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Week 28: Morally Responsible Investing

WEEK 28 JULY 9 TO JULY 15 **MORALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING**

5 Strategies of morally responsible investing:

- Avoidance strategy
- Involvement strategy
- Alternative strategy
- Withdrawal strategy
- Reinvestment strategy

A white dove is depicted in flight, facing right and holding a green olive branch in its beak. A red target symbol with a central bullseye and crosshairs is overlaid on the dove's chest. The background is a textured, light brown color.

Source: FOSMA

<http://kuminow.com/MorallyResponsible>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

We're back! Thank you to those of you who provided us with some feedback in this week we were off. We're now ready for the second half of the year, full of Kumi Now weeks and our weekly webinars. Let's move right to Tuesday's online gathering:

Next Online Gathering



July 13: Week 28 - Morally Responsible Investing

[Full information on the gathering is here.](#)

Israel's oppression of Palestinians and flouting of United Nations resolutions is ongoing and unwavering. Dozens of international corporations profit off this oppression by contracting with the Israeli government and participating in the construction of illegal settlements. As we mark the beginnings of the BDS Movement on July 9, 2005, here's what you need to know about morally responsible investment and what you can do so that together we can *rise up*.

Our guest will be **Charlotte Marshall** of **Sabeel-Kairos UK**.

Time: Tuesday, July 13, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+3) That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 8am
- Central (Chicago): 10am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 11am
- Atlantic: 12pm
- Newfoundland: 12:30pm
- Greenwich (London): 4pm
- Central Europe (Paris/Stockholm): 5pm
- South Africa: 5pm
- Sydney:
- Manila: 11pm
- Sydney: 1am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 3am (+1 Day)

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (There's no registration page, so please set an alarm for yourself and use this link on Tuesday.)

Remember, if you'd like to receive a reminder about the gathering an hour before it begins, please use the [registration form at the bottom of the page](#).

This Week's Kumi Now Entry

Please note: To match the dates in the book, we will now be posting a new entry each Friday, and this newsletter should go out each Friday or Saturday.

Sharing and publicizing: The graphics in this newsletter are designed to be the perfect size and shape to share to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. So each week you can help the cause simply by sharing these images online. It's one more option you have to help.

Kumi Week #28: Morally Responsible Investing

Week 28 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). According to the “United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,” companies have an obligation “to avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts.” This means that if they are involved, even secondarily, in any of these violations, they can be held liable. The United Nations has specified that civil society has a key role to play in helping to make sure that these standards are upheld.

Our goal, as a part of civil society, is to help Palestinians achieve their rights by insisting on Israel’s compliance with international humanitarian law. We can do so by making sure that our own institutions are not assisting or participating in human rights violations directly, or indirectly by investing in companies that do. Morally responsible investment is a part of our ethical and legal duty to prevent unlawful harm to people. Here’s what we can do so that together we can *rise up* for Palestine.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of Earth Caravan and the Peace Flame. And here are a few more facts for you:

WEEK JULY 9
28 TO
 JULY 15

MORALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

Just the facts. Methods of morally responsible investing...

Avoidance strategy: avoiding investment in companies on moral grounds.

Involvement strategy: exercising influence and pressure on companies and corporations in shareholder meetings to actively promote moral and social responsibility and accountability.

Alternative strategy or selective investment: establishing alternative investment funds that promote justice and peace.

Withdrawal strategy: simply pulling investments on moral grounds.

Reinvestment strategy: moving money from investments in corporations complicit of wrongdoing to those that engage in morally responsible business, or to reinvest in the corporation after positive change occurs.

Source: FOSNA

<http://kuminow.com/MorallyResponsible>

Understanding Morally Responsible Investing: Just the Facts. Methods of morally responsible investing...

A campaign of sanctions which highlights the moral unacceptability of Israel’s Occupation could have a great impact, eventually impelling governments to impose

economic sanctions while creating a climate difficult for businesses (beginning with Caterpillar) to continue function.” (www.icahd.org) As responsible owners and investors, the churches have multiple economic options. The dictionary defines divestment as “to free of,” “to sell off,” “to dispossess”. Today, there are many methods of investment and divestment including these five strategies:

- Avoidance strategy, i.e. avoiding investment in companies on moral grounds.
- Involvement strategy, i.e. exercising influence and pressure on companies and corporations in shareholder meetings to actively promote moral and social responsibility and accountability.
- Alternative strategy or selective investment, i.e. establishing alternative investment funds that promote justice and peace.
- Withdrawal strategy, i.e. simply pulling investments on moral grounds.
- Reinvestment strategy, i.e. moving the money on moral grounds from investments in corporations complicit of wrongdoing to organizations that engage in morally responsible business, or to reinvest in the organization or company after positive change occurs.

What Methods Does Sabeel Recommend?

As the next logical step, we encourage morally responsible investment along the lines of the above mentioned points, which basically translates into selective divestment -- the model that has been advocated by the World Council of Churches, the Presbyterian Church USA, the Episcopal Church (USA), as well as other organizations working for a just peace in the region...

