

A Call To Bucknell Faculty, Staff, and Students

We, the Bucknell Students for Justice in Palestine (BUSJP), are a collective of Bucknell students, faculty, staff, and community members committed to advancing Palestinian liberation and self-determination. We stand in unwavering solidarity with the people of Palestine and unequivocally condemn the Israeli apartheid regime. We also stand in solidarity with the thousands of students, faculty, and staff at universities and colleges across the world rising to defend Palestine.

Our demands for Bucknell University are:

- **Disclose** the identities of all donors and investment portfolios.
- **Divest** from companies funding the Israeli government, including but not limited to: Coca-Cola, Amazon, Tesla, Exxon Mobil, and Walmart.¹
- **Denounce** Israel and the university repression of students supporting Palestine occurring across the country.
- **Detach** from corporate partnerships supporting the genocide (Deloitte, Boeing and DEVCOM).

Here on our campus, we have engaged in various protests, demonstrations, and mass actions to pierce the Bucknell Bubble and raise consciousness about the ongoing genocide of Palestinians. We marched. We chanted. We walked out of classes. We disrupted A Night With the Presidents. Most recently, we conducted a multisite banner drop and dispersed fliers raising awareness about these unfathomable, ongoing acts of horror. We are disturbed by the apathetic responses from administration, students, faculty, and staff that fail to condemn Israel's actions.

A core part of the 'Bucknell Bubble' is the myth of the ivory tower – the privileged attitude that the university, and the ideas taught here, are happily removed from the broader material realities in which they are situated. In that, many of us – many of you all – fail to realize that the white-supremacist settler nation-building project of 'Israel' cannot exist without the material and immaterial support of the United States and, by extension, the university.

Understanding Bucknell's moneyed support in the ongoing genocide necessitates that we confront how we are complicit in mass death. Universities are cogs in America's imperial war

¹ <https://smif.blogs.bucknell.edu/files/2024/02/SMIF-W23-Newsletter.pdf>

machine. Bucknell perverts the noble, self-proclaimed goals of higher education by manufacturing consent and creating a culture of ignorance and dogmatic allegiance to the war-mongering imperial core.

Our understanding of where Bucknell's money is invested is limited to what has been disclosed by the Student Managed Investment Fund, which shows Bucknell's continued funding of Coca-Cola, Amazon, Tesla, Exxon Mobil, Walmart, Deloitte, Boeing, DEVCOM, etc.² Yet, this is only \$3.5 million of the \$1.1 billion in Bucknell's endowment. The rest of the investments are a black box; who knows how else we are funding this annihilation?

While hundreds of students and educators are targeted and killed in a genocidal³, scholasticidal campaign, your silence contributes to the mass murder of Palestinians. Inaction is action. *What are you doing?*

Here is our call to you:

The genocide in Palestine does not end with the semester. We, alongside the Palestinian Workers in the West Bank, call upon Bucknell to strike for the May Day Workplace Day of Action for Palestine *starting* on Wednesday, May 1st. We are within a historic moment on a historic day, in which the unity of workers and students against forces that exploit and indignify is especially relevant. May Day is a celebration of the advancement of the worker's movement, a movement predicated on confronting exploitation and the bourgeois forces acting against the interest of workers. We want to strengthen the unity between the working class and our efforts to fight against occupation, colonialism, settler-colonialism, Zionism, white supremacy, and imperialism, for our collective liberation and self-determination. At the heart of the trade union movement lies international solidarity and the Palestinians urgently require it.

We call on faculty, staff, graduate, and undergraduate students to join the student movement by withholding their labor from institutions that are invested in genocide. We ask that those who choose to withhold their labor are granted grace and are not disciplined for their solidarity. Around the world, campus boards and administrations are brutally stifling student

² <https://smif.blogs.bucknell.edu/files/2024/02/SMIF-W23-Newsletter.pdf>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/education-under-attack-gaza-nearly-90-school-buildings-damaged-or-destroyed-and-no-university-left-standing#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Ministry%20of,Gaza%20Strip%20since%207%20October.>

action, and Bucknell is no exception. Your action can change this reality and increase the pressure to new heights.

Heed the call from trade unions in Palestine: “Decent employment should never come at the expense of countless Palestinian lives... an injury to one is truly an injury to all.” Our universities are invested in the bombs that have destroyed Gaza’s educational infrastructure. *If there is no functioning university in Gaza, there should be no functioning university here.*

Below is a list of suggestions for how students, faculty, and staff workers on campus can participate in the strike:

- **Withholding Final Exam Grades:** Faculty can use their leverage against the institution by not releasing or completing final grades entirely.
- **Complete Absence from Work or Final Exams:** Students, faculty, and staff can choose not to attend work. For students, this includes not attending the administration of in-person final exams. For written exams, students can refuse to submit their essays, *or submit this letter as a replacement.* For faculty, this includes canceling final exams for classes.
- **Augmenting the Administration of Final Exams:** Faculty can allow students the option to reschedule final exams if they wish to participate in the strike; give academic credit to students for final exams without formal administration of them; change in-person exams to take-home exams; make the final exam bear minimal weight on the final grade, etc.
- **Time Theft:** Students, faculty, and staff can engage in activities that may be considered unauthorized or improper in the workplace. This may include taking longer breaks than allowed by policies; holding or attending meetings that are not work-related or are not approved by supervisors; using work hours to run personal errands; and claiming overtime hours for work that was not actually performed or exaggerating the amount of hours.
- **Work Slowdowns:** While not a complete withholding of labor, students, staff and faculty can choose to work at a slower pace than usual to disrupt normal operations.
- **Boycott:** Harness the power of our consumer choices to be in solidarity with oppressed peoples worldwide, particularly Palestinians facing an ongoing genocide. Instead of supporting corporations complicit in Palestinian genocide, withhold your spending for

businesses that uphold unethical values aligned with neo-colonial domination and U.S. imperialism. Examples of corporations to avoid due to their support of the US/Israeli oppression of Palestinians include: Amazon, Target, Walmart, Starbucks, and McDonald's. By withholding our financial support from these entities, we send a clear message that we refuse to be complicit in systems of oppression and advocate for liberation for all.

In solidarity,

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