



Sydney Staff for BDS

Sydney Staff for BDS is a newly formed group of staff at the University of Sydney. We aim to:

- (1) Exert pressure on the university to withdraw all institutional and financial support from Israeli academic and research institutions by implementing a boycott and divestment campaign similar to the one applied to South Africa in the apartheid era;
- (2) Show solidarity with Palestinian university communities by responding to the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel;
- (3) Support the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement more generally.

How to get involved

All academic and general staff, ongoing and casual, are welcome.
We meet every Tuesday at 1-2pm at CPACS,
Mackie Building – on Arundel St, Forest Lodge,
just over the Parramatta Rd footbridge.

Email:

ss4bds@gmail.com

Web:

sydneystaff4bds.org



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for BDS**

Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory, its refusal to provide basic legal equality for its Arab citizens, and its violation of the rights of refugees have all created an ongoing and severe human rights catastrophe, destroying the lives and futures of millions of Palestinian people and seriously harming regional peace prospects. Western governments, including Australia's, continue to actively support Israel's policies. Academic institutions like the University of Sydney legitimize Israel's acts by entering into formal partnerships with the very Israeli universities that sustain its posture towards the Palestinians – through arms research, by supporting construction of Israel's illegal separation wall and by offering special training activities for the Israeli military.

What is the Academic Boycott?

The academic boycott strategy is part of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement—a non-violent campaign that promotes basic legal equality, human rights and peace in Israel/Palestine. BDS is unequivocally opposed to all forms of racism, particularly anti-Semitism. The campaign is endorsed by a growing range of unions, professional associations and other organizations internationally, including the University of Johannesburg (for details of other BDS participants see: <http://wp.me/P4ofm6-4f>).

Academic freedom and BDS

The academic boycott is directed at Israeli *institutions*. It does not target individual students or individual scholars collaborating on research and publications, or attending conferences or other events, except those that are officially sponsored by Israeli

universities. It recognizes that Israeli policies severely restrict Palestinian academic freedom, educational opportunities and travel, to say nothing of access to basic resources (including electricity and water). The campaign works to end these restrictions on Palestinian education rights.

Sydney and Israeli Institutions

The University of Sydney is formally connected to a number of Israeli academic institutions through well-funded exchange programs, such as the exchange with the Hebrew University, and a new partnership with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. As such, Sydney occupies a prominent position as a target of Israel's "academic diplomacy". Through this active support of Israeli institutions the University of Sydney effectively endorses – and is complicit with – Israel's oppression of the Palestinians, and helps Israel cover up its acute human rights violations.

Sydney Staff and BDS

BDS is a pluralistic movement that does not mandate any one way of implementing the boycott. Individuals and institutions retain discretion over how they respond to the boycott call. As staff at the University of Sydney we have a choice: either we respond positively to the call for an academic boycott and refrain from collaborating with Israeli academic institutions, or we reject it, and in so doing leave unchallenged the university's complicity with Israel's crimes against the Palestinians. Join Sydney Staff for BDS to help us urge the University of Sydney to end its current complicity with Israeli apartheid.