



## *The ABCs of BDS*

### What is the BDS Movement?

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- The anti-Israel movement for Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) is an international movement that seeks to create the conditions for a world without the Jewish state. The goal of the BDS movement goes well beyond causing economic harm to Israel.
- More broadly, BDS is often seen as a positive tool for change. The Jewish community and many others have supported these measures with Apartheid-era South Africa and Iran. However, these tactics have been co-opted by anti-Israel activists to isolate Israel as a pariah nation and to normalize anti-Zionism as a valid movement for justice.
- Today the BDS movement couches its political agenda within the progressive language of human rights, justice and equality. Regardless of the form it takes, this agenda still seeks to isolate Israel politically, economically, and culturally and ultimately challenge Israel's existence as a Jewish state.

### What are the Goals of the BDS Movement?

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- The three demands of the international organizing umbrella of the BDS movement call for the "right of return" for Palestinians which would mean an influx of millions non-Jews to Israel, thus making Jews a minority and effectively ending Jewish self-determination. This is a one-state not a two-state solution where both peoples can live in peace and security.
- As leading BDS activist Ahmed Moor said, "BDS does mean the end of the Jewish state." Though leaders may claim to be interested in an equitable and peaceful solution, the BDS movement clearly works to undermine two states for two peoples.

### What are the Tactics of the BDS Movement?

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- BDS activists work to build inroads with progressive groups they believe will be sympathetic to their cause – activists on college campuses, graduate student organizing bodies, labor unions, academic associations, Mainline Protestant churches, and other legislative bodies. The BDS movement couches their agenda within the language of human rights to build diverse coalitions in order to broaden their base of support and pushing their views into mainstream political and academic discourse.

### Why Should We Reject BDS?

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- BDS is a divisive tool that drives the negotiating parties apart rather than bringing them together, which is inherently antithetical and deeply damaging to the cause of peace and justice.
- Palestinians and Israelis must come together in economic coordination and a negotiated settlement. Building and sustaining a lasting peace requires deeper ties between Israelis and Palestinians, cross cultural exchanges, and shared sacrifice. We must nurture this environment of cooperation, not undermine it.
- Both Israeli and Palestinian leadership – as well as the international community – have long supported two states for two people as the only equitable and practical solution to the conflict.
- Peace will only come through an atmosphere of reconciliation and coexistence. We must promote dialogue and not division. We must encourage constructive engagement and create an atmosphere of reconciliation.
- BDS promotes an extremely simplistic view of a very complicated conflict, presenting one side as wholly good and the other as consummately evil, all while leaving no room for a Jewish state next to a Palestinian state.
- Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas was quoted in South Africa's The Star Newspaper on December 11, 2013, saying, "No, we do not support the boycott of Israel." He went on to add, "We don't ask anyone to boycott Israel itself. We have relations with Israel. We have mutual recognition with Israel."