

Motion to discuss the Palestinian Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS)

In the past three years, various academic associations in North America have organized forums for discussion and debate of the 2005 Palestinian civil society call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel. Additionally, a number of academic associations have held membership votes on whether to endorse the BDS call.

We acknowledge that members of the International Studies Association (ISA) will have differing views on the necessity or productivity of the call for BDS. At the same time, because we study international politics and members of our association are involved in these debates as public intellectuals, we ask the GC to consider our request to:

- Affirm that calls for institutional boycott, divestment, and/or sanctions are protected free speech and legitimate forms of non-violent political action; and
- Affirm the right of ISA members to engage in open and transparent discussion of the boycott of Israeli academic institutions in the context of the Annual Meeting and other forums; and
- Affirm the right of the memberships of all organizations to discuss, debate, and endorse or not endorse the BDS campaign; and
- Strongly urge relevant ISA committees and sections to organize discussions to create opportunities, at the annual conference and over the course of the year, for a sustained discussion of the academic boycott and foster careful consideration of an appropriate position for ISA to assume.

Information about academic associations BDS-related discussions and actions

List of academic associations that discussed BDS and passed resolutions in support of the call

The National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)

The African Literature Association

The Association for Humanist Sociology

Critical Ethnic Studies Association

National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association,
The Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA)

List of associations about to vote electronically on BDS:

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

List of academic associations that are currently discussing BDS and possible actions:

Modern Languages Association (MLA)

The American Political Science Association (APSA)

The Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

Links:

- [Petition by ISA members, urging the GC to discuss BDS at the upcoming meeting of the Governing Council.](#)
- [Palestinian Call for BDS \(2005\)](#)
- [Report of AAA Task Force on the Association's engagement with Israel-Palestine \(October 2015\)](#)