

BDS PHILLY: TALKING POINTS

WHY WE ADVOCATE BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT and SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

“We, representatives of Palestinian civil society, call upon international civil society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We appeal to you to pressure your respective states to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel. We also invite conscientious Israelis to support this Call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace.” (2005)

- The Call for Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions against Israeli Occupation and Apartheid is the Palestinian call issued by the Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign, which represents a number of major Palestinian civil society organizations.
- This Call serves highlights the responsibility of the international community and serves as a tool in the hands of the people of the world to exercise their power and exert pressure on their government, institutions, and companies, in order to demand respect for the rights of the Palestinian people.
- Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions is a non-violent resistance movement of ordinary people in support of the Palestinian quest for freedom and justice.
- The target of boycott and divestment is the Israeli state – its economy and institutions. The state and its national economy need to be the target of world -wide pressure to respect human rights and international law by ending its apartheid policies.
- The Israeli economy exploits Palestinian resources and labor and is flourishing and surviving only thanks to international financial and commercial aid.
- Singling out settlement products and companies would mean overlooking the fact that it is the Israeli state and not the individual companies that bear the responsibility.
- Cultural, sports, and academic boycotts are focused on key institutions that create and propagate Israeli propaganda and political strategies aimed at hiding the daily crimes of apartheid and aiding their implementation. These forms of boycott highlight the fact that Israel is systematically denying Palestinians their rights to education, culture, and sports as part of the destruction of everyday life of the Palestinian population.
- The question or accusation of a boycott being anti-Semitic is often brought forward in order to hide the racist character of Israeli apartheid. It depicts Israel as the victim, consciously confuses Judaism and Zionism, and completely distorts the reality on the ground.
- The call for boycott, divestment and sanctions is aimed at creating effective pressure on Israel in order to force a regime that has violated international law and Human Rights since its very inception to obey to international rulings and concede Palestinians the rights upon which peace can be built.

Above adapted from: <http://www.stophthewall.org/boycott/first/5.html>