

~~APARTHEID~~ FREE ZONES

TOOLKIT FOR ORGANISERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE AFZ CAMPAIGN.....3

HOW TO USE THE AFZ TOOLKIT FOR ORGANISERS4

GENERAL TIPS FOR AFZ CAMPAIGNERS.....6

BUILDING FROM BELOW: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFZ.....7
What kind of social and cultural AFZ can we create?..... 8
Tips and recommendations for fostering social and cultural AFZ and AFZ businesses 9

INVOLVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS..... 11
What kind of AFZ local councils can we create?.....12
Tips and recommendations for making your local government an AFZ.....13

**COMBATING RACISM AND REPRESSION:
A MUNICIPAL APPROACH TO MILITARY EMBARGO CAMPAIGNS.....16**
Tips and recommendations for developing a community approach for combating racism, repression
and discrimination.....17

MODEL MOTIONS.....17
Declaration of social AFZ18
Declaration of cultural AFZ.....19

INTRODUCTION TO THE AFZ CAMPAIGN

What is an Apartheid Free Zone?

Inspired by the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, the Apartheid Free Zone (AFZ) campaign seeks to foster the creation of spaces free of Israel's [apartheid](#), including settler colonialism and military occupation, that oppresses the Palestinian people. As citizens and people of conscience, we want to ensure that the spaces in which we participate do not contribute to the maintenance of an apartheid regime, benefit from grave human rights violations, or become influenced or shaped by any of the former.

What does it imply?

An organisation that wants to become an Apartheid Free Zone commits to refraining from any kind of support or assistance to the Israeli apartheid regime. This objective can be achieved through a number of initiatives, depending on your local socio-political context and alliances and the type of space. You can, for instance, be an AFZ by ending contracts with companies that are providing support to Israel's flagrant human rights violations, such as Cemex, HP, G4S or AXA, by ending trade with the illegal Israeli settlements or by endorsing the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) or the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) [guidelines](#).

Building alliances for freedom, justice and equality

Being an Apartheid Free Zone implies overall a principled commitment to the equal rights of every human being and promotes the creation of spaces of proactive international solidarity, free of racism, discrimination, domination and oppression. Initiatives to create apartheid free zones can therefore build joint initiatives or create broad alliances with other social justice movements promoting the same principles.

In the Spanish state, Norway and Belgium, community activists are inviting local councils, shops, restaurants, community centres, businesses, trade unions and other civil society organisations to declare themselves Apartheid Free Zones.

Let's get started!

HOW TO USE THE AFZ TOOLKIT FOR ORGANISERS

The AFZ toolkit for organisers is designed to be used by Palestine solidarity organizations and groups that are willing to develop AFZ campaigns in their cities, community spaces, social or cultural centres.

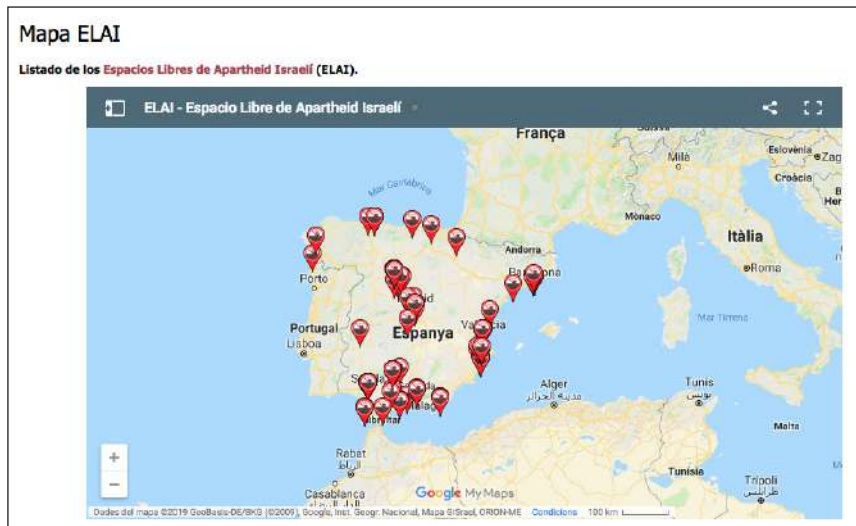
It is divided into four sections:

1) **Working with the community: Cultural and social Apartheid Free Zones.** This section is dedicated to grassroots mobilization and community building. In it you will find some tips and recommendations for working with your local community on raising awareness about Israeli apartheid. You have examples of good practices and ideas for transforming your neighbourhood, your favourite greengrocer or a theatre into an AFZ. You will also find a model motion for sharing with social spaces, cultural centres, theatres or cinemas of your city.



