

To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: William Cabin, Chair, Committee on Social Action
Re: Annual Report of the Committee on Social Action for SSSP Board of Directors Meeting of August 9, 2019
Date: July 29, 2019

The Committee on Social Action received four proposed resolutions this year. One was our traditional gratitude resolution. The other three addressed crucial issues: United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights re-affirmation, support of the Green New Deal, and support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement (BDS) call for a boycott of Israeli academic institutions. All four of the resolutions were received before the June 1 deadline.

All four resolutions were screened by me as chair of the committee. The gratitude resolution was refined in consultation with the SSSP Administrative Officer. The Green New Deal and UN Declaration of Human Rights resolutions were refined to include appropriate references based on email correspondence between myself and the Resolution proposers. The BDS resolution's structure and references were refined based on my consultation with SSSP Executive Officer Héctor Delgado and subsequent mail correspondence with the Resolution proposers. The proposed resolutions were de-identified in terms of authorship and sent out for blind review to the Committee on Social Action. No comments were received on the four resolutions except for one comment by one Committee member on the BDS proposal. Per the SSSP procedure, the proposals were posted on the SSSP website. As a result some significant feedback was received only on the BDS proposal. The feedback and proposed resolutions are being forwarded to the Council of Division Chairs for consideration at their August 9, 2019 meeting and, thereafter, at the Business Meeting of August 10, 2019.

As a result of the process this year I also have some suggested changes in the process, which are attached hereto following the four proposed resolutions.

To date, the resolutions appear non-controversial except for the BDS proposal, which has generated significant opposition. I would like to thank the Committee on Social Action for their participation and extend a huge thanks to Michele Koontz, especially, for supporting me throughout this entire process, and Héctor Delgado for his insights and participation regarding the BDS proposal.

The four resolutions that are now before the Council and general membership for consideration at the annual meeting are provided below:

**2019 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS
THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

Compiled by William D. Cabin, SSSP Vice-President on 7/29/2019

1. "Expression of Gratitude"

2. "Resolution Affirming the Principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"

Submitted by Louis E. Esparza

3. "Resolution in Support of the Green New Deal"

Submitted by Todd E. Vachon

4. "Resolution on BDS"

Submitted by Melissa Weiner and Johnny E. Williams

RESOLUTION 1: Expression of Gratitude

Our sincere appreciation is expressed to all of the officers, committee chairs, and members who have made this program possible and whose efforts maintain the vitality of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). First, we thank President Nancy J. Mezey for her outstanding leadership in developing the 69th Annual Meeting and its theme: Illuminating the SOCIAL in Social Problems. We also thank this year's Program Committee members Yvonne M. Luna, Derron O. Wallace, and Stephani Williams, but especially the committee's chair, E. Brooke Kelly, for putting together such an excellent program; and the Local Arrangements Committee Chair Keumjae Park and her committee Sophie Foster-Palmer, Melanie Lorek, and Nga Than. We thank the staff of the Roosevelt Hotel for our accommodations, and we particularly want to recognize the efforts made by Michelle Cromby, Convention Services Manager; Rana Tracy, Director of Convention Services; and Kevin Klein, Director of Association Sales.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Past President Luis A. Fernandez for his years of leadership; Vice-President William D. Cabin for managing the resolutions process; Glenn W. Muschert for his service as Secretary; and Susan M. Carlson for her service as Treasurer.

The Society also thanks Heather Dalmage, President-Elect; Daina Cheyenne Harvey, Vice-President-Elect; Board of Directors: Maralee Mayberry, Fernando I. Rivera, Yvonne A. Braun, Matthew W. Hughey, Debbie A. Potter, outgoing members Sarah Jane Brubaker, Claire M. Renzetti, student representatives of the Board Maria D. Duenas (outgoing) and Apoorva Ghosh, Kristen M. Budd, Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions; Annulla Linders and Earl Wright II, Co-Editors of Social Problems; Lauren Eastwood, outgoing Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair and committee members Susan M. Carlson, Heather E. Dillaway, and Louis Edgar Esparza; Rogelio Saenz, outgoing Editorial and Publications Committee Chair and committee members Jackie Krasas, Heather MacIndoe, Loretta E. Bass, Valerie Leiter, A. Javier Treviño, Lauren Eastwood, Pamela Anne Quiroz, Annulla Linders, and Earl Wright II; and the University of Tennessee and the Department of Sociology for hosting the SSSP Administrative Office. A special thanks to our sponsors for their financial contributions to program activities: Vassar College, Department of Sociology; Michigan State University, Department of Sociology; and Monmouth

University, Office of the Provost; and to the Journal of Occupational Science and Oxford University Press for their financial contributions to the conference bags.