1. Therefore, Sabeel calls on churches to exert pressure on companies and corporations to discontinue business activities that:

1. provide products, services or technology that sustain, support or maintain the occupation;
2. have established facilities or operations on occupied land
3. provide products, services, or financial support for the establishment, expansion, or maintenance of settlements on occupied land or settlement related infrastructure;
4. provide products, services or financial backing to groups that commit violence against innocent civilians; or
5. provide finances or assist in the construction of Israel's separation wall or settlement infrastructure.

2. When such pressures fail to yield positive results, Sabeel calls on churches to divest/disinvest from companies and corporations that do not respond and comply with morally responsible investment and business practices.

This passage is excerpted from ["Sabeel's Call for Morally Responsible Investment"](#).

Learning More

To learn more you can start by reading **Sabeel-Kairos UK's** [“Morally Responsible Investment in Israel and Palestine”](#). To dig deeper into the issue you can read [“BDS Battle Heats Up on New Front — Socially Responsible Investing”](#) by **Nathan Guttman** for **Forward**. And the **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** has a [database and guide](#) to screening your own investments.

To go deeper, we are developing an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week’s entry as well as a [YouTube playlist](#) on the subject.

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week:

Kumi Action



Together we can take effective action in support of human rights and justice for Palestinians. As individuals we can take bold positions, but as a collective, we can really affect change. We have seen in recent years how churches around the world have successfully applied policies to exclude companies which profit from the occupation of the Palestinian territory from their investments.

Write to your church, company, school, place of worship, or any community you belong to and find out where/how they invest their money. Write them with a message such as, “I stand for moral and ethical investment. Yet, many companies are profiting from the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Is our community investing in these companies?” Find out whether they have an ethical investment screen, and if so, ask if it includes Israel/Palestine. If not, apply pressure for them to introduce one, using Sabeel-Kairos UK’s “Investing for Peace – a guide for local Church activists” to help you form a campaign group and take this forward in your community. Also of help will be the list of companies that the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has chosen to divest from.

Include the links above and share your messages on social media. Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website and the hashtags #MorallyResponsible, #KumiNow, and #Kumi28.

You Should Know

One or two people, companies, or organizations generally related to the issue of the week you should know, and how you can follow them online.



Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)

Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt Christian ecumenical organization seeking justice and peace in Palestine through nonviolent advocacy and education. They support the work of Sabeel Jerusalem and organize for Palestine in churches and faith communities across the United States.

You can find FOSNA on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).



Sabeel-Kairos UK

Sabeel-Kairos UK is a Christian-based UK charity committed to supporting peace and justice in the Holy Land. They are a network of individuals, organizations, churches, and communities of all backgrounds across the UK, who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in partnership with, and by promoting and

advocating on, the messages of Kairos Palestine and the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre in Jerusalem.

You can find Sabeel-Kairos UK on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Upcoming Weeks

And here's what we have coming up in July so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:

KUMI NOW ONLINE: JULY, 2021

Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30
			
July 6 Kumi Relaunch	July 13 Morally Responsible Investing	July 20 Israeli Apartheid Wall	July 27 Family Unification

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINOW.COM

Each week below will have an online gathering with a guest or guests speaking on the topic. The time and Zoom link are the same each week.

The weekly newsletter will always contain reminders of the upcoming online gatherings and the Zoom link. But if you're like me and need a reminder right before the sessions begin, you can [register to receive a reminder email one hour prior to each online gathering](#). And no more digging through your inbox looking for the Zoom link! Just [use the registration form at the bottom of the page](#).



July 20: Week 29 - The Israeli Apartheid Wall

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Resolution ES-10/15 doesn't, in name, sound like much. But it was a resolution passed on July 20, 2004 that acknowledged the illegality of Israel's separation barrier under international law. Years later, Palestinian communities in the occupied territory are still being torn apart due to the construction of the separation barrier, otherwise known as the Apartheid Wall. As the wall gets built, Israel is effectively annexing more and more Palestinian land to itself.

For our Kumi Action we will send empty boxes to the Knesset, showing them how easy it is to open a gate or

barrier.



July 27: Week 30 - Family Unification

[Read the full entry online.](#)

On July 31, 2003 Israel passed the Nationality and Entry into Israel Law, making the lives of thousands of Palestinian individuals and families even more precarious and complex.

For our Kumi Action we will send the Prime Minister and his cabinet paper dolls to move around and play with.

You Should Watch or Read...

One (or maybe two) recent or not-so-recent film, book, video, article, or other piece of art that you should consider reading or watching this week. Have a recommendation? Let us know.



May in the Summer

This week, the **Palestine Film Institute** has posted *May in the Summer* (2013, drama, 99 minutes) for the film of the week. You have until Wednesday to watch it for free [on their website](#). More about the film:

“May returns to her childhood home in Jordan for her wedding. Shortly after reuniting with her sisters and their long-since divorced parents, myriad familial and cultural conflicts lead May to question the big step she is about to take.”

What's Next

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next Friday/Saturday, focused on our next topic, the [Israeli Apartheid Wall](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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