

# Solidarity: Palestinian Women's Call for Worldwide Women's Endorsement of BDS

Saturday 7 May 2016, by [Members of the global women's rights movement](#), [Movements \(Palestine\)](#) (Date first published: 8 March 2016).

*"Support BDS, and Palestine will be free!"* – Angela Davis

On the occasion of Palestinian women's celebration of 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the International Women's Day, we the undersigned, Palestinian women organizations, centers and groups, call upon all women and feminists of the world, as well as women's organizations and collectives, to endorse the BDS Call issued by Palestinian civil society in 2005 and join to the BDS movement to support our struggle for freedom, justice and equality.

The Israeli regime of occupation, settler-colonialism and apartheid has for decades denied the Palestinian people our inalienable right to self-determination, including through its:

- Ethnic cleansing and dispossession of a majority of the indigenous Palestinian people during the 1948 Nakba and denial of the right of return of the Palestine refugees as stipulated in and protected by international law;
- Military occupation and colonization of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza since 1967, in violation of international law and UN resolutions;
- Entrenched system of legalized and institutionalized racial discrimination and segregation, especially against the Palestinian citizens of Israel, which meets the UN definition of the crime of apartheid;

Palestinian women have borne the brunt of these Israeli violations in every sphere. Our very giving of life is regarded as a "demographic threat." Some prominent Israeli figures have openly called for killing us en masse or raping us. We are deprived of our right to family reunification.

We are subject to humiliation and harassment at military checkpoints, where some of us have been forced to give birth without any medical attention. Some of our sisters, including a representative in the Palestinian Legislative Council, are incarcerated in Israeli jails,

Israeli policies aim to inhibit our participation in the cultural, academic and economic spheres and to undermine our active and proud political contribution to our people's struggle for liberation.

As indigenous women, our vision of freedom is inclusive. We aspire to and work for gender equality and against sexism in our society, while simultaneously resisting Israel's occupation, racism and violations of our rights under international law.

Since the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 has upheld the rights of women and girls and called upon all parties to armed conflict "to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, the Refugee

Convention of 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 ...”

Since UNSCR 1325 “Emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes ...”,

Given Israel’s commission of serious violations of international law, including ethnic cleansing, siege, construction of colonial settlements and walls, denial of refugee rights, some of which amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Given that all forms of international intervention have until now failed to compel Israel to comply with its obligations under international law or to end its violations of Palestinian rights,

In view of the fact that people of conscience in the international community, particularly women, have historically shouldered the moral responsibility to fight injustice, as exemplified in their struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa through diverse forms of boycott,

Given that the General Union of Palestinian Women and all the main Palestinian women associations have participated in launching the BDS Call in 2005,

Given the growth and effectiveness of the BDS movement worldwide in challenging Israel’s impunity and international complicity in Israel’s regime of oppression,

Recognizing the fast growing support for the international, Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement for Palestinian rights, including from the Women’s International Democratic Federation (WIDF), the Euromed Feminist Initiative (EFI-IFE) and the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) in the U.S., among others,

In the spirit of an inclusive feminist vision that struggles for racial, social and economic justice, and is in solidarity with indigenous peoples and sovereignty rights globally,

In the spirit of moral consistency and resistance to injustice and oppression, including the oppression of women,

We call on all women and feminists around the world to stand on the right side of history and join our BDS movement.

Justice is always a feminist agenda.

*Signatories:*

1. The General Union of Palestinian Women
2. Palestinian Women’s Campaign for Boycotting Israeli Products
3. الجمعية العامة للنساء الفلسطينيات 1325 الجمعية العامة للنساء الفلسطينيات الجمعية العامة للنساء الفلسطينيات.
4. Women’s Affairs Technical Committee
5. Association of Women Committees For Social Work
6. Union of Palestinian Women Committees
7. Federation of Women’s action committees

8. UNION DE l Action Feminine
9.   .
10. Rural Women's Development Society
11.    .
12.     .
13.   .
14. Women Media and Development "TAM"
15. Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center
16.    .
17.    .
18.   -  .
19. The Palestinian Working Women's Society for Development (PWWSD)
20. Inash Alusra Society
21.       .
22.        .
23.    .
24. Women's Studies Centre
25. Institute of Women's Studies
26.  .
27. Miftah
28. Filastiniyat
29. General Union of Palestinian Workers - Women's Division
30. General Union of Palestinian Teachers - Women's Division
31. Qalandia Women's Association
32. Al\_Nahda-Women-Association
33. Al\_Nahda-Women-Association
34. Al- Najda Social Association
35. Mothers School Society

36. ARAB WOMEN UNION SOCIETY
  37. Hawwa Society Center For Culture and Arts
  38. Women Association The Palestinian Development
  39. Al Najd Development Forum
  40. Centre for Womens legal Research and Consulting
  41. Women's Affairs Center
  42. Women's Action Association
  43. For Rehabilitation Women & the Child
  44. The culture & Free Thought Association
  45. Wefaq society for woman and child
  46. Community Media Center
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**P.S.**

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<https://bdsmovement.net/2016/palestinian-womens-call-for-worldwide-womens-endorsement-of-bds-13851>

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<http://www.siawi.org/article11539.html>