The Society wishes to thank Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager Michele Smith Koontz, Assistant to the Administrative Officer Kelsey Arnold, Information Technology Specialist Rachel Cogburn, Graduate Research Associate & Webmaster Caitlin Mize (outgoing) and the leaders of the 22 Divisions for continuing to make the Society run and be successful in fulfilling its mission year in and year out.

Finally, the Society wishes to thank Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado for his numerous contributions to SSSP's success over the last decade. Words cannot express our gratitude for the countless ways in which he has given of his time, energy, and thoughtful guidance and leadership. SSSP is forever indebted to him.

RESOLUTION 2: Resolution Affirming the Principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Submitted by Louis E. Esparza

WHEREAS human rights affirm the universal dignity of each person;

WHEREAS knowledge of and support for universal human rights is essential for the maintenance of peace and the progress of social justice;

WHEREAS the Universal Declaration of Human Rights grants all human beings the right to adequate food, water, shelter, health care, education, life, liberty, nationality, marriage, social security, religion, assembly, work, property, leisure, unionization, expression, among other civil, political, and economic rights and without discrimination of any kind¹;

WHEREAS the Universal Declaration of human rights was written after the violent death of well over 50,000,000² people in World War II with the intention of averting the worst of human violence, brokered by Eleanor Roosevelt, and passed unopposed in the General Assembly of the United Nations;

WHEREAS governments, corporations, and individuals continue to violate universal human rights in the United States and abroad;

WHEREAS the violation of universal human rights leads to the degradation of the human condition;

WHEREAS the Purpose of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) includes fostering "higher quality of life, social welfare, and positive social relations in society and the global community and to undertake any activity related thereto or necessary or desirable for the accomplishment of the foregoing purposes;

WHEREAS the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is a member of the Human Rights Coalition of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which defends the right of all individuals to benefit from the advancements of science³;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) affirms the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948; and

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>

² Roberts, JM. 1999. Twentieth Century.

³ <https://www.aaas.org/programs/science-and-human-rights-coalition/coalition-members>

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) will communicate support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the leaders of both parties in the House of Representatives and the Senate and the President of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSSP will stand with the nations and other public and private entities that remain steadfast to upholding the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, posting this resolution on its website.

Attachment B: Text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

WHEREAS recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

WHEREAS disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

WHEREAS it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

WHEREAS it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

WHEREAS the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

WHEREAS Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

WHEREAS a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

NOW, THEREFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6.

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7.

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8.

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10.

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11.

(1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12.

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13.

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14.

(1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15.

(1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16.

(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17.

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18.

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20.

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21.

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22.

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23.

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26.

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27.

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28.

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29.

(1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30.

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

RESOLUTION 3: Resolution in Support of the Green New Deal

Submitted by Todd E. Vachon

WHEREAS, climate change is an urgent crisis confronting people all over the world: extreme weather, rising sea levels, and pollution are wreaking havoc on human health, natural ecosystems, and all life on the planet¹; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis exacerbates already-existing systemic injustices along racial, regional, social, and economic lines²; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis highlights growing income inequality and a decline in labor standards in the United States³; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis has had a disproportionate impact on “frontline communities” (including Indigenous communities, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth⁴); and

WHEREAS, the Society for the Study of Social Problems has previously resolved to support a “just transition to renewable energy with justice for workers and frontline communities⁵,” and

WHEREAS, the Green New Deal Resolution, sponsored by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey, was introduced, February 6, 2019 in the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Green New Deal Resolution is an extremely ambitious framework for a series of projects and policies to achieve the following goals, among others, by the year 2030: net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for frontline communities and workers; millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all; investments in U.S. infrastructure, industry, and society to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century; clean air and water, climate resiliency, sustainable livelihoods, and access to nature for all for generations to come; and justice and equity for frontline communities by repairing current and historic harms; and

WHEREAS, the Green New Deal resolution calls for “transparent and inclusive consultation, collaboration, and partnership with frontline and vulnerable communities, labor unions, worker cooperatives, civil society groups, academia, and businesses⁶,”

¹ U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2017. *Climate Change Impacts in the United States*. Fourth National Climate Assessment. Retrieved January 12, 2018 (www.globalchange.gov).

