

N.Y.U. REVIEW OF LAW & SOCIAL CHANGE
STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO THE
BOYCOTT, DIVEST, SANCTIONS MOVEMENT

THE BOARD AND STAFF EDITORS OF THE
N.Y.U. REVIEW OF LAW & SOCIAL CHANGE, 2021–22

The *N.Y.U. Review of Law & Social Change* (“RLSC”) expresses our firm commitment to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (“BDS”) movement and our solidarity with Palestinians collectively struggling towards liberation.

BDS is a Palestinian-led movement that urges action to pressure Israel to end its occupation and colonization of Palestinian land, discrimination against Palestinian citizens, and denial of the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.¹

Academic institutions are a key part of the ideological and institutional scaffolding of Israel’s regime of *occupation, colonialism and apartheid* against the Palestinian people. Since its founding, the Israeli academy has cast its lot with the hegemonic political-military establishment in Israel, and notwithstanding the efforts of a handful of principled academics, the Israeli academy is *profoundly implicated* in supporting and perpetuating Israel’s systematic denial of Palestinian rights.²

In a small, collective step to combat that complicity, *RLSC commits fully to the goals of BDS consumer³ and academic⁴ boycott campaigns*. The academic boycott targets complicit *institutions*, not individuals.

¹ See *What is BDS?*, BDS, <https://bdsmovement.net/what-is-bds> [<https://perma.cc/DR74-FPP4>] (last visited June 23, 2021).

² *PACBI Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel*, U.S. CAMPAIGN FOR THE ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL (July 31, 2014), <https://usacbi.org/guidelines-for-applying-the-international-academic-boycott-of-israel> [<https://perma.cc/WT5E-GFJS>] (emphasis added).

³ See *Get Involved*, BDS, <https://bdsmovement.net/get-involved/what-to-boycott> [<https://perma.cc/DP75-FYA6>] (last visited June 23, 2021) (highlighting boycotts of Israeli fruits and vegetables, AXA, HP, Puma, Sodastream, Ahava, Sabra, and Pillsbury); see also *Boycott & Divestment*, U.S. CAMPAIGN FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, <https://uscpr.org/campaign/bds> [<https://perma.cc/VT2W-T6J3>] (last visited June 23, 2021) (describing additional boycott campaigns, including Airbnb).

⁴ *PACBI Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel*, *supra* note 2.

CONSUMER BOYCOTT

RLSC will join the Palestinian BDS National Committee's targeted consumer boycott. RLSC will not purchase products made by or that utilize services rendered by Israeli and/or international companies implicated in the violation of Palestinian rights. These companies include, among others, Hewlett-Packard, Sodastream, Sabra, and Pillsbury.⁵

ACADEMIC BOYCOTT OF COMPLICIT INSTITUTIONS

RLSC's institutional boycott will include "events, activities, agreements, or projects involving Israeli academic institutions or that otherwise promote the normalization of Israel in the global academy, whitewash Israel's violations of international law and Palestinian rights, or violate the BDS guidelines."⁶ In particular, RLSC will boycott:⁷

1. Academic events convened or cosponsored by Israel, complicit Israeli institutions, or their support and lobby groups;
2. Funding from Israel or its lobby groups to support academic activities/projects;
3. Addresses and talks at international venues by Israeli state officials or official representatives of Israeli academic institutions;
4. Special academic honors or recognition granted to Israeli officials, representatives of Israeli academic institutions, or to Israeli academic or research institutions; and
5. Academic activities, projects, or publications "based on the false premise of symmetry/parity between the oppressors and the oppressed or that claim that both colonizers and colonized are equally responsible for the 'conflict'"⁸ We find such efforts to be "intellectually dishonest and morally reprehensible forms of normalization" that must be boycotted.⁹

The academic boycott is an institutional boycott "[a]nchored in precepts of international law and universal human rights," and "rejects on principle boycotts of individuals based on their identity (such as citizenship, race, gender, or religion) or

⁵ See *Get Involved*, *supra* note 3.

