

**Title Option 2: Resolution Calling For Establishing An Ethical Procurement Committee That Adheres To BDS Movement's Calls For Institutional Divestment From Entities Profiting From Genocide And Occupation**

**WHEREAS**, in the November 6, 2023 **Resolution Recognizing Native American Heritage Month**<sup>1</sup>, San Diego City College affirmed its commitment to, “examining and taking action to *address the injustices of colonization and occupation*,” and recognizes that Indigenous peoples, “*continue to be subjected to colonial structures of oppression resulting in the death of millions of Indigenous people, land dispossession, language and culture loss*,” which directly intersects with the ethnic cleansing and displacement of millions of Palestinian people under Israel’s illegal settler-colonial occupation of Palestine; and,

**WHEREAS**, the San Diego City College **Land Acknowledgment**<sup>2</sup>, which recognizes that we gather on *unceded* Kumeyaay land, and commits to, “examin(ing) practices that *perpetuate harm against Indigenous, Black, Brown, and other marginalized communities*; and, pledge(s) to sustain a meaningful and respectful relationship with the Kumeyaay and other Indigenous communities,” should not exclude the indigenous Palestinian people whose ancestral home has remained the land of Palestine for thousands of years;

**WHEREAS**, **student movements in the U.S.**, such as to the anti-war, civil rights, anti-apartheid, immigrant-rights, Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+, economic rights, and Ethnic Studies movements – including the Palestinian struggle for freedom – have been on the right side of history in leading the way for social and political change; the contributions of student movements are recognized and effectively **endorsed by the District’s Black Studies, Chicano Studies, Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies, Disability Studies, Native American Studies, and the Labor Studies Programs**, as well as various institutional programs and learning communities like the Basic Needs Center, Undocumented Resource Center, Pride Hub, DSPS, HUBU, AANAPISI, Umoja, Puente, City Scholars, Borderless Scholars, YoSoySTEM, MESA, CalWorks;

**WHEREAS**, the student-led **anti-apartheid boycott movement** of the 1980s, similar to the nonviolent global campaign of the **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)**<sup>3</sup> **movement**, demonstrates the necessity of grassroots student activism in holding world governments

<sup>1</sup> The Board of Trustees of the San Diego Community College District recognizes November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month,”  
[https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/sdccd/Board.nsf/files/CZY26W00B5DC/\\$file/Signed%20SDCCD%20Resolution%20Recognizing%20NAHM.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/sdccd/Board.nsf/files/CZY26W00B5DC/$file/Signed%20SDCCD%20Resolution%20Recognizing%20NAHM.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> “San Diego City College Land Acknowledgement,”  
<https://www.sdcity.edu/about/mission-priorities/student-success-equity.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> “BDS Corporate Complicity Criteria,” <https://bdsmovement.net/news/bds-corporate-complicity-criteria>

accountable for their complicity in human rights violations, illegal occupation, and institutional social stratification and inequality, as committed by the state of Israel;

**WHEREAS**, BDS pressures the Israeli government to abide by **international law**<sup>4</sup> to put an end to its **illegal and inhumane policies**<sup>5</sup>. BDS advocates for nonviolent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law by fulfilling three demands: *ending the occupation and colonization of Palestine, recognizing of Palestinian refugees to full rights, and respecting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland*;

**WHEREAS**, divestment is an act of tracing an institution's financial links to war, oppression, and exploitation, to use them as leverage to expose, isolate, and withdraw from these harmful social structures. The BDS movement utilizes economic and cultural boycotts, focused on select companies who directly contribute to the Israeli occupation. While discouraging expansive nonspecific boycotts, the movement's targeting practices are organized into four distinct categories which include:

- a. **Consumer boycott targets:** Brands identified by BDS for a complete boycott due to their documented involvement in Israeli genocide and apartheid.
- b. **Divestment and exclusion targets:** Pressuring institutions and organizations to divest from companies listed in reliable sources such as the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UN)<sup>6</sup> database of businesses involved in illegal settlements and the WhoProfits<sup>7</sup> database of companies profiting off the occupation, and AFSC Investigate<sup>8</sup> database of companies enabling the occupation.
- c. **Pressure targets:** Pressuring entities that enable the genocide and occupation through lobbying, social media, and boycotts when alternatives do not exist. d. **Organic boycott targets:** Grassroots campaigns supported by BDS to pressure brands that are complicit in the current ongoing genocide.

<sup>4</sup>"Commission of Inquiry finds that the Israeli occupation is unlawful under international law," <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/10/commission-inquiry-finds-israeli-occupation-unlawful-under-international-law>

<sup>5</sup>"UN experts warn international order on a knife's edge, urge States to comply with ICJ Advisory Opinion,"

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2024/09/un-experts-warn-international-order-knives-edge-urge-states-comply-icj-advisory>

<sup>6</sup>"Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights," <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/43/71>

<sup>7</sup>"Who Profits Research Center," <https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/all>

<sup>8</sup>"AFSC Investigate Database of Companies," <https://investigate.afsc.org/>

**WHEREAS**, the governing bodies of San Diego City College and the District adhere to the **Mission Statement**<sup>9</sup> of the SDCCD, which states, "We encourage responsibility, trust, collaboration, and inclusivity among all constituencies *through participation in college and District decision-making processes. We value informed decisions made by people with diverse and informed perspectives,*" where by this logic, students have a right to participate in District procurement and partnership delegations; and,

**WHEREAS**, in accordance to the San Diego Community College **District Strategic Plan for 2023-2030**<sup>10</sup>, San Diego City College affirms its priority to creating, "A Learning Culture Built on Social Justice and Equity," and the goal of, "Students and employees at City College will play a tangible role in advancing social and environmental justice within the community served by the College;"

**WHEREAS**, the governing bodies of San Diego City College and the District adhere to the **Mission and Values of the SDCCD Department of Purchasing and Contracting Services**<sup>11</sup>, "upholding a commitment to quality customer service, *providing organizational value, integrity, transparency and ethics,*" which should include the abstention from contracting with corporations participating in and/or profiting from genocide and ethnic cleansing, not limited to Israel's ongoing genocide of Palestinians; and ought to uplift local businesses in the expenditure of District financial resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, SDCCD students have the right to participate in shared governance meetings, according to **EdCode 70902 (b)(7)**<sup>12</sup>, "... to ensure faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to express their opinions at the campus level, to ensure that these opinions are given every reasonable consideration, to ensure the right to participate effectively in district and college governance..."

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the District divest from companies that profit, participate and/or contribute to the apartheid state of Israel's illegal occupation and genocide in Palestine, to adhere to more humane and environmentally sustainable procurement policies, and;

<sup>9</sup>"SDCCD Mission Statement and Goals,"

<https://www.sdccd.edu/about/mission-and-goals.aspx#:~:text=We%20create%20spaces%20where%20access,students%2C%20faculty%2C%20and%20employees>

<sup>10</sup>"SDCCD District Strategic Plan 2023-2030,"

[https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/cpr/FINALStrategicPlan\\_092822.pdf](https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/cpr/FINALStrategicPlan_092822.pdf)

<sup>11</sup>"SDCCD Department of Purchasing and Contracting Services Mission and Values,"

<https://www.sdccd.edu/departments/business/purchasing/index.aspx>

<sup>12</sup>"Education Code (EDC) Division 7. Community Colleges [70900 - 88933],"

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=7.&title=3.&part](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=7.&title=3.&part)

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that a committee for ethical procurement be established with the purview to collectively audit active contracts, agreements, partnerships, MOUs, and incumbent purchases to enact alternative investment and resource expenditure practices in line with the goals of the BDS movement and UN purchasing and procurement guidelines.

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that this established committee for ethical procurement be composed of members of the District who demonstrate the following criteria:

- a. Solidarity with Palestinian People: A commitment to the Palestinian communities adversely impacted by Israel's occupation policies and demonstrated solidarity with oppressed and underrepresented groups
- b. Ethics: A commitment to addressing human rights infringements and impacts with which the District may be invested in through its procurement practices
- c. Transparency: A demonstrated understanding of all the clauses above

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the district collaborate with Students For Justice in Palestine of City College and Mesa College in this committee,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this aforementioned committee is guided by the business guidelines of the BDS Movement<sup>13</sup> and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.<sup>14</sup>

## **UNDERSIGNED**

Students for Justice in Palestine at City College



With the support of:

<sup>13</sup>"Ethical Investment Policy,"

<https://bdsmovement.net/resources/ethical-investment-policy><sup>14</sup>“United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,”  
<https://www.unpri.org/about-us/what-are-the-principles-for-responsible-investment>