² Worland, Justin. 2019. “Climate Change Has Already Increased Global Inequality. It Will Only Get Worse.” *Time*, April 22: <http://time.com/5575523/climate-change-inequality/>

³ Irwin, Neil. 2019. “Climate Change’s Giant Impact on the Economy: 4 Key Issues.” *New York Times*, January 17: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/17/upshot/how-to-think-about-the-costs-of-climate-change.html>

⁴ Tucker, Josephine, et al. 2015. “Social Vulnerability in Three High-poverty Climate Change Hot Spots: What does the Climate Change Literature Tell Us?” *Regional Environmental Change* 15:783-800.

⁵ SSSP. 2018. RESOLUTION 1: Just Transition to Renewable Energy with Justice for Workers and Frontline Communities. https://www.sssp1.org/file/2018AM/2018_Approved_Resolutions.pdf

⁶ 116th Congress. 2019. H.R. 109: Recognizing the Duty of the Federal Government to Create a Green New Deal <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109/text>

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Society for the Study of Social Problems wholeheartedly endorses the Green New Deal resolution and urges its swift adoption by the U.S. Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Society for the Study of Social Problems reaffirms its commitment to a 100% clean and renewable energy economy, including: A massive investment in energy efficient infrastructure to ensure clean drinking water, affordable and efficient public transportation, energy efficient buildings and schools; Good jobs and union-friendly policies in the green energy economy; and Investment in good jobs in communities historically dependent on the fossil fuel industry so that no workers and no communities are left behind.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Society for the Study of Social Problems will communicate support for the Green New Deal Resolution to leaders of both parties in the House of Representatives and the Senate, all members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, the House Committee of Natural Resources, the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States of America, and all candidates for the office of President of the United States of America⁷.

⁷ All contact information for these offices provided in attached document.

RESOLUTION 4: Resolution on BDS

Submitted by Melissa Weiner and Johnny E. Williams

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Palestinian civil society organizations have called on international civil, academic, and cultural communities to end complicity in Israel's decades-old violations of Palestinian rights and to engage in non-violent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law and universal principles of human rights¹, by meeting three demands:

- 1.) Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands [occupied in 1967] and dismantling the Wall,
- 2.) Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
- 3.) Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194²,

And

WHEREAS, Palestinian academics face academic freedom violations in the form of inhibitions by the State of Israel from attending conferences, completing research, traveling outside of Palestine to earn degrees, and acquiring the most recent publications in the form of journals and books³,

And

WHEREAS, the State of Israel routinely violates the academic freedom of Palestinians students through harassment on their way to school at checkpoints and in public, attacks on schools using tear gas and rubber bullets, the bombing of higher educational institutions, raids of schools and arrests of faculty and students, invasion of campuses and killing of Palestinian students, arresting and detaining students, and defunding of schools created by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA⁴),

And

¹ Abunimah, Ali. 2014. *The Battle for Justice in Palestine*. Chicago: Haymarket; bdsmovement.net/call, bdsmovement.net/pacbi; Barghouti, Omar. 2011. *Boycott Divestment Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights*. Chicago: Haymarket.

² bdsmovement.net/call, bdsmovement.net/pacbi.

³ *American Libraries Magazine*, June 27. <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/academic-libraries-palestine/>; Baramki, Gabi. 2010. *Peaceful Resistance: Building a Palestinian University under Occupation*. Chicago: Haymarket; Barghouti 2011, Eberhart, George M. 2016. "Academic Libraries in Palestine: Challenges and Frustrations of Information Access in the Palestinian Territories"; Mullen, Bill V. and Ashley Dawson, Eds. 2015. *Against Apartheid: The Case for Boycotting Israeli Universities*. Chicago: Haymarket.

