



Americans For Peace Now



American Jewish Committee



Anti-Defamation League



B'nai B'rith International



Brit Tzedek v'Shalom



Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization



Israel Policy Forum



Jewish Council for Public Affairs



Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



Progressive Jewish Alliance



Union for Reform Judaism



United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

To: Delegates of the United Methodist Church 2008 General Conference

We write to you as organizations with broad representation across the Jewish spectrum, holding a wide range of religious and political perspectives. We write to you, however, united by our support for a two-state solution, our deep concern for the suffering of both Palestinians and Israelis, Christians, Muslims and Jews, and by our opposition to the use of divestment as a vehicle to further peace. We write to you because we believe that you can be constructive friends of Israelis, Palestinians and of peace without contradiction.

The ongoing conflict between Palestinians and Israelis weighs heavily on our hearts. Escalations in violence lead only to distrust on both sides. There has been too much pain, too much bloodshed, and too much violence, for far too long. The parties in the conflict must all make sacrifices in order for there to be peace. Neither party is blameless. We write to you because we believe that together we can help enable a climate in which peace is possible. Moderate Jews and Christians must work together to bring about a negotiated two-state settlement in which sovereign Israeli and Palestinian states can live side-by-side securely, peacefully, and with justice.

Divestment has broad implications in terms of relationships, but not in a positive way. Divestment hardens hearts. It misunderstands the parties in the conflict and the need for balance. Selling shares in a company that sells to the Israeli government will not result in Israelis embracing territorial compromise, nor will it cause Palestinians to reject violent elements within their society. Each party is informed by a far more complicated set of factors than private investments.

The cause of peace demands that each of us strive to understand the complex set of realities that face all of the parties. And that we work to reconcile differences. Investments can be used in ways that promote coexistence and cooperation.

We hope that you will reject punitive, divisive measures such as divestment and embrace a balanced approach to peacemaking that will foster dialogue, understanding, and trust.

As the prophet Micah has taught, *“God has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require? To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.”* (6:8)