

Question Report
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SSSP
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Meeting 850 3151 8393

Question: 76

Question Details

#	Question	Answer(s)
1	18 SSSP members (including myself) submitted a letter with proposed changes to the pro-BDS resolution during the time period designated for making proposed changes. The Board had until August 1 to finalize the resolutions and yet there has been no communication that the Board considered the proposed changes or put forward final versions of the resolutions. Did the Board consider our proposed changes? If not, why not, and why have a process that asks for proposed changes if they are not going to be considered? If so, what was the reason for not making changes? For example, the proposal to retitle the resolution "Resolution for an Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel" seems generally noncontroversial and would provide clarity, yet the listed resolution on the website still has the same initial title.	live answered
2	A comment on the 3rd resolution:	
3	I second Reuben Roth's comment. Andrea Miller, committee member for the resolution	
4	To Ezra Temko: I'm sure that the proposed changes are contrary to the By-Laws. Plus, I'm not sure why non-controversial is an attribute that necessitates a change to the resolution's languages.	
5	The scholars & practitioners of SSSP have a long & rich history of social justice & human rights theory, research and praxis – since the founding of the association by Alfred & Betty Lee, whom I had the privilege of knowing. It is in this intellectual & political tradition that we offer our resolution. Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions is a global grassroots movement in defense of the humanity & human rights of the Palestinian people. BDS, a nonviolent tool of the Palestinian struggle, is embraced in international solidarity spaces by African descent peoples, Jewish people (including myself) & diverse racial, religious & nationality communities globally. I urge SSSP to pass this resolution (walda katz-fishman, SSSP VP 1992-93 & recipient Lee Founders Award 2003)	live answered
6	BDS has directly targeted Jews and the adoption of that resolution will endanger SSSP members of the Jewish faith	
7	I strongly support this resolution as is. We need to stand with Palasteians just as we did for South Africans facing aparthaied. As an organization, we need to take a principled stance. It's also notable that American Studies Association endorsed a similiar resolutiton	live answered
8	I came in a few minutes late so I'm not sure what's happening but if we're discussing the Israel resolution, I oppose it.	live answered
9	BDS does not target individual scholars. It only targets Israeli institutions. It's important to recognize that it cannot target individuals since this would also impact Palestinian Israelis and other non-Jewish Israelis	
10	I am a member watching and lsietning—can any of you hear or see me? Glenn Goodwin	No - we can not see or hear you. Only those who are presenting during this meeting have camera and mic control.
11	Can we hear from Corely Dolgon on the BDSM since he was part ofthe committee?	
12	I am also watching and listening but cannot see anyone and only can here Daina	Only those who are presenting during this meeting have camera and mic control.
13	Never mind—I just now figured this out!	
14	Sorry I meant BDS	
15	Re: Reuben Roth - not sure how the proposed changes would be contrary to the bylaws. Please clarify.	live answered
16	BDS does target individuals	