⁶ *PACBI Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel*, *supra* note 2. Per academic boycott guidelines, "all Israeli academic institutions, unless proven otherwise, are subject to boycott because of their decades-old, deep and conscious complicity in maintaining the Israeli occupation and denial of basic Palestinian rights" *Id.*

⁷ RLSC commits to all of the academic boycott guidelines specified in the PACBI Guidelines for the International Academic Boycott of Israel. *Id.* The guidelines most relevant to RLSC's operations as an academic journal have been adapted and highlighted here. Of note, RLSC will not change the way members are selected, and will continue its blind review process.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

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opinion.”¹⁰ “Mere affiliation of Israeli scholars” or students “to an Israeli academic institution is therefore not grounds for applying the boycott.”¹¹ However, if “an individual is *representing* the state of Israel or a complicit Israeli institution (such as a dean, rector, or president), or is commissioned/recruited to participate in Israel’s efforts to ‘rebrand’ itself, then [their] activities are subject to the institutional boycott the BDS movement is calling for.”¹²

BDS AT NYU

RLSC recognizes that universities across the globe¹³ are complicit in Israel’s settler-colonial apartheid regime.¹⁴ Universities obscure, legitimize, and perpetuate the profound violence Israel inflicts on Palestinians.

RLSC recognizes and denounces NYU’s particular complicity in Israeli apartheid. We follow the Student Government Assembly¹⁵ and more than fifty NYU student groups in committing to the BDS movement,¹⁶ and join GSOC-UAW Local 2110¹⁷ in calling on NYU to:

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ See Omar Bhargouti, *The Academic Boycott of Israel: Reaching A Tipping Point?*, in *AGAINST APARTHEID* 55, 58 (Ashley Dawson & Bill V. Mullen eds., 2015) (describing “complicity of Israeli universities in human rights violations,” including institutionalizing discrimination, constructing campus facilities in occupied lands, and conducting research for the military-intelligence establishment); Ashley Dawson & Bill V. Mullen, *Introduction*, in *AGAINST APARTHEID*, *id.*, at 1, 14–15 (describing “institutional alliances between imperial powers,” including the United States and Israel, “at the academic level,” such as research collaborations with weapons manufacturing institutions).

¹⁴ See *What is BDS?*, *supra* note 1 (“Israel maintains a regime of settler colonialism, apartheid and occupation over the Palestinian people.”); see also Omar Jabary Salamanca, Mezna Qato, Kareem Rabie & Sobhi Samour, *Past is Present: Settler Colonialism in Palestine*, 12 *SETTLER COLONIAL STUD.* 1, 2 (2012) (“[T]he settler colonial structure undergirding Israeli practices takes on a painful array of manifestations: aerial and maritime bombardment, massacre and invasion, home demolitions, land theft, identity card confiscation, racist laws and loyalty tests, the wall, the siege on Gaza, cultural appropriation, . . . all with the continued support and backing of imperial powers.”); Ishaan Tharoor, *Israel Is Committing The Crime of Apartheid, New Report Says*, *WASH. POST* (Apr. 27, 2021), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/04/27/israel-report-apartheid> [<https://perma.cc/AAU8-FHHE>] (describing Human Rights Watch report detailing how, “in terms framed by existing international law, overarching Israeli policy toward Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem constitute[s] an agenda to both maintain Jewish Israeli domination and systematically oppress Palestinians”).

¹⁵ Justin Pilgreen, *SGA Approves BDS Resolution By a Two-Vote Margin*, *NYU LOCAL* (Dec. 7, 2018), <https://nyulocal.com/sga-approves-bds-resolution-with-two-vote-margin-f60ffe7653ef> [<https://perma.cc/6G62-P9XS>].

¹⁶ 50+ *NYU Student Groups Endorse Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement for Palestinian Human Rights*, *BDS* (Apr. 9, 2018), <https://bdsmovement.net/news/50-nyu-student-groups-endorse-boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-movement-palestinian-human> [<https://perma.cc/7EUZ-SFP5>] (endorsing BDS, joining the consumer boycott, boycotting Israeli

- Divest its investments from Israeli state institutions and international companies complicit in the ongoing violation of Palestinian human rights;
- Decline to conduct business with those institutions and companies in the future; and
- Close its program at Tel Aviv University.

RLSC is proud to support the BDS movement and to stand in solidarity with Palestinians resisting their oppression.

academic institution and conferences sponsored by Israel, boycotting pro-Israel clubs at NYU and related organizations, calling on NYU to divest from holdings complicit in the occupation, and committing to ongoing recognition of indigenous land and sovereignty).

¹⁷ See *Election and Referendum Results*, GSOC-UAW LOCAL 2110 (Apr. 22, 2016), <https://makingabetternyu.org/2016/04/22/election-and-referendum-results> [<https://perma.cc/P7JB-UH8U>]; see also *Official BDS Ballot*, WHY DIVEST?, <http://www.nooccupiedpalestine.org/official-bds-ballot.html> [<https://perma.cc/39K2-3G7G>] (last visited June 23, 2021).