

Resolution on PGH DSA Stance on BDS

WHEREAS the State of Israel has carried out a regime of occupation, apartheid and ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian people.

WHEREAS the U.S. government continues to fund and arm the Israeli settler state, sending billions of dollars in military aid with congressional approval.

WHEREAS an array of Palestinian civil society organizations has called for a policy of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) to pressure Israel to comply with international law by:

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands.
2. Granting Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel their right to full equality.
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

WHEREAS the Democratic Socialists of America national convention voted to support the BDS movement in 2017, reaffirmed its commitment in 2019 by establishing a BDS & Palestine Solidarity national working group, and in 2021 included BDS in our National Platform.

WHEREAS the Pittsburgh DSA bylaws affirm “that human beings should be free to develop to their fullest potential,” including oppressed and colonized people around the world.

WHEREAS local organizations, including the Pittsburgh BDS Coalition, are working to support the Palestinian people and fight U.S. support for Israeli apartheid.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Pittsburgh DSA affirms its commitment to solidarity with the Palestinian people and its support for the BDS movement.

RESOLVED that Pittsburgh DSA will stand alongside the Pittsburgh BDS Coalition in organizing local action to support the Palestinian people.

RESOLVED that Pittsburgh DSA will adhere to BDS policies and will avoid spending chapter funds on products, companies and institutions that are complicit in Israel’s violations of Palestinian rights, specifically those subject to targeted boycotts by the BDS Movement or Pittsburgh BDS Coalition.

RESOLVED to affirm that any politician endorsed by the Pittsburgh DSA will be held accountable if they are found by a General Meeting of Pittsburgh DSA to be in violation of BDS principles, including:

- Visiting present-day Israel or illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territory that include any links to the Israeli government or complicit Israeli corporations or institutions;
- Voting for monetary aid to Israel;
- Publicly opposing the BDS movement

- Using either campaign funds or public funds at their direct and immediate discretion on products, companies, or services subject to targeted boycotts by the BDS Movement or Pittsburgh BDS Coalition.

Politicians believed to have potentially committed the above violations will be asked to speak with a representative or multiple representatives of the Pittsburgh DSA Elections and Pressure Campaigns Committee and the Abolition and Anti-Imperialism Committee to clarify their position. If their alleged violations of BDS principles are not immediately addressed they will be asked to speak with both a committee representative and at least one member of the Coordinating Committee. Those meeting with the politician will provide a verbal report on the discussions at the next General Meeting.

Inability to be in alignment with BDS principles may, by vote of a General Meeting, result in having their endorsement removed and/or expulsion from the local if the politician is also a member of the chapter.

A vote for removing endorsement will follow the same notice and threshold requirements required by the chapter's endorsement policy.

A vote for such expulsion would be conducted by the provisions in Article III Section 2 Item #2 of the Chapter Bylaws, which states members may be expelled if "they are found to be in substantial disagreement with the principles or policies of the organization", and further that "the Local may vote to expel the offending member from DSA. In order for such a finding to be made, another DSA member must formally proffer written charges against the member in question to the Local Coordinating Committee, which shall set the date of a Local meeting for deliberations on the charges. The member in question must receive a copy of the written charges and notice of the meeting a minimum of two weeks before that meeting takes place. Expulsion of a member or affiliate member requires a two-thirds vote of the Local meeting. An expelled full member may appeal to the National Political Committee of DSA."

Passed, 19 February 2022