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17	Any other organizations that have endorsed similar motions?	live answered
18	Glenn Goodwin Thanks for the clarification Daina	live answered
19	We still love you, Daina.	
20	Resolution 2, while ostensibly about the "Palestinian cause" if passed, means SSSP supports the Hamas prohibiting women from leadership positions, torturing journalists who relate the truth, does nothing to improve the life of its own citizens, and condones the leadership's lavish style of life while keeping its people poor. It student activists are jailed. Is this SSSP's new "Pursuit of Social Justice" philosophy?	live answered
21	The Canadian organization Independent Jewish Voices has written an open letter to SSSP which will appear on their website. It says in part: "We understand that there is an effort underway that challenges this BDS support resolution because it is anti-Semitic. Because of our public profile we have been asked to clarify whether the BDS call for global support is indeed anti-Semitic. As you know, BDS is a grassroots, nonviolent campaign launched by Palestinian civil society groups to apply pressure on Israel to end its military occupation of Palestinian territories and to grant equal rights to Palestinians. We insist that it is not antisemitic to oppose oppressive Israeli policies or to support resistance to that oppression in solidarity with the Palestinians, such as heeding Palestinian civil society's call to support the BDS movement, whose purpose is to pressure Israel to abide by international law and respect Palestinians' human rights...."	live answered
22	M Warner is providing false information, bds does impact individuals. Scholars need institutional support and students have been denied faculty refs by bds faculty— clearly individuals impacted by bds	
23	This format seems a bit awkward for having discussion ;-)	
24	I am a Venezuelan of Jewish faith and the BDS movement in my country has targeted local Jewish institutions and individuals. I am a witness.	live answered
25	"...Like many other Jews, we see it as our moral responsibility to challenge the legitimacy of a situation in which a modern state discriminates against Palestinians and non-Jews using overwhelming political, economic, and military power to oppress them."	
26	Our resolution does not target individuals, as it states: 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 exchanges"	
27	I support the resolution as a traditional method by which organizations have supported liberation movements in the past. I do not agree that these boycotts are anti-semetic as it ignores the long held support for BDS among numerous jewish and Israeli organizations. I realize there are members who oppose this on their own principled grounds and I believe a strong organization must allow for these debates. But my own intellectual, political, and spiritual experiences led me to join with this resolution and to support it now.	
28	Continued IJV statement extract:	
29	"Labelling critics of Israel's laws, policies or actions as anti-Semitic is designed to divert attention from the fact that Israel is an oppressive military superpower that is occupying Palestinian lands and subjecting Palestinian citizens of Israel to a range of discriminatory laws. Fabricated charges of antisemitism serve to shut down all debate regarding Israel by perpetuating the myth that Israel, and by extension Jews in general, are in existential danger. Similarly, labelling Palestinian rights supporters as antisemitic a priori disqualifies and invalidates their claims. IJV applauds the Society for the Study of Social Problems for its commitment to human rights as evidenced by a motion to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign. We support your efforts and we hope that your membership will support the well-researched motion in support of BDS."	live answered
30	Neither the Resolution writers, a number of whom are Jewish, nor BDS supports anti-Semitism in any form. BDS is an explicitly anti-racist organization, that is in solidarity with hundreds of anti-racist organizations around the globe, including BLM. We all, including the Jewish writers of this Resolution, and the national and international BDS committees are actively in opposition to and openly condemn anti-Semitism in any form.	live answered

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31	Can you cite any other professional organizations that have passed a seimilar resolution?	live answered
32	American Studies Association	
33	Re: Melissa Weiner - there is clear documentation of BDS activists and leaders using numerous antisemitic tropes. When will you condemn specifics?	live answered
34	Association for Humanist Sociology (also founded by Betty and Al Lee) passed a similar resolution.	live answered
35	The organization "Boycott from Within" has endorsed the SSSP resolution and will post an open letter on their website shortly: https://boycottisrael.info/	live answered
36	to attack BDS in support of the humanity & human rights of the Palestinian people with selective data about so-called political leaders of West Bank &/or Gaza would be like accusing US SSSP members of what the US President is doing to US BLM protesters, incarcersating immigrants and splitting families & denying science etc..... i enthusiastically support BDS resolution	
37	Other organizations that have passed BDS resolutions include the Association for Humanist Sociology, American Studies Association, African Literature Association, Association for Asian American Studies, Critical Ethnic Studies Association, National Association of Chicana & Chicano Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, National Women's Studies Association, among others...	
38	In response to Ezra - I have never seen these, as they explicitly reject these over and over. I can't condemn something I haven't seen	live answered
39	Warner's point 3 clearly targets individuals as joint research with Israeli scholars or supporting student exchanges impact individuals severely. Refusing to write evaluations supporting Israeli scholars for promotion impacts them severely	live answered
40	and the American Anthropological Association	
41	the American Anthropological Association resolution didn't pass	
42	Can we hear from others besides Ezra and Louis that are not in support and their reaosns?	
43	Lots of minor associations have endorsed bds, but most major associations have rejected it.	
44	the American Studies Association is pretty big	
45	Melissa, check out https://4il.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/MSA-report-Behind-the-Mask.pdf Also you will remember it was brought up last year that one of the SSSP proposers had retweeted a blood libel video.	
46	It has over 5000 members	
47	There is a history of SSSP as a social justice organization supoorting these sorts of resolutions—I am not sure focusing on size of an org should be central to our decision??	
48	If this resolution passes, how will it be handled—e.g., to whom will it be sent? Notified? etc.	
49	Glenn Goodwin The waypoints the aha and etc have all rejected it on principled grounds	
50	It is with horror that I see intelligent and well educated people, parroting the BDS narrative. One thing is what they say in public and another is what they actually do. You are sitting in your comfortable living rooms while people are suffering by the actions of the corrupt palestinian leadership, meaning the Palestinians. You will not help the Palestinians by taking this action, on the contrary. Most Israeli scholars and society are in favor of a Palestinian state, the ones that do not want a state is the corrupt Palestinian leadership. Do not join those that wish to enslave their own people.	
51	Val Leiter noted that the new process would ensure that adopted resolutions "reflect the majority of members." However, it is my understanding that the new process removed any quorum requirement?	
52	A reminder that the motion's objectives are a response to Palestinian civil society's 2005 request to the global community. The "boycott" "divestment" and "sanctions" will end when these 3 conditions are met: 1. "Ending [Israel's] occupation and colonization of all Arab lands 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 194.	
53	I am firmly against this resolution. By singling out the only Jewish State and applying double standards which are not applied to other countries, this resolution and the BDS movement is antisemitic. Why are we seeking to only boycott academic institutions in Israel? Why not add those in China, who are complicit in its genocide against its Muslim population, to the list? Or those in Arab countries that discriminate against Jewish and LGBT populations? Or why not even add those in US states whose collaborations with local and state police departments lead to the deaths of unarmed black men in our own country? This series of questions is not a whataboutism intended to deflect attention from the treatment of Palestinians in Israel, but rather to draw attention to why our focus has been placed solely upon the only Jewish state in the world.	

