

*Australian Christians who seek lasting  
Peace for the people of Palestine and  
Israel. We aim to equip and inform  
Australian churches, inspired by  
Christ's vision for universal reconciliation*



## **Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Announces Boycott of Hewlett Packard (HP) in Australia**

*(text for video announcement by the Rev Gregor Henderson)*

Hello. My name is Gregor Henderson, and I'm one of the founding members of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) here in Australia. I'm a minister of the Uniting Church and I served as the national President of the Uniting Church from 2006 to 2009. In this video I'm proud to launch a new PIEN initiative.

PIEN is launching a campaign to invite Australians to boycott the products of Hewlett Packard (HP), such as HP computers and associated equipment.

This is PIEN's first campaign, following our adoption of a policy of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) as a non-violent action against companies and other entities which, directly or indirectly, support Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and its blockade of the Gaza Strip, in violation of international law.

BDS was successfully used against supporters of Apartheid in South Africa. Israel, especially having now adopted a new *Basic Law* proclaiming Israel as *The Nation State of the Jewish People*, is rightly designated as an apartheid state.

We have chosen to focus our first campaign on Hewlett Packard due to their direct link to the illegal occupation through equipping the Israeli military with the technology infrastructure used to maintain the systems of apartheid and oppression. This infrastructure is used in Israel's checkpoints and separation barrier which impinge upon Palestinians' fundamental human right of freedom of movement. The checkpoints and wall fragment and segregate the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza and their residents through electric fences, watchtowers, sensors, and concrete barriers, which separate Palestinian workers from their jobs, farmers from their land, students from their schools, patients from hospitals, and families from each other. Palestinian homes are demolished and livelihoods affected as land is confiscated to build the wall and to accommodate the illegal Israeli settlements.

HP also provides Israel with computers for its defence forces and servers to house its notorious population registry - all key components in the racial discrimination and denial of basic human rights of apartheid.

PIEN is a network of Australian Christians and supporters, united in our commitment to Christ's vision for universal reconciliation, as expressed in his mission of good news for the poor, release for the captives and freedom for the oppressed (Luke 4: 18).

As such we are compelled to seek lasting peace and justice for the people of both Palestine and Israel. PIEN and its members and supporters are greatly concerned by events as they have unfolded and continue to do so in the Holy Land, including the entrenched illegal occupation since 1967, gross human rights violations, and the daily consequences of these for Palestinians and Israelis.

We have heard the calls of our brothers and sisters in Palestine and Israel who are actively working for justice and peace, including those voiced in the 2009 Kairos Palestine document, the 2017 statement from the National Coalition of Christian Organisations in Palestine and particularly the call from the Palestinian BDS National Committee.

In response, *PIEN adopts a policy on BDS* to guide our actions in support of peace and justice in Palestine and Israel which:

- **Recognises** that all Israelis and Palestinians are entitled to live in freedom, security and justice.
- **Supports** the adoption of BDS campaigns against any action, whether by the State of Israel, or by any of its communities, settlements, agencies, companies or other groups - or by any other entities (international or Israeli) - that are complicit in the violation of Palestinian human rights, noting that this includes such complicity by sporting, cultural and academic institutions. PIEN will continue

to support BDS until Israel meets its obligations under international law, including ending the occupation of Palestinian land and the blockade of Gaza.

- **Affirms** that the BDS movement is a non-violent human rights movement that rejects all forms of racism and discrimination, particularly anti-Semitism.
- **Recognises** that BDS should not be applied against Israelis or other individuals, companies, institutions or organisations that oppose the Occupation.
- **Urges** PIEN's members and supporters to participate in BDS campaigns as they are able in their individual contexts and according to their own consciences.

To read our full BDS policy and to learn more about the Hewlett Packard connection to the Israeli occupation and ways you can engage in our campaign:

- visit our website ([www.pien.org.au](http://www.pien.org.au)); and
- follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/PalestineIsraelEcumenicalNetwork/](http://www.facebook.com/PalestineIsraelEcumenicalNetwork/)).

Together we can raise awareness about the situation in Palestine and Israel and put pressure on the Israeli Government to end the occupation and the blockade and adhere to international law.