Palestinian Grassroots Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign - www.stopthewall.org

Guide for
Local Councils
in support of Palestinian Rights

Historically, local councils have had key roles in the struggle for human rights and the development of governance and processes that have shaped international norms.

Civil society initiatives help remind local councils of their legal obligations and call for effective solidarity through compliance with their binding obligations.

It is not only the time, but also a duty for local councils across the globe to resolve and unite to uphold international law and human rights. Promoting freedom, justice and equality for the Palestinian people is one way to do so.

Local action toward justice and a better world

Solidarity with the Palestinian people, in order to be politically coherent and effective, has to include non-cooperation with Israeli apartheid, colonialism and occupation.

Israeli Apartheid Free Council

- Based on Solidarity with the Palestinian people
- Explicitely support the BDS movement to end Israeli apartheid

Socially Responsible Council

- Expressing respect for principles of social responsibility

Council compliant with international law

- Local councils bear duties under international law
- 'Don't recognize or co-operate with grave breaches of international law'

Promote and develop public education, local democracy and city-to-city cooperation

- Numerous cities have already adopted such motions. Alone in the Spanish state over 50 municipalities are 'Israeli Apartheid Free Cities'.
- The 2014 International Conference on Palestine organized by the UN and local government networks called in its conclusions on local governments to adhere to the above principles.

Israeli violations of international law

Among others:

- Acquisition of territory by force
- Forcible population transfer
- Colonial domination
- Apartheid
- Violations of human rights
- Denial of the right to self-determination
- War crimes

Actors involved in Israeli violations

- The Israeli state and the collectivity of its institutions that implement Israel's illegal policies.
- Israel's parastatal organizations (World Zionist Organization, Jewish Agency and Jewish National Fund etc) which discriminate against the indigenous people of Palestine.
- Israeli local governments and Regional Councils that implement these violations at local level.
- Public and private Israeli, foreign and transnational companies that cooperate with, and profit from operations that implement or enable these grave breaches.

Concrete commitments of local councils

The council and municipal organs will:

- Not procure and purchase goods, equipment or services from companies that are involved in any of Israel's breaches of internationally peremptory norms.
- Not invest pension funds or other municipal funds in, or divest from these companies
- Abstain from non-commercial/non-financial cooperation, whether of political, academic, cultural, sports or other nature with representatives of the Israeli government, its diplomatic missions and the Israeli military, Israeli academic and cultural institutions, as well as Israeli state-sponsored academic, cultural and sports initiatives.

Some technical notices:

- Ensure your motion clarifies that exclusion is not based on Israel as a country of origin, but that such cooperation enables participation in, profiting from or support to Israel's illegal acts and policies.
- These measures are not 'arbitrary discrimination', but fulfil an international obligation.
- The non-discrimination clause of the WTO rules does not prevent public actors from excluding companies from bidding based on their actions or policies.
- The EU Directive on public procurement allows the exclusion of entities 'guilty of grave professional misconduct', i.e. commission or complicity in grave breaches of international law.