

A Resolution to Boycott and Divest from Apartheid, Ethnic Cleansing, and Genocide

WHEREAS, for over four months, the Israeli government has carried out a genocidal bombing campaign and ground invasion against Palestinians in Gaza—intentionally targeting hospitals, universities, schools, shelters, churches, mosques, homes, neighborhoods, refugee camps, ambulances, medical personnel, UN workers, journalists and more; and,

WHEREAS, 1.7 million of the 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza are now [displaced](#) due to Israeli military operations and are denied the right to return to their homes at bomb and gun point. Approximately 1 million people are taking shelter at UN facilities. Approximately [30,000](#) Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, including 6,000 children. 64,000 Palestinians have been critically injured. Thousands more are missing, potentially dead, or dying under the rubble. These numbers are conservative estimates, with accurate counts impeded by degraded telecommunications infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, numerous [scholars](#) and [practitioners](#) of international law, conflict studies, and genocide studies, in addition to multiple human rights and [legal organizations](#), have applied the definitions of concepts such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and occupation to the situation within Palestine; and,

WHEREAS, prior to the events of October 7, 2023, the internationally renowned human rights organizations [Human Rights Watch](#), [Amnesty International](#), [B'Tselem](#), and several more have joined a long list of organizations that identify Israel as an apartheid state; and,

WHEREAS, the state of Israel's continual subjection of the occupied Palestinian population to military rule, while settlers in the same territory enjoy full political and civil rights, violates customary international law and treaty law including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, these ongoing violations include but are not limited to:

- (A) The apartheid wall that divides Palestinian land, deemed illegal in the [advisory opinion](#) of the International Court of Justice in 2004, which violates the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; and,
- (B) The establishment and expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; and,
- (C) The restriction of Palestinians' freedom of movement; and,
- (D) The forms of ill-treatment employed against Palestinian prisoners and "administrative detainees"; and,
- (E) The illegal exploitation and pillage of natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territories that, among other things, cut off Palestinians' access to primary water resources; and,

WHEREAS, UCLA administrators have refused to condemn Zionist settler colonialism, genocide, and apartheid; have refused to acknowledge our own complicity in settler-colonial genocide and apartheid through UC contracts, pensions, and investments in companies profiting from Israeli violations of international law; and have refused to condemn the US's [arming](#) and [funding](#) of Israel's genocide of Palestinians; and,

WHEREAS, UC students have used, and continue to use, divestment¹ and boycott² campaigns to reclaim political agency and to change UC policies that maintain relationships with companies that demonstrate a lack of accountability, ethicality, and respect for the rights and dignity of others, most notably in the context of South Africa, and more recently in the context of Turkey, fossil fuels, the prison industrial complex, and the US Deportation Regime; and,

WHEREAS, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement is a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice, and equality, that calls on the international community to pressure Israel to comply with international law. In October 2023, [Palestinian Trade Unionists](#) called on workers, including academic workers, to end their complicity in Palestinian oppression. Scholars and educators at [Birzeit University, Palestine](#), have [called upon us](#) to break our silence and demand that perpetrators of genocide be held accountable, including Israeli academic institutions complicit in these crimes; companies, universities, and unions that profit from Israel's settler colonial genocide; and leaders like Chancellor Block who, in turn, profit or benefit from the activities of these organizations; and that educators everywhere demand an immediate end to Israel's brutal siege, bombardment, and invasion of Gaza, an end to their own institutions' complicity, and an end to US funding for the Israeli government and military; and

WHEREAS, UC's investments are spent on advancing the war industry through its [General Endowment Pool](#), [University of California Retirement Plan](#), and other smaller funds. These funds are under control of the UC Regents, who entrust management of it with the UC Investments Office and BlackRock. UC students, faculty, and workers do not have direct control over where this money is spent and invested; and,

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Association recognizes that it maintains several business relationships, either by direct contract or reimbursement of materials procured from (i.e., purchases of food, gift cards, or other items), sustained with vendors, where there are multiple options, with chosen vendors benefiting from its business; and,

WHEREAS, the University of California's and UCLA's investments and institutional relationships harm Palestinian students, many of whom are living heirs to confiscated properties in Palestine and descendants of people who have been murdered or forcibly relocated as a result of Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestine; and,

¹ Divesting is the process of selling an asset, done for either financial or social goals.

² Boycotting is the process of withdrawing from commercial or social relations with an entity, done for social goals.

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Association of UCLA opposes all forms of oppression, including anti-Semitism, anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, anti-Asian, anti-Black, anti-Indigenous, anti-Latinx/Chicanx racisms, Islamophobia; all forms of ableism, sexism, and heteropatriarchy; all forms of state terror, police brutality, colonialism and imperialism; and all forms of classism, including anti-poor and anti-houselessness policies; and,

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Association of UCLA recognizes its duty to uphold the [True Bruin Values](#) of “respect, integrity, excellence, service, and accountability” for the rights and dignity of others, and promote public service that makes a positive impact in our global community, which includes the promotion of human rights, equality, and dignity for all people without distinction; and,

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Association of UCLA recognizes the importance of directly supporting local businesses, particularly small businesses owned and operated by people from marginalized communities; and,

WHEREAS, support for human rights, collective liberation, social justice, and opposition to businesses engaged in violence are collective principles that have the power to unite members of the UCLA community; and,

WHEREAS, this resolution is endorsed by Students for Justice in Palestine at UCLA, Graduate Students for Justice in Palestine at UCLA, and Law Students for Justice in Palestine at UCLA; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF UCLA, formally call upon the UC Regents to withdraw investments in securities, endowments, mutual funds, and other monetary instruments with holdings in any weapons manufacturer or any other corporation providing material assistance to the commission or maintenance of flagrant violations of international law and human rights, at such time and in such manner as fund trustees may determine; and that the University of California maintain the withdrawal of investments, in accordance with trustees’ fiduciary duty, until these companies are no longer engaged in the violation of human rights and other behavior that fails to adhere to the University of California-endorsed Principles of Responsible Investment; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF UCLA, formally call upon the UC Regents to cease their relationship with BlackRock as their investment manager, at such time and in such manner as fund trustees may determine; and,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF UCLA, in accordance with international law and domestic legislation, is committed to encouraging financial allocations not be used to purchase materials from, or finance activities and/or contracts with entities, including business companies, that, provide material assistance to the commission or maintenance of flagrant violations of international law and human rights, such as illegal annexation of territory, colonialism, apartheid, denial of the right to

self-determination, war crimes and crimes against humanity, or that discriminate on the bases of race, color, caste, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or age; and,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of the aforementioned policy, the Undergraduate Student Association Cabinet shall maintain an updated list of boycotted vendors and corporations, including vendors and corporations targeted by the Palestinian BDS National Committee, that shall be regularly provided to all student groups / departments and any student within the reimbursement request form and upon request; and,

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED THAT THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF UCLA, formally calls upon UCLA Administration, the ASUCLA Board of Directors, and other UCLA entities or administrators with authority over contracts and procurement to enact similar policies preventing financial or other monetary assets from being used to purchase materials from, or finance activities and/or contracts with entities, including business companies, that, provide material assistance to the commission or maintenance of flagrant violations of international law and human rights, such as illegal annexation of territory, colonialism, apartheid, denial of the right to self-determination, war crimes and crimes against humanity, or that discriminate on the bases of race, color, caste, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or age.

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