

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice



A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values

November 1, 2018

Reverend Dr. Todd Eklof
Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane
Washington, U.S.A.

Dear Reverend Eklof,

I am writing to you on behalf of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ), a national faith-based organization that advocates for peace and justice in Canada and internationally. CUSJ is a longtime advocate for a just peace in Israel-Palestine. We are also a member of the Canadian BDS Coalition, which promotes the Palestinian-based civil society campaign to put pressure on Israel to comply with international law and the universal principles of human rights, and to end the occupation. Israel, and the international community, including Canada, have consistently ignored the human rights and dignity of the Palestinian people for over 70 years.

I commend you and your congregation for taking the brave step of showing 'The Occupation of the American Mind', which critiques the one-sided, pro-Israel stance of the American government and mainstream media, in a well-funded 'public relations war' to win over the hearts and minds of the average American. Regrettably, the average Canadian is subject to the same mainstream narrative in the stories of nationhood and international relations, we tell ourselves. Being critical of our respective governments, the State of Israel or any government is a sign of a healthy, democratic society. We cannot allow our increasingly fragile democracies to silence or criminalize dissent of majority views. It is in speaking truth to power that we give others permission to do the same.

We commend you and your congregation for having the courage to start the conversation, first among your own home congregation and further opening the conversation to the wider public. As Mahatma Gandhi famously quipped: "First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, and then you win."

Thank you, Reverend Eklof, for taking a stand for truth and justice and for leading by example.

May other U.U. Ministers and their congregations follow in your footsteps.

Standing on the Side of Love, Truth and Justice!

Margaret Rao

President, Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
president@cusj.org