

REJECTED BUSINESS RESOLUTION

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

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

33 * United Nations Human rights council - <http://www.refworld.org/docid/531439c44.html> ; Amnesty International -
34 <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Israel-and-Palestine> ; B’Tselem - <http://www.btselem.org> ; Al Haq –
35 <http://www.alhaq.org>

(This is an unofficial copy of the “Rejected Business Resolution” based on the Proposed Resolution combined with an amendment – lines 16 and 17 – which was added during the GA General Session III held on Saturday, June 25, 2016. The final vote on the overall resolution was 774 “for” and 647 “against”. The 54 percent in favor was 13 percent short of the two-thirds required for passage. The proposed resolution failed.)