HB2438, while they appear to protect counties, would, by design, allow industrial scale solar power developers to prioritize profits and socialize liabilities. Counties and residents may get left paying the bill.

We strongly urge the General Assembly to reject this anti-democratic and patriarchal bill, which would preempt the right of local communities to govern their own land use.

The Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR) is a broadly based grass-roots coalition that advocates for Palestinian human rights. We support and defend universal human rights, equity, free speech (including the right to boycott) and academic freedom. We believe that the attainment of human rights, equal rights, and civil rights, requires an open and free debate, and we object to any efforts to curtail or forestall such debate by placing limits on free speech or academic freedom. We oppose all types of racism, oppression, and violations of international law wherever they occur; and we also oppose hate speech, and any type of discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin, wherever it may occur, domestically or abroad. We celebrate our diversity and strongly oppose any manifestation of racism against anyone. <https://vchr.org/>.