2) **Involving local governments and public institutions.**

This section is dedicated to working with local governments and public institutions. Local governments are your closest political representatives and in most occasions, local politicians are more accessible for Palestine solidarity activists than those at the national level. As any other governmental institutions, local governments have legal responsibilities and obligations which must be understood and utilized when engaging them with AFZ. In this section you will find recommendations on how to make of your city council an AFZ.



3) Combating repression at home and Israel's war crimes against Palestinians

Israel's military and security industry contributes to the dramatic increase of securitization of public spaces and repression against activists and human rights defenders worldwide. This section aims at sharing some ideas and resources on how to focus on this particular aspect within the framework of AFZs by challenging business and cooperation of your local government with Israel's police, military and security companies (and projects) and by promoting a military embargo on Israel's apartheid regime, similar to that imposed on apartheid South Africa before.



4) Model motions

In this last section you can find some model motions for social and cultural spaces. Note that these models are just sample texts aiming to provide you with some guidance and examples. Feel free to adjust them to your local contexts or to the particularities of each space. Creativity is always welcome!

If you want to develop an AFZ campaign with local governments or public institutions please get in touch with us at info@bdsmovement.net. We can provide you with a solid legal model and/or put you in touch with legal experts who can help you in the process of drafting your motion.

GENERAL TIPS FOR AFZ CAMPAIGNERS

Before moving on to develop AFZ campaigns in the different spaces, it is good to take into account that the campaign has a deep intersectional approach: it aims at bringing together different struggles for racial, social, environmental, economic and gender justice.

Building alliances with other social movements is strongly encouraged for working on this campaign!

- Ensure alliance building is as broad as possible and based on principled anti-racism and anti-discrimination.

The [BDS movement rejects all kinds of racism](#). Therefore, we will only work with partners who oppose Israeli apartheid as well as any other type of racism or racial discrimination.

- Where possible, connect the Palestinian struggle against Israeli apartheid with local struggles against racism, repression and militarization.

Discussing Israeli apartheid allows us to have conversations also about other kinds of racial discrimination and oppression and to build alliances against them. Israel's system of apartheid is a worldwide model for repression and plays a key role in the international growth of racism and militarism. Police and security personnel from [Brazil](#), the [US](#) and the [EU](#) have been trained by the Israeli police, military and/or other security forces. Our oppressors are more connected than ever. The more we pool our capacities and resources, the better use we can make of them!

- Consider connecting AFZ campaigns with other initiatives for participatory democracy and accountability

Many other movements campaigning for human, environmental, cultural and socio-economic rights are developing - or may want to develop together with you - initiatives to ensure that local decisions and contracts do not aid or assist violations of these rights. The commitment not to support Israeli apartheid can be part of a broader commitment to ethical policies.

- Adjust to your local context

Context-sensitivity is essential for designing successful campaigns. Local dynamics, alliances and political context will determine your AFZ campaign. You may want to initiate campaigning or join existing social justice initiatives within your community or city. This toolkit offers a general overview of how the campaign can be implemented. Still, each context is unique, and you will have to develop specific strategies and tactics in each case.

BUILDING FROM BELOW: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFZ

Get in touch with us if you want to start an AFZ campaign in your community!

Apartheid Free Zones allow all kinds of organisations to show their support for the Palestinian struggle for fundamental rights. AFZ also encourages cooperation and mutual support among organisations in each community. Any space committed to the principles of freedom, justice and equality can become an AFZ!

AFZ is, above all, a tool for mobilizing community support to end complicity with Israel's apartheid regime against the Palestinian people, as part of our broader struggle against racism, colonialism, militarization and discrimination in all its forms. Enhancing mutual support is a fundamental aspect of the AFZ campaign and a great way for broadening the scope of Palestine solidarity activism, including BDS campaigns.

