

INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATIONS OF BDS

Several governments and jurisdictions have passed resolutions or motions, or introduced legislation, condemning the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement, which unfairly targets Israel:

ISRAEL

On March 7, 2017, the Israeli parliament (Knesset) approved legislation to bar supporters of the BDS movement from entering the country. The legislation applies to any individual who knowingly issues a public call for boycotting Israel that, given the content of the call and the circumstances in which it was issued, has a reasonable possibility of leading to the imposition of a boycott. In addition to applying to those who call for boycotts against Israel, the bill also prohibits entry to those who support boycotts against Israeli institutions as well as settlements.

FRANCE

France has some of the toughest laws on BDS; its "*Lellouche Law*" bans discrimination against persons of another country of origin; passed in 2003, the law extends anti-racism laws to the targeting of specific nations for discriminatory treatment. Since then, the BDS movement is, essentially, illegal in France. On February 20, 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron condemned the plague of antisemitism sweeping Europe: "*There is something worse than an evil soul. It is a soul that has become accustomed to evil,*" he said. "*We will not get accustomed to it. ... We have to stand against the evil. We need to be courageous.*" President Macron said that BDS would not be accepted.

DENMARK

In October, 2018, Denmark stated it would not fund organizations that have ties to terrorists, engage in attempts to boycott Israel or question its right to exist. Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen announced the new policy in a document titled '*Explanations about the conditions for Danish support for Israeli and Palestinian civil society organizations.*' "*The use of Danish funds for political purposes, including BDS activities, is unacceptable,*" read the guidelines, using the acronym of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel.

GERMANY

On May 17, 2019, the German Bundestag [passed a cross-party resolution](#) condemning the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign, and cutting off funding to any organizations that "*actively support*" the BDS movement.

"The pattern of argument and methods of the BDS movement are antisemitic," the Bundestag resolution stated, adding that BDS' calls to boycott Israeli artists and the *"Don't Buy"* stickers applied to Israeli goods *"recall the most terrible phase of German history."* The resolution pledged not to financially support organizations that question Israel's right to exist, projects that call for the boycott of Israel, or organizations that actively support BDS.

Germany's Commissioner for Antisemitism, Felix Klein, had already made clear his view: *"BDS must be classified as antisemitic in both its aims and its methods, as Israeli citizens are collectively held hostage by the boycott..., And its methods have clearly borrowed from deplorable Nazi rhetoric: 'Don't buy from Jews.'" Klein welcomed the Bundestag resolution. "We must oppose every form of antisemitism, even if it seems to be harmless.... The implementation of the aims of the BDS movement would call Israel's right to exist into question."*

GERMANY'S KEY CITIES

Frankfurt

[Frankfurt passed a bill](#) in August, 2017, that prohibits the use of municipal funds and facilities for BDS activities targeting the Jewish state.

Berlin

In September, 2017, [Berlin Mayor Michael Müller](#) vowed to stop all city support and space for groups that advocate for BDS on account on them standing for antisemitism. He added that *"not everybody who supports BDS is an antisemite him- or herself, but those who support BDS help to spread antisemitism, because BDS is an antisemitic movement."*

Munich

In December, 2017, [Munich passed a bill](#) to ban boycotts of Israel, and outlawed public funds and space for the BDS campaign. The anti-BDS law also recognized the international definition of modern antisemitism.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech lawmakers on October 22, 2019 [passed a resolution](#) condemning the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel along with all forms of antisemitism. The lower house of the Czech parliament, the Chamber of Deputies, passed the non-binding resolution to confront Europe's increasing antisemitism problem.

The resolution condemns *"all manifestations of antisemitism directed against individuals, religious institutions, organizations as well as the State of Israel, including the denial of the Holocaust."* It also firmly rejects *"any questioning of the State of Israel's right of existence and defense"* and *"condemns all*

activities and statements by groups calling for a boycott of the State of Israel, its goods, services or citizens."

The resolution prohibits the Czech government from financially supporting any group that supports boycotts against the Jewish state. It also calls on the Czech government to protect those who could fall victim to future antisemitic attacks.

UNITED KINGDOM

On December 19, 2019, The United Kingdom government announced it will ban universities and local councils from organizing [boycotts, sanctions and disinvestment \(BDS\)](#) against other countries, under plans announced in the Queen's Speech. The proposals will also see public bodies banned from working with organisations promoting BDS, which is most often [used against Israel](#).

Noting that the BDS movement has most recently sought to stop businesses, artists and universities working with Israeli institutions, in protest at the country's treatment of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. The government said the change would form part of a new approach designed to stop public bodies from taking their own stances on foreign policy issues. The government said taxpayers' money should not be used to fund public organisations campaigning on foreign policy.