⁴ Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). 2013. *Education Under Apartheid: Access to Education in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*. Geneva: World Council of Churches and UNICEF https://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_Under_Occupation_final-SMALL.pdf; United Nations Development Programme. 2014. "Education." *2014 Palestine Human Development Report*. New York: United Nations. "Education." *2014 Palestine Human Development Report*. New York: United Nations. <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/papp/docs/Publications/UNDP-papp-research-PHDR2015Education.pdf>

WHEREAS, some Israeli universities exist, in part or in full, on stolen Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in violation of international law⁵,

And

“Not a single Israeli academic institution has petitioned the Israeli government to protect Palestinian rights to education or to cease interference with and destruction of Palestinian schools and colleges... A boycott of academic institutions is the strongest message possible that Israel cannot claim normality and ask to be considered in the fold of democratic societies while maintaining an apartheid state and a brutal occupation⁶.”

And

WHEREAS, Palestinians living in Israel experience limits to their academic freedom through a racially segregated education system with overcrowded, underfunded, and fewer schools, fewer kindergartens, fewer Special Education programs for their children. This has resulted in Palestinian children in Israel experiencing higher dropout rates and lower pass rates for national exams required for entrance to higher education. Israeli courts have “never found the state to be in violation of the law or ordered it to end discriminatory practices⁷,”

And

WHEREAS, Israeli academic institutions are a key part of the ideological and institutional scaffolding of Israel’s regime of occupation, colonialism, and apartheid through the production of policies, programs, and technologies that enable and sustain these forms of oppression⁸,

And

WHEREAS, Israeli military authorities have closed Palestinian universities and destroyed cultural and academic institutions⁹,

And

WHEREAS, scholars, students, and student groups addressing human rights violations in Palestine and Israel are routinely harassed at US colleges and universities¹⁰,

And

⁵ Hebrew University sits on land illegally acquired in 1968 while Ariel University is located in the illegal settlement of Ariel in the West Bank.

⁶ <https://usacbi.org/2013/09/do-not-apply-open-letter-campaign-to-boycott-hebrew-university/>

⁷ Coursen-Neff, Zama. 2004. “Discrimination against Palestinian Arab Children in the Israeli Educational System.” *International Law & Politics* 36(749): 101-162, Human Rights Watch. 2001. *Second Class: Discrimination against Palestinian Arab Children in Israel’s Schools*. New York: Human Rights Watch.

⁸ <http://www.pacbi.org/etemplate.php?id=2613>; Mullen & Dawson 2015.

⁹ Almeghari, Rami. 2014. “Israel Attacks my University - with Bombs and Lies,” *Electronic Intifada*, August 4, <https://electronicintifada.net/content/israel-attacks-my-university-bombs-and-lies/13697>; Baramki 2010; Birzeit University. Nd. “University Closure History.” <https://www.birzeit.edu/en/about/history/education-under-occupation/closures-history>; Kabariti, Ahmad. 2018. “It is a War Against Every Part of Palestinian Identity: Israel Destroys Popular Gaza Cultural Center.” *Mondoweiss*, August 10. <https://mondoweiss.net/2018/08/palestinian-identity-destroys/>; *Middle East Monitor*, “Occupation Forces Close Vicinity of Al-Quds University, Prevent Students from Entering,” October 5, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20181005-occupation-forces-close-vicinity-of-al-quds-university-prevent-students-from-entering/>.

¹⁰ Salaita, Steven. 2015. *Uncivil Rights: Palestine and the Limits of Academic Freedom*. Chicago: Haymarket.

WHEREAS, it is increasingly difficult for international academics (including US citizens) to be admitted into the occupied Palestinian territory as entry is dependent on Israeli approval and are repeatedly denied by Israeli military authorities, thereby severely compromising Palestinian universities' ability to employ international faculty¹¹,

And

WHEREAS, US tax dollars support the military repression and oppression of Palestinians in Israel, the occupied West Bank and Gaza¹²,

And

WHEREAS, Palestinian civil society organization have called on academic and professional organizations to engage in a boycott of Israeli universities for their complicity in Palestinian oppression¹³,

And

WHEREAS, the SSSP mission statement calls on us "to foster higher quality of life, social welfare, and positive social relations in society and the global community and to undertake any activity related thereto or necessary or desirable for the accomplishment of the foregoing purposes" alongside "strict adherence... to the protection of the right to engage in intellectual debates of all types without fear of censorship or retaliation¹⁴,"

And

WHEREAS, "SSSP is engaged in multiple avenues of social justice research and action" and "regularly participates in calls to action on various social justice issues¹⁵,"

And

WHEREAS, SSSP protects the rights of all scholars, students and faculty, to address the human rights violations in their scholarship and speak out against it without experiencing harassment, bullying, or consequences to their employment, scholarship, or rights to free speech,

And

WHEREAS, sociologists engaged in critical race and systemic white racism scholarship recognize the institutionalized power relations and structural violence¹⁶ inherent in the occupation as diametrically opposed to full equality in academia and academic freedom,

¹¹ Abou Jalal, Rasha. 2018. "Palestinians Decry Israeli Visa Restrictions on Foreign Academics." *Al-Monitor*, July 22, <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/07/israel-denies-visa-foreign-professors-palestinian-university.html>; Kundera, Naomi. 2018. "Israeli Visa Crackdown Affects Palestinian Higher Education." *Palestine Monitor*, August 9. <http://www.palestinemonitor.org/details.php?id=9qzu2ka19923ymctgm73xf>

¹² Sharp, Jeremy M. 2018. "U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel." Washington DC: Congressional Research Service.

¹³ Abunimah, Ali. 2014. *The Battle for Justice in Palestine*. Chicago: Haymarket; bdsmovement.net/call, bdsmovement.net/pacbi; Barghouti, Omar. 2011. *Boycott Divestment Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights*. Chicago: Haymarket.

¹⁴ https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/453/locationSectionId/0/Who_We_Are

¹⁵ https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/480/locationSectionId/0/Action_and_Activism

¹⁶ Delgado, Richard. S., & Jean J. Stefancic. 2001. *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*. New York: New York University Press.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, be it resolved, that the Society for the Study of Social Problems endorses the call for a boycott of complicit Israeli academic institutions articulated by our Palestinian colleagues¹⁷ until they end all forms of complicity in Israel's grave human rights violations and publicly distance themselves from these violations

And

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that SSSP send a letter to the PACBI organization regarding our support of their resolution with ours¹⁸,

And

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that SSSP publicize these BDS Resolutions on the SSSP webpage,

And

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, "recognizing that different actions may be feasible and appropriate under the many different academic and political circumstances that pertain in US institutions, SSSP will urge its members to undertake as many of the following initiatives as possible:

1. Support Palestinian academic and cultural institutions directly without requiring them to partner with Israeli counterparts as an explicit or implicit condition for such support;
2. Encourage your university and college administrations to institute funding for scholarships and fellowships for Palestinian students;
3. Refrain from participation in any form of academic and cultural cooperation, collaboration or joint projects with complicit Israeli institutions;
4. Promote divestment and disinvestment from Israel by academic institutions, and place pressure on your own institution to suspend all ties with Israeli universities, including collaborative projects, study abroad, funding and exchanges¹⁹

¹⁷ <https://bdsmovement.net/pacbi/pacbi-call>

¹⁸ Letter to be sent to: pacbi@bdsmovement.net

¹⁹ <https://usacbi.org/mission-statement/>

2019 CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

SSSP resolutions constitute an important opportunity for our scholar-activist membership to declare their sentiments publicly, thereby creating a channel for greater visibility and more direct influence upon a variety of “publics,” i.e., fellow activists, scholars, students, decision-makers, social action groups, voters, and others. Thus, as Vice-President this year, I am calling on the membership to submit resolutions for discussion and adoption. Keep in mind, that proposed resolutions serve as useful discussion points for SSSP members, helping to increase and enhance communication and activities during the long period between annual meetings. To submit a proposed resolution, simply forward your resolution to the Vice-President by **June 1, 2019**. The Vice-President will distribute the proposed resolutions to the Committee on Social Action and the Executive Officer who are requested to comment by June 15, 2019. The Vice-President will then forward the proposed resolutions to the Division Chairs for their review and then the Vice-President and Executive Officer will distribute the proposed resolutions to the membership no later than July 15, 2019 in order to give members ample time to give serious consideration to all proposed resolutions. The only exception to the deadline is if the issue in question occurs after June 1st. Proposed resolutions will be available for review prior to the Annual Meeting on the SSSP website in the “members-only” area and under “Annual Meeting,” and as an e-mail blast sent to members who want to receive announcements from the Administrative Office.

