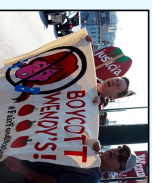
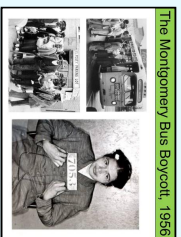




Support Our First Amendment Right to Boycott



2019 Proposed Action of Immediate Witness



1. Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) Overview

Since 2014 over 100 measures have been introduced at state, local and federal levels targeting the use of boycott and divestment in support of Palestinian human rights. The United States Supreme Court declared in 1982 that the right to boycott is a form of speech protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

This Action of Immediate Witness calls on Unitarian Universalists and the Unitarian Universalist Association to defend the time-honored, non-violent and constitutional use of boycott and divestment to achieve social justice in all human rights concerns, and to oppose all efforts to prevent or criminalize their use.

2. National: Combating BDS Act

If this law passes, there will be legal challenges, but the future composition of the Supreme Court is a concern for appeals.

The bill was passed by a bipartisan group of 73 senators as S1 in January 2019.

"While the House has not taken up the bill, the fact that members of Congress even considered the bill, let alone passed it through one chamber, is gravely concerning. The bill makes a mockery of the constitutional principle that the people are free to protest for the causes they care about."—ACLU

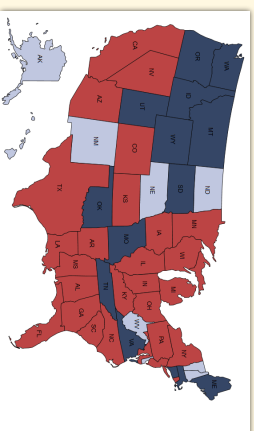
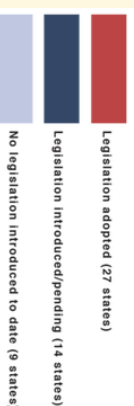
3. State Legislation and Orders

Human Rights Watch estimates that over 250 million Americans now live in states with Israel anti-boycott laws and policies.

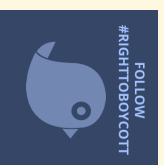
Requirements for businesses and contractors to sign what amounts to an Israel loyalty oath have been passed in 27 states.

Legislation is pending in 14 states.

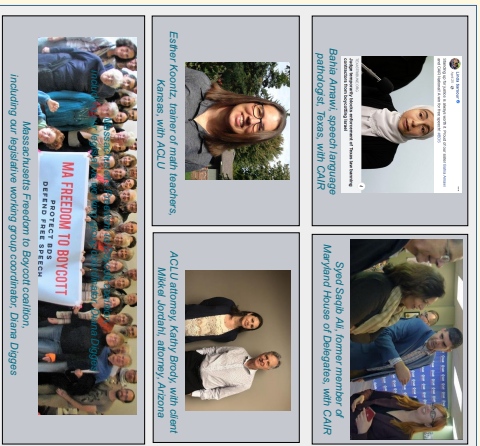
Unitarian Universalists have actively opposed these efforts, although no UU state legislative action networks have joined these campaigns.



righttoboycott.org



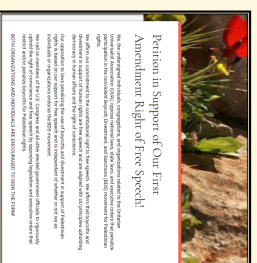
4. Challenges to Laws



5. National UU Petition

Online version:
<https://tinyurl.com/defendrighttoboycott>

Paper version:
<https://tinyurl.com/defendrighttoboycott-paper>



6. Solidarity: A Moral Imperative

Boycotts have a rich legacy.

Legislation to attack the right to boycott is part of a coordinated attack on our civil and human rights: prosecution of #NoMoreDeaths for leaving water in the desert for migrants, pipeline protests, disruptions against racist police brutality, and more.

UUs must unite to defend our constitutional rights in support of universal human rights.

More than 150 Palestinian civil society organizations have called for targeted boycott of corporations that enable the abuse of Palestinian rights. See <https://bdsmovement.net/get-involved/what-to-boycott>

7. Get Involved

Support the AIW during General Assembly.

Follow us on Facebook/Twitter @uuyme.

Support our petition.

Organize a congregational letter writing campaign.

Adopt a congregational/group statement.

Join our UUUME Legislative Working Group:

- Zoom meeting 1st Monday of each month
- Rich resources and collaboration
- Email list: legislation@uuyme.org