Social and cultural spaces, as well as local businesses, can become amplifiers of the Palestinian struggle for justice, freedom and equality. Involving these spaces will broaden the scope of our campaigns and amplify our messages, reaching circles and publics beyond the traditional Palestine solidarity movement.

The methodology developed to build cultural and social AFZs can also be used to promote specific BDS campaigns. In Latin America, activists are establishing [Cemex Free Spaces](#) to build support for the [#StopCemex Campaign](#) that calls on the Mexican construction material producer to stop producing in Israel's illegal settlements and stop supplying cement for Israel's wall, settlements and checkpoints.

What kind of social and cultural AFZ can we create?

Here is an illustrative list of diverse social and cultural AFZ that have been already created:

- [Academic and cultural AFZ](#)
Universities, institutes, music festivals, theatres or film festivals can be spaces free of Israeli apartheid, racism, racial discrimination! By declaring their spaces as AFZ, they can commit to adhering to the PACBI guidelines or decide to not participate in or promote any activity/project/event that pinkwashes, greenwashes or otherwise legitimizes or



Image used by groups in Latin America for the Stop Cemex Campaign

normalizes Israeli apartheid. These spaces can also promote Palestinian heritage and culture as yet another form of nonviolent resistance.

In the Spanish state two university departments and three music festivals are AFZs. And in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the radio program “*Derrumbando Muros*” is also part of the campaign.

Get one in your city!

- Local businesses

Wouldn't it be lovely to do your shopping in a store free from apartheid? Local business can also become AFZ by committing not to sell products from the illegal Israeli settlements or from any Israeli or international company that profits from violations of Palestinian human rights. Check if your corner store is selling, for instance, dates, herbs, wine or vegetables from the illegal Israeli settlements and explain to the owner and customers why this is unacceptable. Use this as an opportunity for raising awareness. Ask owners to declare their shops an AFZ and ask if you can distribute some brochures or materials in the store. Fair-trade stores tend to have a philosophy of just trade relations, encourage them to join the campaign! Note that you can also engage with shops that do not (yet) offer any Israeli produce. These may be easily convinced and help create a critical mass of AFZs at the initial stages of your campaign.

In the French city of Montpellier, BDS activists have created a broad network of local AFZ shops in the neighbourhood of la [Paillade](#). They work as amplifiers for BDS campaigns and are an excellent tool for community mobilization.

In [Norway](#) you can also find dozens of AFZ bars and restaurants. Take Israeli apartheid out of the menu of your favourite restaurant and make it AFZ!

- Social AFZ

Are you part of a social movement? A community of neighbours? Does your BDS group meet in a squat or a social centre? Invite them to become AFZ and weave bonds of solidarity with their struggles! Enhancing mutual support is a fundamental aspect of the AFZ and a great way for broadening the scope of BDS campaigns and other Palestine solidarity activism.

Local groups in [Belgium](#) are receiving support from and spreading AFZ among community organizations.



Picture of an AFZ action by BDS Montpellier in la Paillade, a neighborhood in Montpellier.

Tips and recommendations for fostering social and cultural AFZ and AFZ businesses

Here some pieces of advice for fostering social and cultural AFZ in your community:

- **Look around you! The next AFZ can be just around the corner**
Talk to friendly spaces, political allies or groups and movements already supportive or involved in the struggle for social justice and/or with the Palestine solidarity movement.
- **Think outside the box**
Be creative, think of spaces that are outside the traditional Palestine solidarity circles. In order for the BDS movement to grow, we need to gain wider support for Palestinian rights. Consider spaces where you participate or places where you go with your friends. These could be your neighbourhood association, your greengrocer's, the place where you hold your BDS meetings or even a bar, your gym or a hair salon!
- **Seek opportunities to raise awareness about the Israeli regime of illegal occupation, settler colonialism and apartheid**
AFZ is a great opportunity to raise awareness and educate communities about what is happening in Palestine, and about the connection between Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people and the increasing repression and securitization worldwide. Get in touch with human rights film festivals or, for instance, with music festivals that have already taken a stand against sexual harassment (such as those part of the [Zero Tolerance and Safer Spaces Campaign](#)) Organise talks, cinema forums or debates about the Israeli regime of illegal occupation, settler colonialism and apartheid in cultural associations; identify and expose the connections between what is happening in Palestine and what happens in your immediate environment. Give people the opportunity to contribute to ending the racist and criminal system of oppression in Palestine, and foster the creation of more just and equal spaces in your community by joining the AFZ campaign.

