

THE TEN KEY PROBLEMS WITH BDS:

- 1.** BDS demonizes, antagonizes, and delegitimizes one of the two parties who have to negotiate a solution to the conflict by working together, and BDS uncritically idealizes the other. That will inhibit negotiations, not promote them.
- 2.** BDS misrepresents its goal, which is not to change Israeli government policy but rather to eliminate the Jewish state.
- 3.** BDS offers no specific steps toward a resolution of the conflict and no detailed peace plan, merely a comprehensive condemnation of Israel.
- 4.** BDS misrepresents its conditions for a resolution of the conflict. BDS does not seek to negotiate a Palestinian right of return to the West Bank, but rather to impose a right for all Palestinians to return to Israel within its pre-1967 borders.
- 5.** BDS falsely claims to imagine a nonviolent route to ending the conflict. But there is no nonviolent way to achieve its goal of eliminating the Jewish state.
- 6.** BDS demands an end to all efforts to build mutual empathy and understanding between Israelis and Palestinians. This “anti-normalization” campaign rejects the communication, dialogue, negotiation, and unconditional interchange necessary to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict.
- 7.** BDS falsely claims to target institutions, not individuals. Its boycott guidelines prove otherwise, detailing numerous ways individuals will be targeted.
- 8.** BDS’s academic boycott proposals would limit contacts with critics of Israeli policy, including Israeli Arabs teaching or studying at Israeli universities.
- 9.** BDS undermines academic freedom by limiting free expression and the exchange of ideas and undercutting faculty and student rights to collaborate with others as they choose and make their own decisions about what research and study opportunities to pursue.
- 10.** BDS offers nothing to the Palestinian people it claims to champion. Perhaps the single most cruel and ironic feature of the BDS movement is that it actually offers nothing realistic and tangible to the Palestinian people. The movement is really about capturing the hearts and minds of Americans and Europeans, not about helping the Palestinian people. Its message of hate is a route to war, not peace.

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