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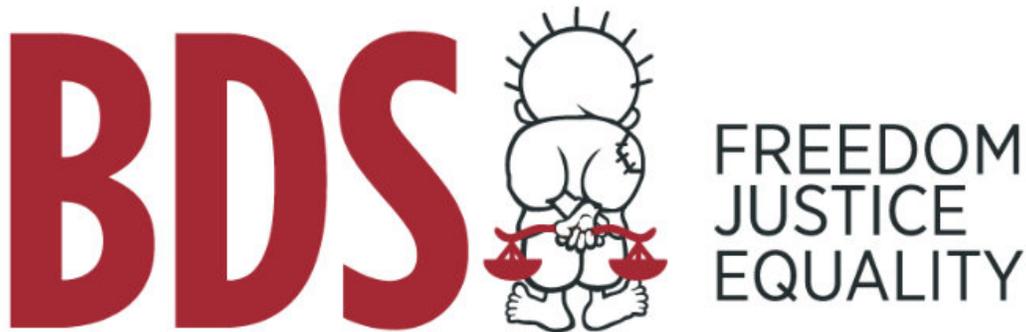
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Week 28: Morally Responsible Investing



Dear Kumi Now supporter,

From the [American Revolution](#), to the [Jewish anti-Nazi boycott](#), to [Ghandi's Indian boycott of British goods](#), to the United Farm Workers [grape](#) and [lettuce](#) strikes, and to apartheid South Africa, boycotts have been a key feature of nonviolent protest and political action. In South Africa, [disinvestment](#) and the [academic boycott](#) were important pieces in the nonviolent strategy that brought down apartheid. Today, and throughout the week, we mark the start of the [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions \(BDS\) movement](#) on July 9, 2005. Our goal is to discuss the roles these economic and cultural tools play in efforts to end Israel's occupation of Palestine. Join us in that conversation this coming Tuesday:

Next Online Gathering

July 12: Week 28 - Morally Responsible Investing

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

WEEK
28
**MORALLY
RESPONSIBLE
INVESTING**

**KUMI
NOW
ONLINE**

featuring
Charlotte
Marshall of
Sabeel-Kairos UK

**TUESDAY
JULY 13
6PM
(UTC+3)**

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 12, 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
- Manila: 11pm
- Sydney: 1am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 3am (+1 Day)

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (You might need to do a quick registration. This link is the same, either way.)

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 Entry

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 case of HeidelbergCement. And here are a few more facts for you:

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.ica hd.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

**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, 2022



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 16 to 22: 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 23 to 29: 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.

What's Next

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next 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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kumi@kuminow.com



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