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**Israel Action Network Applauds American Anthropological Association Rejection of
Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions**

NEW YORK – Today, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) announced that its members chose to reject a resolution calling on the organization to boycott Israeli academic institutions by a vote of 2,423 to 2,384. In reaction to the vote, the Israel Action Network (IAN), a strategic initiative of The Jewish Federations of North America in partnership with the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, issued the following statement:

“The Israel Action Network (IAN) applauds the decision of members of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) to reject a boycott of Israeli academic institutions. The resolution, which greatly undermined the tenets of academic freedom, hindered vital discourse and open dialogue on issues of global concern, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and would have restricted relationships with Israel’s universities and scholars in a punitive fashion.

While the resolution put forward by the group Anthropologists for the Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions claimed to support academic freedom, it was in fact calling for a far-reaching boycott of Israeli institutions based on one-sided and extreme rhetoric. We recall that when the resolution was first presented before the membership at the AAA’s annual meeting, a proposed amendment to reaffirm the association’s “long-standing support of academic freedom and its opposition to measures that foster discrimination on the basis of race, religions, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability” failed to be incorporated into the resolution. This demonstrated the discriminatory nature of the resolution, which was incompatible with these values. Israeli scholars — indeed, academics in general — are often the most critical of their government’s policies. Instituting a boycott against this segment of the population in particular would have done nothing but cause harm to those within Israeli society working hardest to bring about peace.

The AAA is an organization of approximately 11,000 members. IAN commends those in the organization who actively opposed the measure, including the Anthropologists for Dialogue on Israel and Palestine (ADIP), which developed an impressive campaign, drawing support from across the political and ideological spectrums, closing the gap on a vote that was at risk of harming engagement and dialogue among scholars.

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IAN is a strategic initiative of The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) in partnership with the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), which together represents the majority of affiliated Jews in North America through 15 national Jewish agency members, 151 Jewish Federations, 300 Network communities and 125 Jewish community relations councils. IAN, JFNA and JCPA, all seek a just two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that will allow both Israelis and Palestinians to live in lasting peace, dignity and security.