

April 5, 2016

Students for Justice in Palestine
Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, NY 12604

Dear Fellow Activists,

We, members of the BDS Committee for Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel (www.vtjp.org/icecream), are writing to express our enthusiastic support and encouragement for the impressive and successful actions of your organization.

In the flurry of publicity that followed your recent BDS resolution, it came to our attention that you had identified **Ben & Jerry's** as an "offending" company complicit with Israel's occupation and illegal settlement regime (<http://vsa.vassar.edu/orgs/vassarsjp/about-the-companies/>). This pleased us enormously, and, as you are aware, was picked up in the national media.

Our campaign against Ben & Jerry's unethical commercial ties with Israeli settlements reached its five-year anniversary this March. We are grateful not only for your solidarity with our efforts, but are inspired to work harder for the BDS movement and a free Palestine because of yours.

The smear of "anti-Semitism" leveled against your group is one we, too, have experienced and, like you, have refused to be intimidated by. Mark Twain, in his inimitable way, defined a patriot as "the person who can holler the loudest without knowing what he is hollering about." Defenders of Israeli occupation, settler-colonialism and apartheid are too often people who holler the loudest about anti-Semitism without any basis in fact, in the hope they can shame and silence us. We trust you will carry on, as we and many others have, despite this slanderous accusation.

VTJP stands ready to help you in any way we can. Please contact us if we can be of assistance.

Again, thank you for your activism and resolve.

In solidarity,

Mark, Ian, Kathy, Marc, Anita, Wafic, Debra

For Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel BDS