

Dear Professor Groves and the Resources Committee,

We hope this letter finds you well. As members of the Princeton Chabad Student Board, we share our opposition to the current divestment and dissociation campaign as it relates to Israel.

There are many grounds on which to oppose the issue of divestment from Israel, including whether the divestment proposal meets the Resources Committee's own criterion of broad community consensus on the issue, as well as concerns about the University's fiduciary responsibility to maximize endowment returns. Others can make those arguments better than we. As a group of students who are deeply invested in the Princeton community at large and in the Jewish community in particular, we offer you our student perspective—guided by our own experiences on Princeton's campus—on the damaging impacts of divestment from Israel.

President Eisgruber—and University presidents before him—has long affirmed the importance of [institutional restraint](#) when it comes to divestment. Indeed, institutional restraint is not simply a political position, but it has tangible impacts: It enables students with a wide range of commitments to engage in [free inquiry](#), which is the cornerstone of any educational institution.

For us, the commitment most central to our identities is Judaism, and our ancestral connection to Israel is part and parcel of our Jewish identities. We mention Zion thrice daily in our prayers, during which we physically orient our bodies toward Jerusalem. Our commitment to Israel is not a blind one; we see wrestling with the ethical questions concerning Israel's conduct as a cornerstone of our commitment to it. We advocate on campus for safety for *all* peoples living in the land of Israel, and we lament the tragic death toll of innocent Palestinians during this current war. Our Judaism requires that we confront all of this complexity; this is what “free inquiry” means for us.

University-funded opportunities such as TigerTrek Israel have enabled some of us to connect to our heritage in ways we could not before, instilling within us pride in our Judaism and encouraging us to think in nuanced ways about our political realities. Dissociating from Israel will significantly diminish our ability to engage freely in such religious and cultural exploration. Taking such action contradicts the University's goal to remain “a place for free inquiry.”

It is also critical to contextualize this current push for divestment and dissociation from Israel within the larger Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement which seeks to demonize Israel while providing cover for regimes that actually are committing gross human rights abuses. Caving to the demands of BDS proponents and engaging in divestment from Israel alone will be seen by many as the perpetuation of an antisemitic double standard. [Recent opinion polling](#) demonstrates that for 80% of Jews, a connection to Israel is part of what it means to be Jewish. It is difficult to argue that BDS efforts are not antisemitic, when they explicitly and *exclusively* target a central aspect of Jewish identity.

We worry about the way that divestment and dissociation would impact our ability to engage in free inquiry, and we also worry about the way that the University's support for a movement that seeks to demonize our people would impact campus culture. We have already felt excluded from campus spaces, frightened by calls for violence against our people, and unsure of our place at Princeton. Taking up the

question of divestment and giving it airtime is enough to send a clear signal that the calls to annihilate our community and our home are legitimate. We ask that you please consider the risks of proceeding with this.

Thank you for your commitment to making Princeton a safe place for all, where University resources are used fairly and reasonably, in accordance with our shared values.

If any additional information would be helpful, please let us know, and we will be happy to provide whatever you may need.

Sincerely,  
The Chabad Student Executive Board

Ellie Naider '25  
Leah Powell '26  
Eliana Bane '27  
Caleb Rosenfeld '27