

EAST BAY CITIZENS FOR PEACE RESOLUTION

ON THE BOYCOTTS, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS (BDS) MOVEMENT

Preamble:

Our small grassroots organization has given several months of thought and earnest debate to this resolution. We respect the sovereignty of Israel. We are agreed that Israel has the right to defend itself. We are unanimous in condemning anti-Semitism; some members have had close relationships with Jewish friends who were victims of Nazi persecution. Some of us are Jews; some of us, as active Christians, understand Jews as our brothers and sisters, the children of Abraham. Our dissent with Israeli policy lies with our belief that it denies Palestinians their basic rights as human beings; that this policy abandons principles of democracy and justice for which many Jews have been both advocates and martyrs.

Whereas: Boycotts, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality which upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity; and

Whereas: Israel is an independent state with the rights and responsibilities of a member of the United Nations; and

Whereas: The United States of America sends billions of dollars each year to Israel for military support; and

Whereas: Israel is occupying and colonizing Palestinian land, discriminating against Palestinian citizens of Israel and denying Palestinian refugees the right to return to their homes; and

Whereas: Israel denies Palestinians their fundamental rights and refuses to comply with international law; and

Whereas: Governments fail to hold Israel to account, while corporations and institutions across the world help Israel to oppress Palestinians; and

Whereas: Those in power refuse to act to stop this injustice and Palestinian civil society has called for a global citizens' response of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality; and

Whereas: East Bay Citizens for Peace is a grassroots organization committed to peaceful solutions to conflict and to social and economic justice.

Therefore: The East Bay Citizens for Peace supports:

Boycotts which involve withdrawing support for Israel and Israeli and international companies that are involved in the violation of Palestinian human rights, as well as complicit Israeli sporting, cultural and academic institutions;

Divestment campaigns which urge banks, local councils, churches, pension funds and universities to withdraw investments from all Israeli companies and from international companies involved in violating Palestinian rights; and

Sanctions campaigns which pressure governments to fulfill their legal obligation to hold Israel to account including by ending military trade, free-trade agreements and expelling Israel from international forums such as the United Nations.

Approved October 21, 2017, East Bay Citizens for Peace

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