

What is the Film Agreement?

In March 2016 the government of New Zealand signed a film co-production with the government of the State of Israel.

The agreement provides access to funding, incentives and distribution arrangements, temporary 'free' entry of nationals of the other country and admission of cinematographic equipment for the purpose of making or promoting a co-production film. Further details on MFAT website.

What exactly is Boycott Divestment & Sanctions (BDS)?

In 2005, Palestinian civil society issued a call for a campaign of 'Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions' (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law with regard to Palestinian rights. This includes the rights of refugees in exile, Palestinians under occupation in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, as well as the Palestinian citizens of the Israeli state.

Through concerted international pressure similar to that applied to South African apartheid, BDS are the most effective non-violent, morally consistent means for achieving justice and genuine peace in the region. This includes economic, academic and cultural boycotts, as well as institutional divestment and government sanctions.

Why is this Agreement an important boycott target?

It's important to respond to the actions of our government in a timely fashion. We are not calling for a boycott of Israeli films, but of the Agreement itself, which involves discrimination, and is part of Israel's attempts to promote itself internationally in a positive light.

Boycotting the Agreement will not only send a clear message to Israel that it cannot rely on New Zealanders' support to whitewash its crimes, but will also send a clear message to our government that its relationship with Israel needs to be redefined.

The film agreement boycott is just one way that New Zealand can support freedom and justice for Palestine. We also advocate divestment by the Superfund from the many companies complicit in the Israeli occupation and settlements. You can subscribe to the New Zealand Palestine Solidarity Network mailing list to stay up to date with other campaigns (email admin@palestinesolidaritynz.net).

If I endorse this agreement, what am I agreeing to do/not do?

You are saying you will not be involved in any films or other projects that receive funding as the result of this agreement. This includes funding for travel, production, promotion, or any other aspect of filmmaking. You are also calling on New Zealand film industry professionals to boycott the Agreement, and calling on the NZ government to cancel and/or refuse to adhere to it (MFAT has yet to confirm that NZ's "internal legal procedures are in compliance with the Agreement").



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