In documents laying out its agenda for parliament, the government claimed that BDS had fuelled antisemitism, citing examples including the censorship of Jewish films and threats to ban Jewish university societies. Prior to the announcement, Eric Pickles, the UK's special envoy for post-Holocaust issues, said:

"One of the great things.... is that we can start to address injustices and, in particular, we're going to tackle BDS, which is an organization devoted to boycotting and removing investment from Israel - one of our key allies.... We're going to ensure that the public sector, places like [local] councils and health authorities, can't work against or can't prejudice Israel. If we're being really honest, BDS is just a thin disguise for antisemitism."

AUSTRIA

On February 27, 2020, the Austrian parliament [unanimously passed a resolution](#) that calls on the government to condemn the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

All five parties represented in Austria's National Council – including the Greens and the far-right Freedom Party – supported the text of the *"Israel-related antisemitism"* resolution, which urges the government to *"strongly condemn the BDS movement and its goals, especially the call for a boycott of Israeli products, businesses, artists, scientists or athletes."*

“The National Council emphatically condemns all kinds of antisemitism, including Israel-related antisemitism, and calls on the federal government to confront these tendencies resolutely and consequently,” the resolution states.

UNITED STATES

On July 23, 2019, the United States House of Representatives passed Resolution H.Res. 246, which states:

*Resolved, That the House of Representatives—
(1) opposes the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel, including efforts to target United States companies that are engaged in commercial activities that are legal under United States law, and all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel.....*

The resolution noted that the BDS movement targeting Israel is a campaign that does not favor a two-state solution and that seeks to exclude the State of Israel and the Israeli people from the economic, cultural, and academic life of the rest of the world, and that the BDS movement is one of several recent political movements that undermines the possibility for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by demanding concessions of one party alone and encouraging the Palestinians to reject negotiations in favour of international pressure.

The **governors of all 50 USA states and the mayor of Washington, D.C. have united to condemn the BDS movement**, and to affirm that Israel remains a vital ally and economic partner. The full text of the *Governors Against BDS* statement [is here](#).

INDIVIDUAL STATES

A majority of **individual states (numbered at 30, as of end-May, 2020)** have passed resolutions, motions or introduced executive orders condemnatory of BDS, the latest being [Missouri](#) and [Oklahoma](#), with legislation prohibiting contracts with companies unless the companies certify that they are not currently engaged in a boycott of goods or services from Israel. Here are some additional, illustrative examples of action by states:

Louisiana

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards issued an executive order May 22, 2018, prohibiting Louisiana state government agencies from doing business with companies that boycott Israel. The order directs the state commissioner of administration to terminate existing state contracts with companies if they are currently boycotting Israel or supporting those who do so. Moving forward, companies *“will be required to sign an agreement certifying that they aren't boycotting Israel before being awarded a state contract”*.

Indiana

In 2016, Indiana passed legislation essentially prohibiting agencies from engaging in BDS, with contextual statements that read, inter alia:

- The Jewish state of Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East.
- By virtue of shared values and interests, the Jewish state of Israel is the strongest ally of the United States in the Middle East
- The fundamental principles of the United States are offended by attempts to:
 - a) **delegitimize** Israel's existence;
 - b) **demonize** the Jewish state; or
 - c) **undermine** the Jewish people's right to self-determination, through an international campaign to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel.
- Efforts to promote an international campaign to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel:
 - a) **increasingly occur on college and university campuses** nationwide, leading to a climate of intimidation, fear, and violence on campuses in Indiana;
 - b) **disproportionately harm thousands of Palestinian workers** employed by Israeli owned firms; and
 - c) **are antithetical and deeply damaging** to the cause of peace, justice, equality, democracy, and human rights for all people in the Middle East.

Arizona

In 2016, Arizona passed legislation prohibiting agencies from engaging in BDS, with measures that read, inter alia:

- A public entity may not enter into a contract with a company to acquire or dispose of services, supplies, information technology or construction unless the contract includes a written certification that the company is not currently engaged in, and agrees for the duration of the contract to not engage in, a boycott of Israel.
- A public entity may not adopt a procurement, investment or other policy that has the effect of inducing or requiring a person or company to boycott Israel.

Florida

In 2016, Florida Legislature passed bi-partisan anti-BDS legislation. The legislation [SB-86 and H-0527], designed to prevent Florida from investing in or doing business with companies participating in boycotts of Israel, was overwhelming supported in both houses of the legislature, with the House voting 112-2 and the Senate approving the measure unanimously. Florida Governor Rick Scott signed the bill into law on March 10, 2016.

The law puts limits on companies that boycott Israel by prohibiting the use of state pension funds from being invested in those companies and by restricting state contracts with those companies. It also requires the state to compile a list of companies that boycott Israel and prevent the board administering the pension fund from investing in companies on the list or from allowing the state or local governments to enter in to contracts worth \$1 million or more with those companies.

MAY, 2020