



Our Economic Leverage



In 2015, at the 30th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, a resolution was passed urging Socially Responsible Investment Practices. At the same Synod, an additional resolution was passed calling the United Church of Christ to “take actions toward a just peace in the Israeli- Palestinian conflict.”

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) affirmed, at its General Assembly in 2017, its commitment to responsible investment generally. In a resolution named “Compelled to Witness” in 2023, the Assembly asserted the right of “use of economic measures by individuals, institutions, corporations and religious bodies that advocate for lasting peace with justice.”

These resolutions are examples of the UCC and Disciples commitment to accompanying Palestinian partners through their experience of injustice, and are part of the history of such engagement.

One way of using our economic leverage in this accompaniment is through boycotting companies that invest in Israeli military technology and maintain socially irresponsible practices that are an affront to human rights. We stand together, as people of faith, calling for the use of consumer boycotts, divestment, and positive investment to care for each other around the world.

WHO: Boycott companies profiting from rights violations, including: Chevron, AirBnB, PayPal, and HP.

WHAT: One of the ways in which people advocate for themselves and the issues they care about is through the discernment of where to spend their money. By refusing to purchase their products, aka boycotting, you can affect their bottom line and public image, and therefore signal to the company that its practices need to change.

WHEN: A personal boycott can take place at any time. However, there is increased pressure on companies when people coalesce around a time and/or cause. Today, the issue is the genocide of Palestinians by the Israeli military campaign and the continuing occupation of Palestinian land and violations of Palestinian rights more broadly.

WHERE: Boycotts are most effective when they are targeted. You can always get together with other community members to boycott other complicit companies as well. Below are a few lists from the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the United Nations (UN) that contain other companies that are supporting the Israeli occupation and violations of Palestinian rights, either directly or indirectly.

- o [UN List of Companies Involved in Israeli Settlements](#)
- o [AFSC Palestinian Rights Divestment List](#)
- o [AFSC Investigate Tool: Action/Research on Companies Involved in State Violence](#)

WHY: A company’s practices are endorsed when a consumer gives them money for goods or goods or services, but when consumers choose other options as a matter of principle, companies are signaled to change their practices because their profit margin is negatively affected, and their public image can be damaged. As a result, they can be forced to change their practices, downsize and/or even shut down.

Definition of Boycott: An individual, group of persons or company withdrawing from commercial or social relations with (a country, organization, or person) as a punishment or protest of actions that are not in ethical alignment with the organization being withdrawn from.