

On December 13, 2018, the [UC Chancellors issued this statement](#):

As chancellors of the University of California campuses, we write to affirm our long-standing opposition to an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions and/or individual scholars. Our commitment to continued engagement and partnership with Israeli, as well as Palestinian colleagues, colleges, and universities is unwavering. We believe a boycott of this sort poses a direct and serious threat to the academic freedom of our students and faculty, as well as the unfettered exchange of ideas and perspectives on our campuses, including debate and discourse regarding conflicts in the Middle East.

Take Action:

Write the Chancellors and express your objection to their statement, see Coalition statement below.

Emails:

chancellor@berkeley.edu, chancellor@ucdavis.edu, chancellor@uci.edu, chancellor@ucla.edu,
chancellor@ucmerced.edu, chancellor@ucr.edu,
chancellor@ucsd.edu, chancellor@ucsf.edu, chancellor@ucsb.edu,
chancellor@ucsc.edu

Message sent January 2, 2019:

Dear Chancellors Christ, May, Gillman, Block, Leland, Wilcox, Khosla, Hawgood, Yang, and Blumenthal:

We write to express our objection to your recent collective statement opposing an academic boycott of Israeli institutions.

Israeli academic institutions are an integral part of the Israeli regime's brutal military occupation of Palestine and its flagrant violations of human rights and international law. "Partnering" with them condones their role and makes the University of California complicit in perpetuating an illegal occupation and abusive apartheid system.

The global boycott against apartheid South Africa also included its academic institutions because of their role in supporting apartheid. There was no "unfettered exchange" or "academic freedom" in apartheid South Africa and there is none in apartheid Israel.

The Israeli government's imprisonment and torture of activists, extrajudicial killings, home demolitions, land theft, and other human rights abuses are a "direct and serious threat to academic freedom" as well as to the lives of indigenous Palestinians who live under Israeli occupation and apartheid.

You have lent your names to a letter that in effect promotes injustice, human rights abuses, and violations of international law. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said to those who wanted to remain neutral during the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

Student governments at U.C. campuses have heeded Tutu's words and passed resolutions calling for divestment from companies that profit from Israel's human rights violations and apartheid.

We ask that you reconsider the position you have taken and instead choose to follow the example set by your students, who have refused to accept Israeli apartheid like their predecessors of the 1960s refused to accept South African apartheid. They truly uphold principles of academic freedom – to study, to teach and to live without repression.

When Israel ends its occupation and system of apartheid and obeys international law, the boycott will end. As guardians of academic freedom, you should work to hasten that day.

Sincerely,

Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights