**Press Release: Rubio Commends Trump Administration’s Decision to Withdraw from UNESCO**

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Senator Marco Rubio

<https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ContentRecord_id=11553FCF-B671-406D-900C-3403EFA199AE>

Melbourne, FL—U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) today commended the Trump Administration’s decision to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in response to mounting counterproductive efforts by member states of UNESCO to discriminate against and target the Jewish state of Israel.

“As ISIS commits genocide and destroys historical and cultural heritage sites throughout the Middle East, the majority of UNESCO’s member states have chosen instead to advance a discriminatory and counterproductive anti-Israel agenda, including the repeated passage of measures that deny any connection between Jews and Christians and the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, and other holy sites in Jerusalem,” said Rubio. “Until UNESCO’s member states end their anti-Israel agenda, the Trump Administration is right to withdraw the United States from UNESCO and uphold U.S. laws that forbid American taxpayer money from going to this organization.”

In April 2017, Senators Rubio and Christopher Coons (D-DE) led a letter signed by all 100 Senators urging U.N. Secretary General António Guterres to counter anti-Israel bias at the United Nations, including at UNESCO.

In October 2016, Senators Rubio, Mark Kirk (R-IL), David Perdue (R-GA) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) urged President Obama to suspend ties with UNESCO after its member states adopted yet another anti-Israel resolution denying any connection between Jews and Christians and holy sites in Jerusalem.

And in December 2015, Senators Rubio and Kirk successfully blocked the Obama Administration’s plan to create a back-door mechanism to send American taxpayer money to UNESCO after its member states voted to grant membership to the non-state actor of “Palestine” in October 2011. U.S. laws require the United States to withhold taxpayer funding to any U.N. organization that grants membership to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) or “any organization or group that does not have the internationally recognized attributes of statehood.”