

Australian Jewish Democratic Society  
A Progressive Voice among Jews  
A Jewish Voice among Progressives

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The Australian Jewish Democratic Society (AJDS) is aware that the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) will be discussing a resolution regarding Palestine at its National Forum in June 2016.

The AJDS commends the NCCA for considering this issue and for seeking to support justice in Israel-Palestine. The AJDS has a strong record of speaking out in favour of a just and peaceful solution for both Israelis and Palestinians. We therefore believe that it is our responsibility to speak out about the systemic injustices and brutal policies of occupation and militarisation in Israel.

We believe that the policies of occupation in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza violate the human rights of Palestinians, undermine the fragile state of democracy in Israel, and promote despair and violence. This policy ultimately damages the possibility for long lasting justice, peace and safety for both Israeli Jews and Palestinians.

The AJDS believe that Israeli settlements are an obstacle to peace and violate the international laws that govern war and occupation, as well as international human rights law. The boycott of products from the settlements of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem is, we believe, an effective strategy. We have run a 'don't buy settlement products' campaign since 2013. More information is available on our [website](#) about products and the reasons as to why we feel this is an effective and important campaign.

The AJDS supports in principle the idea of establishing an awareness-raising campaign on the plight of Palestinian people, and the promotion of a campaign of boycotting goods from illegal settlements. We would encourage church leaders to visit Israel-Palestine and to use any such visits to engage with diverse people and opinions within Israel and Palestine.

Yours sincerely,

Yael Winikoff, community organiser  
On behalf of the Australian Jewish Democratic Society.