All proposed resolutions with the exception of those expressing thanks should contain a concise position statement concerning a social problem of urgent concern and the appropriate evidence and citations to support the position taken in the resolution. In most cases, the proposed resolution should include some sort of call for viable action on the part of the SSSP. This typically has involved a letter from the Board directed to some public entity expressing concern, support, or protest. Feel free, however, to propose other forms of appropriate action. If the proposed resolution is in support of or in opposition to a piece of legislation, a copy of the legislation or a place where members can access it *must* be provided. Please click on the following link for examples, including the format we would like you to use: <https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1993/>.

It is the Vice-President’s responsibility to serve as the facilitator for proposed resolutions sponsored by the Divisions as well as from individual Society members, making the proposed resolutions available to the membership prior to and at the Annual Business Meeting. In New York City, the resolutions process will be organized in a manner that promotes wider discussion prior to formal consideration at the 2019 Annual Business Meeting. The process is as follows:

- On the first day of the Annual Meeting, the Committee on Social Action will meet prior to the open forum. At this meeting, the committee can make changes to a proposed resolution to strengthen it or send it back to the originator(s) of the resolution with specific suggestions. The open forum is designed to encourage a political discussion by concerned members. At this meeting, each proposed resolution should be presented for membership discussion by the person who created the resolution (or designated representative) and the sponsoring Division’s Chairperson. Adequate time for discussion will be properly allotted. To facilitate this process, all proposed resolutions, as noted above, must be made available to the Vice-President by June 1, such that the membership has ample time to consider proposed resolutions and can be provided a print copy with their registration packet.
- Modifications and revisions will be considered during the open discussion forum on the first day of the Annual Meeting; the open forum will be held in place of the annual meeting of the Resolutions Committee. Sponsors of proposed resolutions or a surrogate must be present at this forum to present and respond to questions concerning their resolution. It is *imperative* that someone be present who can speak to the substance of the proposed resolution, as changes may be made to the resolution during that meeting.
- During the 2019 Annual Business Meeting, the proposed resolutions will be presented (including any modifications or revisions) by the Vice-President as a package for approval for action by the attending membership. The membership will vote on proposed resolutions that were discussed and revised on the first day of the meeting. Experience shows that the Annual Business Meeting fails to provide

sufficient time for a detailed discussion of proposed resolutions. If objections from the floor are raised to any specific resolution at the SSSP Business Meeting, that resolution can, by majority vote of those present, be separated from the package, and voted on separately. Those present can either vote to support the resolution as proposed, make changes to the resolution before voting, even without the approval of the originator(s), or decide to table the resolution for further discussion at the subsequent year's annual meeting.

- If the resolution requires letters or e-mails to be sent, the sponsor of the resolution must provide the addresses to the Administrative Office and, if necessary, be prepared to assist the Administrative Office in getting the resolution to the appropriate individuals or agencies. Furthermore, sponsors are responsible for keeping the Society informed of developments pertaining to the resolution they sponsored.
- We will attempt to make approved resolutions immediately available to the press. In addition, all approved resolutions will be posted on the SSSP website.

Members who wish to propose resolutions for consideration of the SSSP, should submit them to the SSSP Vice-President at wcabin@umich.edu by **June 1, 2019**. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

William D. Cabin, SSSP Vice-President, 2018-2019

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Here are some suggestions that may help enhance resolutions submitted for consideration by the Society:

- **Local awareness:** A resolution which addresses an issue of urgent concern for the city or region where the annual meeting is taking place is highly desirable. Thus, a more general or globally-oriented resolution can be strengthened if it makes the extra effort to cite any local aspect or manifestation of the problem which can help dovetail with the larger concern. Clearly, matters of local concern are more likely to be of interest to the local media.
- **Urgency:** Resolutions that embody some urgent or timely matter involving some current manifestation of a larger social problem are highly desirable. This can relate, for example, to pending legislation, policies and programs, a recently released report, and so on. Resolutions that address urgent matters are much more likely to be picked up by the press.
- **Action-oriented:** All resolutions should attempt to incorporate a call for action, be it on the part of the SSSP Board of Directors, or for concerned individuals. If action is requested on the part of the SSSP, it should be as specific as possible, e.g., to whom should a letter be directed, etc. In the past, other proposed actions have included calls for boycotts, participation in public demonstrations, collecting donations, and so on.
- **Resource pointer:** A resolution which is accompanied by a specific resource or resource list is extremely useful for those who wish to learn more about the issue at hand. The resource supplement can be a specific document or scholarly paper, website(s), or some other useful repository of information. This can be very helpful in increasing the impact of the resolution by assisting teachers, students, the press and others who wish to have further background information in engaging the issue for their own specific purposes.

