

# BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS MOVEMENT



## A SHORT OVERVIEW

## HISTORY

In 2005, Palestinian civil society groups, including trade unions, women's groups, professional associations and popular resistance committees called for boycotts, divestment and sanctions as a form of non-violent pressure on Israel until it respects Palestinian human rights and complies with international law. To achieve this Israel should:

1. End the illegal military occupation and colonisation of all Arab land.
2. Recognise the right of Palestinian Citizens of Israel to full equality.
3. Recognise, respect and promote the right of return of Palestinian refugees, as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

# IN PRACTICE

## BOYCOTT:

Part of the Palestinian call asks individuals to withdraw their support from all Israeli and international companies engaged in violations of Palestinian human rights. This includes complicit sporting, cultural and academic institutions.

## DIVESTMENT:

Divestment means urging banks, pension funds, companies, universities and other institutions to withdraw money from Israeli companies and companies complicit in Israel's human rights abuses. For example, students at UK universities have pressured their institutions to withdraw money from companies that supply Israel with weapons, as part of the Apartheid Off Campus campaign.

## SANCTIONS:

Sanctions against Israel for violating international law can be applied by governments and international institutions. This includes through ending military trade by applying a two-way arms embargo. Sanctions can also be applied by severing free trade agreements, and by suspending or expelling Israel from international bodies, such as FIFA.



# STOP ARMING ISRAEL

## HOW TARGETS ARE PICKED

In coordination with the Palestinian BDS National Committee, and other campaigning groups, key BDS targets are picked based on a number of factors. These include their level of complicity and our potential for success.

# HSBC

HSBC is complicit in Israel's violations of human rights through the bank's investments in arms companies. This includes £180m of shares in BAE Systems, involved in manufacturing the F-16 fighter jets used by Israel to attack Palestinians in Gaza. HSBC also provides loans and other financial services to complicit companies, such as Caterpillar, whose specially modified bulldozers are used to demolish Palestinian homes on both sides of the green line.

## UK GOVERNMENT

Since Israel's deadly war on Gaza in 2014, the UK has exported more than £220m of weapons and weapon technology to Israel. By granting arms licenses to companies that export to Israel the UK Government is directly complicit in Israel's violations of international law. We therefore call on the government to institute a two-arms arms embargo with Israel, as a sanction, until they respect Palestinian human rights.



# THE VICTORIES

**The BDS Movement is supported by Unions, NGOs, Community Associations and Churches, who represent millions across the globe. Since the initial call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions in 2005 campaigning groups have won a number of key victories. This includes French multinational Veolia withdrawing from Israel costing billions of dollars in lost contracts, and telecoms multinational Orange leaving the Israeli market. In the UK, more than 100 Student Unions endorse the BDS Movement and in December 2018 key BDS target HSBC divested from Elbit Systems, an Israeli owned arms manufacturer, after weeks of protests across the country, including at its AGM.**

## ACT NOW

- **Become part of the Stop Arming Israel campaign. Go to [www.palestinecampaign.org/campaigns/stop-arming-israel](http://www.palestinecampaign.org/campaigns/stop-arming-israel)**
- **Become part of the mass movement for Palestinian rights, join Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) today.**
- **Become active in your local PSC branch. PSC branches have been crucial in advancing the BDS Movement in the UK, and run regular events, protests, and pickets up and down the country.**
- **Write to your MP, let them know you want an immediate two-way arms embargo with Israel until it respects Palestinian human rights.**
- **Find out more, go to [www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net) for the latest news and information.**