

SCREENING OUT INVESTMENTS IN CORPORATIONS COMPLICIT IN THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The Mini-Assembly for this item is Friday at 4:45pm in Convention Center Union Station Ballroom C

- 1 *WHEREAS*, Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant by our First and Second Principles to honor the
2 inherent worth and dignity of all persons and to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in
3 human relations; and by our fifth, sixth and Seventh Principles to uphold the use of the democratic process
4 , goals of peace, justice, and world community, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence;
5 and
- 6 *WHEREAS*, the UUA guidelines for Socially Responsible Investment state, "We also favor investments in
7 companies that demonstrate positive environmental practices; respect for human rights, labor rights, and
8 other legal and ethical standards; ... We seek to avoid companies that perform poorly in these areas;" and
- 9 *WHEREAS*, in 1985, the UUA General Assembly passed a Business Resolution calling on the UUA and
10 Unitarian Universalist congregations to divest from corporations doing business in South Africa to help end
11 the human rights abuses of the apartheid regime, now recognized as an action that helped restore the
12 dignity and humanity of all South Africans; and
- 13 *WHEREAS*, Unitarian Universalists have expressed their opposition to Israel's military occupation and its
14 associated human rights violations (*) in many ways over many years, including passage by the UUA General
15 Assembly of a General Resolution in 1982 and an Action of Immediate Witness in 2002; and
- 16 *WHEREAS*, certain corporations provide equipment and services that are used to maintain and expand the
17 occupation with its associated violations of human rights; and
- 18 *WHEREAS*, the UUA has considered human rights in its screening process, has avoided corporations with
19 poor human rights policies and practices, and has recently applied a human rights screen that
20 encompasses all areas of the world including the occupied Palestinian territories; and
- 21 *WHEREAS*, we as Unitarian Universalists seek to join with other religious and secular organizations, as proud
22 leaders and supporter of an international movement to end the violations of Palestinian rights by refraining
23 from investing in specific corporations.
- 24 *THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that this General Assembly commends the UUA for including human rights in its
25 socially responsible investment screening process; and
- 26 *BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED* that this General Assembly calls upon the UUA in future investment decisions to
27 continue to use human rights investment screens that effectively identify corporations complicit in the
28 violation of human rights around the world including in the occupied Palestinian territories .

* United Nations Human Rights Council - <http://www.refworld.org/docid/531439c44.html>; Amnesty International - <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Israel-and-Palestine>; B'Tselem - <http://www.btselem.org/>; Al Haq - <http://www.alhaq.org/>