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54	The aha aaup not waypoints spellcheck	
55	I would like to echo the importance of voices of other members who are familiar with SSSP's objectives and missions to weigh in, and not let this discussion platform be dominated by a small few.	
56	There are Palestinian members of SSSP, as well as Jewish Israelis, who support this resolution, some of them in Israel/Palestine now. To suggest we are all comfortable in our homes denies the daily reality of the lack of academic freedom and human rights experienced by Palestinian students and faculty	
57	Some small social justice oriented Jewish groups, such as the Boston Workmen's Circle, have signed the Jewish Voice of Peace statement defending the BSD movement.	
58	There are no double standards, we are attempting to hold Israel accountable as any other nation should be, as South Africa was when it too imposed apartheid	
59	I think there is a misconception or at least problematic conflation between the resolution having an impact on scholars and whether or not it TARGETS individual scholars. It would be naive to think that almost all political actions have NO impact on individuals who may not be the target of a protest activity. All activities that proclaim to stop business as usual will have impacts on individuals. This does not stop unions from striking, groups from sitting in at businesses and corporate board rooms, squatting empty buildings. We cannot put bodies on the line or withdraw our participation or support for criminal state operations without impacting business as usual. But the "targets" of this resolution are the institutions that support oppression, not individuals.	
60	Reuben— all Arab lands means no Israel not 2 states, lets be clear	
61	I do not support the resolution because I think that three accusations of human rights violations made against Israel and Israeli institutions are no greater or lesser than that of the US or US institutions (or that of lots of groups, now and in history). I am a US academic and I just don't think that this tactic will lead to goal of peace and mutual understanding.	
62	We welcome resolutions holding other nations accountable for their denial of academic freedoms, including that of the US	
63	At my institution, we work closely with Bethlehem University whose Muslim and Christian students and faculty have suffered tremendously under the occupation. I support this resolution strongly, I applaud the AHS for its stand, and hope the SSSP can finally rise to the occasion on this human rights issue. This is a watershed issue for the Society!	
64	This resolution is about human dignity and rights. I support it because it is about our common humanity and the creation of a beloved community.	
65	I asked SSSP leadership 20-25 minutes ago about process re: considering proposed changes, and about what implementation would look like, and have not heard an answer yet. Can someone from SSSP leadership comment on these before the discussion ends?	
66	A reminder to Stan on the "2-state solution" -- the Israeli government has announced it intends to annex yet another portion of Palestinian territory. Stan's suggestion that we should "wait for the 2 state solution" has been upended by the Israeli state, which has rejected the peace process.	
67	I agree with Corey. I'm sure some Afrikaners were IMPACTED by the South African boycott	
68	At my institution, we work closely with Bethlehem University whose Muslim and Christian students and faculty have suffered tremendously under the occupation. I support this resolution strongly, I applaud the AHS for its stand, and hope the SSSP can finally rise to the occasion on this human rights issue. This is a watershed issue for the Society!	
69	I would like to invite Frederic to contact me about resolutions to support actions against all institutions that discriminate and participate in such activities. In fact, we might, indeed, want to discuss what strategies we should be taking to address our own institutions and their support of oppression. I do not think supporting this resolution suggests we don't oppose inequality everywhere. just as I don't think one opposes this resolution because there are similar problems elsewhere.	
70	Under this new process, will the Q&A be distributed with the resolution?	
71	If you adopt this resolution, you will also have to divest and boycott your own country the USA.	
72	BDS does not take a position on the government structure of Israel/Palestine, seeking only the 3 goals outlined at the beginning of the resolution	
73	Nevermind. That was a mistake\	
74	2nd	
75	We second!	
76	I second, from the south of France!	