

Why Are We Not Letting You Into The Book of Kells?

We understand that you may be inconvenienced by this occupation of the Book of Kells at Trinity College Dublin. We want to take a moment to explain the reasons behind this action and why it's so important.

What's Happening?

A group known as Trinity BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions), alongside the Trinity Students' Union has initiated this occupation due to our concerns about Trinity College's connections with Israeli organizations, including companies and institutions complicit with Israel's apartheid regime and war crimes. Our goal is to encourage Trinity College to cut all ties with Israel.

Why the Concern?

The apartheid state of Israel has been ethnically cleansing, brutalizing and oppressing the people of Palestine for decades, and recently has launched a genocidal bombing campaign in Gaza, leaving over 9,000 women, men and children dead in just a month. The BDS group is deeply concerned with Israel's actions, including the expansion of illegal settlements, which have led to the displacement and deaths of many Palestinian people. TCD BDS has found, through a Freedom of Information request, that there are institutions connected to the Trinity College that have ties to the Israeli military and state, including organizations involved in arms research and technology.

Which Institutions Does Trinity Have Ties With?

- Weizmann Institute of Science, which openly collaborates with the war industry. It has ties to Elbit Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries and supported the development of Israel's nuclear arsenal.
- Tel Aviv University, which develops war technology, developed the IDF's 'ethical code', trains lawyers to defend war crimes, sends Pro-Israeli delegations to foreign universities.
- Three firms blacklisted by the UN- Bank Leumi, which earlier this month froze UNRWA's bank account, Shapir Engineering which has links to illegal West Bank settlements, and Energix, which has been accused of greenwashing, because it built the Golan Heights plant in 2015 in violation of international law.

BDS Principles:

The BDS movement's principles are to exert economic pressure on Israel's inhumane system of apartheid and violence against Palestinians. We believe that a boycott, divestment, and sanction policy for College can lead to essential change and protect human rights. The BDS movement never targets individuals, but rather focuses on companies and institutions.

Trinity College Dublin's Mission Statement:

Trinity College Dublin's mission statement includes "engaging with issues of global significance." We argue that, in line with this mission, the college should take a principled stance against the human rights violations in Israel. Furthermore, Trinity publicly (and rightfully) condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but yet remains silent on Israel's genocidal actions in Gaza. The people of Palestine deserve and require our solidarity too.

As Such:

The occupation may seem inconvenient, but it serves as a call to action for Trinity College to reconsider its connections in line with the beliefs of the student body. The aim is to address human rights concerns and encourage the institution to take a principled stance.

We encourage you to learn more about the BDS movement and the issues we're advocating for.

Your support and understanding can help pave the way for a more just and equitable world for all, and thank you for understanding.



Learn More About BDS

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