

# Boycott in support of the end of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories

CUSJ's mission is to defend and promote Unitarian principles, such as the inherent worth and dignity of every person, justice and equity in human relations, democracy, peace, and liberty for all. These principles call upon us to work towards an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian state coexisting peacefully with Israel and its other neighbours.

## **Given that:**

Continued destruction of Palestinian homes and villages and the expansion of Israeli settlements since June 1967 into the Occupied Territories--Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem—contravene international law<sup>1</sup>.

Many multinational and Israeli companies are violating international law by investing in or profiting from the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations have asked for a boycott to pressure Israel to stop violating international law and disregarding Palestinians' human rights.

The European Union has banned state lending to Israeli entities operating in the Occupied Territories.

On November 11th, 2015 the European Union issued new guidelines, requiring products from illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to carry the word "settlement" on the label.

Boycotts are a legitimate, peaceful and democratic means of effecting change in the international community when one nation is abusing its own citizens or otherwise contravening international laws.

The purpose of a boycott is to bring about change by peaceful means.

## **Be it resolved that:**

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice, advocating Unitarian Principles, adopts a formal stance in favor of: 1) a boycott of products from companies, regardless of origin, that participate in Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories; 2) a cultural boycott in which performing artists refuse to perform in Israel until it ends the occupation; and 3) a ban on federal and provincial state-funded lending to for-profit companies operating in the Occupied Territories, and to any organization materially supporting the destruction of Palestinian homes or expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied Territories.

This version of the motion supersedes all previous versions of this motion.

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<sup>1</sup> the Universal Declaration of Human Rights –Article 2; and the Fourth Geneva Convention – Article 49