Draft Proposed Resolutions Process Revision for Discussion at August 9, 2019 SSSP Board of Directors (BOD) at SSSP 2019 Annual Meeting

Presented by: Dr. William D. Cabin VP

Note: AO = Administrative Officer; EO = Executive Officer; VP = Vice-President;
CSA = Committee on Social Action; Council = Council of the Divisions

1. **April 1:** Call for Resolutions sent to membership by SSSP Administrative Office with due date for proposals to VP of May 1. Current description of proposals in second paragraph of 2019 Call would remain.
2. **May 1:** Deadline for Proposals to VP. Can keep current exception language for any issue occurring post May 1.
3. **May 2-May 15:** VP does initial review with AO and EO for format and substantive concerns and communicates with proposers. Format and substantive concerns **do not include** commentary on position proposed in the proposed resolutions. Format and substantive concerns **do include:** compliance with SSSP proposed resolution style requirements; grammar; structure and logic of proposal sequence; appropriate citations and references to document positions and statements; requests for additional information needs for review; specification of proposed action(s) by SSSP; and inclusion how and to whom the resolution is to be sent, including

appropriate names and titles of individuals, their organization, and organization postal or email address.

4. **May 16:** VP sends resolutions to CSA for feedback to VP by **June 1**.
5. **June 2:** VP creates summary of CSA feedback and sends to Council, SSSP officers, AO and EO with proposed resolutions for review and preparation for in-person discussion at annual meeting. VP simultaneously sends proposed resolutions to AO to post to general membership on SSSP site with notice to email any comments to VP by no later than **July 1**. Proposed resolutions will be available for review prior to the Annual Meeting on the SSSP website in the “members-only” area and under “Annual Meeting,” and as an e-mail blast sent to members who want to receive announcements from the Administrative Office. (Note: this last sentence is from the 2019 Call).
6. **First Day of Annual Meeting (typically Friday morning):** CSA meets to review proposed resolutions and any membership feedback, as summarized by VP, for VP to prepare for presentation at Council meeting on second day of annual meeting.
7. **First Day of Annual Meeting (typically Friday afternoon):** Open Meeting to membership sponsored by and at the Council meeting for this purpose.

Purpose of the meeting is to review format and substantive concerns only.

Format and substantive concerns **do not include** commentary on position proposed in the proposed resolutions. Format and substantive concerns **do include**: compliance with SSSP proposed resolution style requirements; grammar; structure and logic of proposal sequence; appropriate citations and references to document positions and statements; requests for additional information needs for review; specification of proposed action(s) by SSSP; and inclusion how and to whom the resolution is to be sent, including appropriate names and titles of individuals, their organization, and organization postal or email address.

Modifications and revisions will be considered during the open discussion forum on the first day of the Annual Meeting; the open forum will be held in place of the annual meeting of the Resolutions Committee. Sponsors of proposed resolutions or a surrogate must be present at this forum to present and respond to questions concerning their resolution. It is *imperative* that someone be present who can speak to the substance of the proposed resolution, as changes may be made to the resolution during that meeting. (Note: This paragraph is from the 2019 Call).

The Council may take one or more of the following actions by the end of the meeting in preparing to forward the proposed resolutions to the Business meeting: **TBD-Need to discuss.**

8. Business Meeting on Second Day of Annual Meeting: During the Annual Business Meeting, the proposed resolutions will be presented (including any modifications or revisions) by the Vice-President as a package for approval for action by the attending membership. The membership will vote on proposed resolutions that were discussed and revised on the first day of the meeting. Experience shows that the Annual Business Meeting fails to provide sufficient time for a detailed discussion of proposed resolutions. If objections from the floor are raised to any specific resolution at the SSSP Business Meeting, that resolution can, by 2/3 majority vote of those present, be separated from the package, and voted on separately. Those present can either vote to support the resolution as proposed, make changes to the resolution before voting, even without the approval of the originator(s), or decide to table the resolution for further discussion at the subsequent year's annual meeting. (NOTE: This paragraph taken from the current Call).