

10 things college students need to know about BDS

(Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions)



“The real aim of BDS is to bring down the State of Israel... That should be stated as an unambiguous goal.”

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- 1 The BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions) movement, founded in 2005, seeks to delegitimize and ultimately destroy the State of Israel by falsely charging it with racism and apartheid, and orchestrating an international economic and cultural boycott against it.
- 2 Started by Palestinian activists, the campaign has attracted support from Israel-haters and anti-Semites in Europe, and, increasingly, from elements within American academic and religious institutions.
- 3 BDS has infiltrated the Presbyterian Church (USA). In June of 2014, BDS proponents within the Church convinced attendees at the General Assembly to, by a vote of 310-303, divest from three corporations that do business with Israel. Similar efforts had failed five times in the last decade.
- 4 In academia, BDS tries to limit the freedom to teach and do research in Israel, a clear violation of academic freedom.
- 5 No university in the U.S. or Europe supports BDS. Over 220 U.S. university presidents condemned the American Studies Association's Israel boycott measure.
- 6 By singling out Israel for boycott when many other nation-states are far more hostile to human rights, BDS proponents are applying a double standard.
- 7 The BDS movement calls for boycotting Israel because of the Jewish people's "Zionist ideology." This is a direct attack on the Jewish people's right to self-determination.
- 8 Because the BDS movement deems Israel's claims to statehood illegitimate, it makes impossible the only real solution to the conflict—two states for two peoples—and heartens extremists who do not want peace.
- 9 By undermining the two-state solution and applying a transparent double standard to Israel, BDS moves beyond protesting Israeli policies to preaching outright anti-Semitism.
- 10 The European Union and its member states have long funded a number of non-profits that support the BDS movement.