



**NONE SHALL
BE AFRAID**
FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM

BDS Movement

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is a campaign made up of activists from all over the world who seek to isolate Israel, reject and challenge its right as the sovereign homeland of the Jewish people. The BDS movement attempts to delegitimize the State of Israel through political, economic and cultural pressure.

The pro-Palestinian BDS movement has proliferated an extremist agenda designed to demonize and isolate Israel—and ultimately end Israel's existence as a Jewish and democratic state.

Boycotts are the most common tactic used against Israel. BDS activists urge customers not to buy Israeli goods, urge artists not to perform in Israel, urge academics not to partner with Israeli academic institutions, etc.

Divestment is a tactic whereby pressure is put on investors to withdraw their finances from institutions, organizations and companies that do business or partner with those who do business with Israeli entities. For example, divestment is widely used on college campuses by BDS activists who submit resolutions to their student boards to have their university withdraw funds from corporations they do business with, that are affiliated with Israel.

Sanctions are typically used by national governments to limit or ban trade and other relations with certain states. The threat of sanctions against Israel remains real. For example, some European countries have recently threatened sanctions if Israel annexes the Jordan Valley. There is no doubt the BDS movement has influenced this type of intimidation by nation-states.

The BDS movement strategically uses language couched in human-rights and social justice terminology in order to appeal to progressive, well-meaning individuals, most especially college students, looking to impact change. BDS offers a false narrative, whereby one is either “for” human rights or “against.” Activists claim it is a non-violent form of protest; however, they offer no equitable solution to the conflict and in fact seek to challenge Israel's right to exist as the sole Jewish state. The movement has been successful in normalizing anti-Zionism as a valid form of social justice as, more and more, Zionists do not feel welcome and in many cases are denied participation with coalitions on issues of social justice.

Historically, boycotts have been a tried-and-true tactic of anti-Semites to intimidate, isolate, stigmatize and harm the Jewish community. While, in modern times, it is not deemed acceptable in most places to call for economic warfare against Jewish-owned businesses per se, calling for boycotts of the sole nation-state of the Jewish people—and anyone considered to be associated with it—has become an alternative that feeds off of, and projects, the same hatred.

Throughout history, hatred of the Jewish people has manifested in many forms. Since it is no longer acceptable to overtly demonize the Jewish people, Israel has become a legitimate target for anti-Semites—and the BDS movement is a modern vehicle for anti-Semitism.



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