

We, the undersigned faculty members of the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, unanimously and vigorously oppose the Concordia Student Union's resolution to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel. We agree that the key principle of the modern university community and education is academic freedom. However, the BDS movement stands in irreconcilable opposition with the principle of academic freedom for the following reasons:

- a) the movement singles out and discriminates against Israeli academics on the sole ground of their nationality and alleged policies of the government of the State of Israel;
- b) the movement does not discriminate against the scholarly community of any other state on any such grounds;
- c) in the academic realm, the only acceptable reason for sanctioning, any sanctioning, is a proven violation of established standards of academic integrity. Similarly, the only ground for academic advancement and recognition is excellence. The BDS movement substitutes integrity and excellence with national origin, belonging, or government policy, which have nothing to do with scholarly aptitude or practice.

The support of the BDS movement by the Concordia University Student Union singles out and discriminates against Concordia students, researchers, and faculty members who are either Israeli nationals or who have research collaborations with their colleagues and counterparts at Israeli institutions. Moreover, it fundamentally undermines the academic mission of the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, one of several research units at the Faculty of Arts of Science, which is to provide for an open intellectual and academic space of dialogue and constructive inquiry about Israeli society, history, culture, art and politics.

We reiterate our vigorous opposition to the decision of the Concordia Student Union to support the BDS movement and call on all members of the broader Concordia community, who cherish academic freedom, to join us in doing so.

Csaba Nikolenyi (Political Science), Director

Norma Joseph (Religion), Associate Director

Meir Amor (Sociology), Member of the Academic Advisory Group

Lorenzo DiTommaso (Religion), Member of the Academic Advisory Group

Bina Freiwald (English), Member of the Academic Advisory Group

Loren Lerner (Art History), Member of the Academic Advisory Group

Norrin Ripsman (Political Science), Member of the Academic Advisory Group

Ira Robinson (Religion), Member of the Academic Advisory Group

Naftali Cohn (Religion), Affiliated Member

Michael Lipson (Political Science), Affiliated Member

Ariela Freedman (Liberal Arts College), Affiliated Member

Yakub Halabi (Political Science), Visiting Research Associate

Michael Oppenheim (Religion), Affiliated Member

Abraham Brodt (Finance), Affiliated Member

Lorne Switzer (Finance), Affiliated Member

Menachem Rotstein (Classics, Modern Languages, Linguistics), Affiliated Member

Lionel Sanders (Classics, Modern Languages, Linguistics), Affiliated Member

Frank Chalk (History), Affiliated Member

Dennis Murphy (Communications Studies, Emeritus), Affiliated Member

Frederick Krantz (Liberal Arts College), Affiliated Member