The Global Marshall Plan

I call upon my elected representatives to the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, State Legislature, and City and County elected officials to pass a resolution in support of the Global Marshall Plan and calling on the federal government to begin planning how to best implement the ideas as specified in the Network of Spiritual Progressives' version, to wit:

1. Using between 1–2% of our US Gross Domestic Product and of the GDP of other advanced industrial countries to once and for all end both Domestic and Global poverty, homelessness, hunger, inadequate education, inadequate health care and to repair the global environment.

2. Creating an international board and local national boards composed of the poor, NGOs serving the poor or struggling for social justice, cultural, spiritual, intellectual and religious leaders with a proven history of commitment to social justice struggles, who in turn will employ economists, social planners, and experts in health, education and welfare who are committed to the goals of this project and who will ensure that the funds do not get siphoned off to the government, or to economic or other power elites, or to projects that do not provide education, healthcare and elimination of poverty.

3. Changing all global and regional trade agreements so that they no longer primarily serve the interests of the advanced industrial countries or local elites in poorer countries. These agreements should aide in re-establishing local ecologically-sensitive farming and providing free quality water so that the recipient countries are better able to feed themselves.

4. Implementing this plan in a spirit of ecological and cultural sensitivity and humility (recognizing that our greater wealth has not necessarily been accompanied by greater wisdom or spiritual depth and that their poverty has often been a result of the way the West has exercised its global power).

5. Funding this plan through cut-backs in military expenditures and through a 1% tax on all global financial transactions of over one million dollars and by taxes on the super-wealthy (anyone owning more than one hundred million dollars in assets and oil companies making after-tax-profits of more than a billion dollars, except those profits reinvested in developing sustainable and environmentally-friendly public transportation and alternative energy sources).

NETWORK OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESSIVES

www.spiritualprogressives.org

Name _____ Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

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Email _____ Email _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

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Please return this to the Network of Spiritual Progressives, Global Marshall Plan Campaign
2342 Shattuck Ave, Suite 1200, Berkeley, California 94704.

Why I support the NSP version of the

Global Marshall Plan

Congressman Keith Ellison

Dear Network of Spiritual Progressives:

I'm proud to be working with you to build a campaign for a Global Marshall Plan along lines that you have developed on your website www.spiritualprogressives.org. Rabbi Michael Lerner and I have great respect for each other, and frankly I'm happy that this initiative comes from cooperation between me, the first Muslim elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and a rabbi well known for his commitment to peace, social justice and ecological sanity for our planet.

I have introduced into the House of Representatives House Resolution 1078 endorsing the Global Marshall Plan. I'm also glad to have been joined in this effort by the following Members of Congress who have signed on as co-sponsors in the House: Emmanuel Cleaver, James Moran, Barbara Lee, Dennis Kucinich, Raul Grijalva, Barney Frank, Donald Payne, and John Conyers. With your help, many other Members of the House and Senate may join as co-sponsors as well.

Sixty-three years ago, the United States emerged from world war determined to rebuild a devastated continent and to sow the seeds of lasting peace and prosperity, even for people whose governments had been our enemies. The Marshall Plan was a great success: it helped Europe recover and dramatically increased the goodwill of the world toward the United States, generating increased U.S. influence for two generations. The Marshall Plan demonstrated the transcendent power of America's political and financial generosity.

Today we face challenges at home and abroad that rival the scale of that time, and I believe the circumstances call us now to meet moral obligations beyond what our current system of public diplomacy and foreign aid are designed to handle.

Foreign aid to poor countries in Africa, Asia and South/Central America, whether considered as a proportion of the Federal budget or as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP), has never reached close to the amount of money that we used in the first years of the Marshall Plan. Meanwhile, more than 1 billion people on our planet struggle to survive on less than $1 per day, and another 1.6 billion people on less than $2 per day.

House Resolution 1078 recognizes that lasting security for America will be best achieved through policies of generosity and caring toward the rest of the world. It points out that the way to achieve these goals is through a new Global Marshall Plan in which the U.S. dedicates 1%–2% of the GDP each year for the next 20 years toward once and for all eliminating domestic and global poverty, homelessness, hunger, inadequate education, inadequate health care, and repairing the environment of the planet.

The resolution also calls for creating international non-governmental mechanisms for receiving and distributing such funds in ways that ensure that the money is safeguarded from corruption and protect from manipulation to serve elite interests, but instead is distributed in ways that are respectful of native cultures, are environmentally sensitive, and reach the people who need it. It calls for the revising of existing trade agreements in ways that would improve the lives of the poor of the world, providing training in environmental sustainability, family and parental support, emergency health techniques, and non-violent communication.

The campaign for a Global Marshall Plan will require years of work to help change the dominant way people think about homeland security. That campaign is being led by Rabbi Michael Lerner and the Network of Spiritual Progressives (NSP). I hope you will join with him and the NSP in this badly needed effort, and I, for my part, will do what I can to bring this way of thinking into the conversation in the U.S. Congress.

Hon. Keith Ellison (D, MN)
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

❑ **YES, I will join with Rabbi Michael Lerner as a member of the Network of Spiritual Progressives (NSP)**

❑ World Transformer $1000 ❑ Founding Member $500

❑ Supporting Membership $120 ❑ Basic Membership $80

❑ Student or Low-income Membership: $40

❑ I will donate $_____to support the NSP version of the Global Marshall Plan (GMP).

❑ I authorize NSP to deduct the following amount from my credit card each month, till I tell you to stop doing so:

❑ $100 each month ❑ $50 each month ❑ $35 each month

❑ Count on me to circulate the petition and to help put together a local campaign right here in_____

❑ The NSP version of the GMP may not be initially perceived as "realistic," but I'm ready to join a movement to change that perception. I'll tell you what I can do to help spread these ideas or raise money for them—I'll email RabbiLerner@Tikkun.org

Name_____

Email *(absolutely essential so write carefully)*

_____

Address _____

City_____ State____ Zip _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date_____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

www.SpiritualProgressives.org

Return to: **Network of Spiritual Progressives**, 2342 Shattuck Ave, Suite 1200, Berkeley, CA 94704 info@spiritualprogressives.org
OR call 1-510-644-1200 to donate and give credit card info OR sign up and donate on the web at www spiritualprogressives/GMP