

Goldsmiths Students' Union Policy

Goldsmiths Students' Union Student Assembly

Proposed by Tara Mariwany

Seconded by Setti Elrrakik

Motion Title:

Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions (BDS) of Israel apartheid

Notes:

1. To boycott is to target products, companies and institutions that profit from or are implicated in, the violation of Palestinian rights; to divest is to target corporations complicit in the violation of Palestinian human rights, as enshrined in the Geneva Convention, and ensure that investments or pension funds are not used to finance such companies; to sanction is to ask the global community to recognise Israel's violations of international law and to act accordingly as they do to other member states of the United Nations.
2. That in 2009 The Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa released a report stating that Israel was practising a form of apartheid in the occupied West Bank.
3. That Israel continues to build an 8 metre high "annexation" wall on Palestinian land inside the post-1967 occupied West Bank, contravening the July 2004 ruling by the International Court of Justice (the highest legal body in the world, whose statutes all UN members are party to) and causing the forcible separation of Palestinian communities from one another and the annexation of additional Palestinian land.
4. That within the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, Israel continues a policy of settlement expansion in direct violation of Article 49, paragraph 6 of the 4th Geneva, Convention which declares "an occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into territories it occupies."
5. That the Gaza Strip continues to face a suffocating siege on land, sea and air, and continues to suffer military incursions by the Israeli army, most recently seen by the 50-day attack over the summer of 2014.
6. That Palestinians living in Israel continue to suffer third-class citizenship and are heavily discriminated against from healthcare, education, landownership and in many cases having 'unrecognised' villages completely demolished, especially under the threat of the newly proposed Jewish nation-state bill.
7. That there continues to be millions of Palestinian refugees throughout the world who are racially discriminated against by not being allowed to return to their homes in Israel and the Occupied Territories, which is legally recognised under international law, including United Nations resolution 194.

8. That Ronnie Kasrils, the Jewish South African Minister of Intelligence said "The boycotts and sanctions ultimately helped liberate both blacks and whites in South Africa. Palestinians and Israelis will similarly benefit from this non-violent campaign that Palestinians are calling for."

9. That ULU and the NUS nationally adopted the call for BDS in the 1980s when it was called for by South Africans fighting racism and apartheid.

10. That the call for BDS has come from over 170 Palestinian civil society organisations, including student organisations, as well as organisations within Israel and across the global; and that the campaign is founded on the basis of anti-racism and human rights for all.

11. NUS National Executive Council, NUS Black Students' Campaign, NUS London and NUS Scotland have voted to support Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against companies and products supporting Israeli aggression and occupation.

Believes:

1. That Unions should work to support the Palestinian people's human rights and uphold international law.
2. That BDS is an effective tactic, which educates society about accountability to international law, economically pressures companies/institutions to change their practices and politically pressuresthe global community.
3. That Unions have a moral responsibility to heed the call of oppressed peoples.
4. That the BDS movement has united human rights campaigners from different nationalities, races, religions and creeds across the world.

Resolves:

1. To call on the British government to cease military aid and funding to the Israeli state, impose an arms embargo against Israel.
2. To issue a call to our union members to boycott companies and corporations complicit in financing and aiding Israel's military.
3. To pressure Goldsmiths College to support the call for BDS and cease all ties with institutions, companies and corporations complicit in internationally recognised human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli Apartheid state.