

A CUFİ PRIMER: Explaining the BDS Movement

What Is BDS?

BDS is an acronym for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement which targets Israel's political and economic stability. To accomplish their destructive goal, this movement employs thinly-veiled anti-Semitic rhetoric and the well-coordinated presentation of false narratives about Israel. BDS is a global propaganda campaign designed to single out Israel as an outcast among nations and deteriorate support for Israel especially among the next generation. The primary aim of the BDS movement is to bring about the economic destruction of the state of Israel by gradually defaming the Jewish state until the international community is convinced that Israel has no right to exist or defend herself from her enemies.



Where Is BDS?



BDS is well-funded and highly organized. Its strategies are implemented in communities, including churches and on college campuses, to infiltrate the masses slowly but surely. BDS advocates distort the meaning of civil rights and social justice with the goal to poison the minds of young people, in our future lawmakers and voters, without regard for the truth. Frequent jargon used by BDS activists includes referring to Israel as an “apartheid state,” comparing it falsely to apartheid-

South Africa, and citing Israeli so-called human rights abuses. Several BDS campus organizations, among them, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), host an Israel Apartheid Week, complete with a so-called apartheid wall and the spreading of anti-Semitic lies about Israel in an effort to accomplish their malicious goal.

Even some churches, such as the Presbyterian Church (USA), have become supporters of the BDS movement. While other denominations have flirted with the BDS movement, millions of Christians across America recognize our Biblical mandate and moral responsibility to support the Jewish people with our prayers (Psalm 122:6) and stand with the state of Israel (Genesis 12:3).



Why is BDS anti-Semitic and a barrier to peace?

While not all criticism of the State of Israel is anti-Semitic, the BDS movement inherently is. It demonizes the Jewish state and singles out Israel as undeserving of the right to exist. BDS advocates not only advance traditional anti-Semitic myths about the Jewish people, they also deceitfully blame Israel alone for the regional conflict without acknowledging the Palestinian leadership's paramount role in the plight of their own people.

The BDS movement has never helped any Palestinian, nor will it ever. Instead it has served to drive a deeper wedge between Israelis and

Palestinians by perpetuating the conflict. Pro-BDS Organizations like Students for Justice in Palestine, support a Palestinian state “from the river to the sea,” calling for the elimination of the Jewish state.



Disguising its destructive intentions as concern for “human rights,” the BDS movement ignores real human rights abuses in Palestinian controlled territories and throughout the Middle East. Moreover, BDS advocates turn a blind eye to the way their movement harms Palestinians and Israelis alike. By using rhetoric like “genocide,” “oppression,” and “apartheid,” the BDS movement creates a threatening political environment in which all who desire justice must support BDS.

For example, thousands of Palestinians work in Israel with legal work permits to provide for their families in the West Bank; BDS threatens these families’ security and source of income. Likewise, numerous Palestinians find employment working alongside Israelis in Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria, consequently boycotting disputed territories under Israel’s control harms both Israelis and Palestinians and diminishes the positive on-the-ground interactions these two peoples have when working side-by-side. Put another way, boycotting Israel and its territories is not pro-Palestinian, it’s anti-peace and anti-humanitarian.



What is CUFI doing to combat BDS

Since our inception, CUFI has been fiercely fighting back against the BDS movement in the US. Each year, CUFI trains hundreds of college students and equips them with the truth about Israel and the tools to share it with others on their campuses. In April 2019, CUFI engaged in a public relations and lobbying effort to see Airbnb reverse its 2018 policy of delisting Israeli properties in the West Bank, which the company did shortly thereafter. Finally, CUFI works across the country to advocate in support of anti-BDS legislation and has seen it advanced in a majority of states including Arkansas, California, Nevada, Florida and Texas.

