



**EMPOWER CHANGE:
THE IMPORTANCE
OF BDS**

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BDS HISTORY

The Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions (BDS)

campaign formed in 2005

- **Aimed to protect the rights of Palestinians through the application of international pressure on Israel until it complies with international law.**
- **Functions through local organizations, groups and grassroots efforts, with a national BDS committee**

BOYCOTT

Refusal to buy, use, or participate in (something) as a way of protesting: to stop using the goods or services of a company, country, etc. until changes are made.

- The BDS movement encourages people to stop buying Israeli products, or engaging with Israeli services as a form of protest until the goals of the movement are met.

EFFECTIVE BOYCOTTING

The BDS movement uses the historically successful method of targeted boycotts inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, US Civil Rights movement, the Indian anti-colonial struggle, among others.

- **Strategically** focused on relatively small, carefully selected companies and products for maximum impact.
- Long lists do the opposite, without credible evidence of a direct connection to Israel's oppression of Palestinians.
 - Lacks clear demands as to what we expect them to do to end the boycott, making them ineffective.

BOYCOTTS WORK!

STOP BOYCOTTING ISRAEL! 🇮🇱 🙄

OnePath Network



46,000

The image shows a social media post from 'OnePath Network' with the text 'STOP BOYCOTTING ISRAEL! 🇮🇱 🙄'. The post features a video of a man in a pink hoodie. A red play button icon is overlaid on the video, and the number '46,000' is displayed in large yellow text at the bottom of the video frame. The background of the entire image is dark green with vertical lines and a pattern of green zeros at the bottom.

DIVESTMENT

Withdrawal of investments. In our context, this means that the movement encourages different institutions and organizations, like the WSU Foundation, to sell their stock in any company that profits or benefits from Israeli oppression of the Palestinians, or to refuse to invest in any company or organization which does.



DIVESTMENT

In our case (S4P), we are targeting weapons manufacturers like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Caterpillar, and among others.

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WHY DIVESTMENT?

This is a material fight. In order to stop Israel's slaughter of Palestinians, Israel needs to be weakened materially

- Divestment causes a material change, ie, stopping the flow of weapons weakens Israel materially
- Boycotting hurts these companies materially, making support for Israel's genocidal, apartheid state untenable
- Sanctions, especially if imposed by the US, would make the genocide impossible

SANCTIONS

Action that is taken to pressure a country or an organization towards a certain goal. In the context of BDS, this means pressuring Israel to obey international laws by limiting or stopping trade with that it, or by cutting off economic aid, etc.

E.g. an arms embargo, export restrictions

DIVEST FILM

Large group discussion: What are the fundamental differences between our current campus dynamics and those we saw in the video and around the U.S. amidst the student intifada?

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BUILDING A MASS BASE

- Power only concedes to greater power
- WSU has no innate incentive to divest from companies complicit in the occupation which brings in hundreds of millions in revenue.
- Consolidate your group's political power in a way that positions your campaign as a legitimate challenge to your university's interests
- Goal is to have the campaign viewed as a legitimate political vehicle, with tangible political objectives worth negotiating with.

BUILDING A MASS BASE

- **Contradictions:** The underlying social conditions that are in opposition to one another.
- **Priority** is to take underlying contradiction and make it explicit on campus.

Small group activity:

What are the primary contradictions on campus? How through our divestment campaign are we making these contradictions explicit to the campus community?

THANK YOU!

Upcoming Events

- 11/7, 4:30p-5:30p, VUB 225 - Weaponizing Rape: How to Legitimize a Genocide
- 11/16, 6:00p, 609 Main St. - Gaza Fights for Freedom + Q&A w/ Abby Martin