Knowledge and culture are the basis of transformative power!

- **Foster collective thinking and collective analysis of privilege**
AFZ are spaces free from oppression and discrimination of any kind. Create an enabling environment to reflect collectively about what you, your group or your community can do to promote a more just and equal world, and to put an end to racial, sex, gender, class or religious discrimination in your city and in Palestine. Write a document which establishes what it means for your group to be an AFZ. Be the change you want to see!
- **Build alliances**
AFZ is an intersectional campaign that requires principled alliances with other anti-racist, anti-colonial, feminist, refugee and migrant groups, LGTBQI, climate justice and others. Broaden the community and fight against Israeli apartheid as well as all other forms racism at home and in every corner of the world!

- **Visualise support**
 - Create a logo for your campaign and ask AFZ spaces to give it visibility.
 - Make a map with all the AFZs in your city or region.
 - Ask shop or bar owners to display brochures with information about BDS, Palestine or the AFZ campaign
 - Visualising AFZ is key to showing support and collective power. Fill the streets with your AFZ logo!

Here you can see some examples of logos used in AFZ campaigns in the [Spanish state](#), [France](#) or [Belgium](#).

INVOLVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

By joining the AFZ campaign, local government institutions (such as municipalities, regional councils, etc.) will support the struggle of the Palestinian people for freedom, justice and equality by adopting decisions and policies which prevent contracts or cooperation with or investment in entities that are complicit in Israel's apartheid. At the same time, this will contribute to making our cities and communities a better place for everyone, because local governmental institutions will be free from prohibited discrimination and other human rights abuses.

AFZ campaigns involving local government approach local councils and regional governments as entities of the state. They enhance the role of local government in the performance of duties of the state under national and international law, foremost the duty to respect and protect human rights, and the obligation not to recognize as lawful flagrant violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights committed by another state, and not to aid or assist their maintenance.

Local government institutions that adopt the AFZ framework thus simply do what is legally required from them: They commit to respect, protect and promote human rights and to avoid complicity in serious violations of IHL and human rights, such as those committed

AFZ logo in Belgium



AFZ logo in the Spanish state



AFZ logo in France



by Israel against the Palestinian people. They also adopt practical measures which are required to meet these commitments. Examples of such measures are public procurement policies that require the exclusion of any company involved in such grave violations from participation in biddings for public contracts, decisions to withdraw investment from such complicit companies, and policies that foreclose cooperation or partnerships with complicit public and private institutions in the fields of culture and sports. These general policies and decisions are then applied to entities that support the illegal Israeli settlements or any of the numerous other illegal and inhumane practices that characterize Israel's apartheid regime.

What kind of AFZ local councils can we create?

There are various models of AFZ local councils, with different levels of commitments. Before launching this campaign, you will need to assess your local political context and consider certain factors, such as the political positions on Israel/Palestine of political parties represented in local government, potential partners within these parties and alliances with other social movements with shared values and objectives. Choosing one or another model of AFZ is going to depend on all these factors, and a good analysis of the context is key for a successful campaign. Make sure to allocate enough time for this process!

Most of the AFZ local councils created so far fall within the following types:

- **Apartheid Free councils//Socially responsible local councils//Occupation free local councils:** Local councils pass resolutions/motions in which they acknowledge their international responsibilities in connection with flagrant violations of international law and they declare a policy of non-cooperation with entities responsible for or complicit with flagrant violations of IHL and human rights, including those complicit with the Israeli apartheid and/or the illegal settlements industry. Such motions can include support to the BDS movement and/or explicit condemnations of the Israeli regime of apartheid, illegal occupation and settler colonialism.



Graphic used by groups in the Spanish state after the approval of an AFZ motion in Valencia city council. The text in the image says: Valencia is a global referent for the solidarity with the Palestinian people. Biggest BDS city in the world.

These kinds of motions go beyond mere political declarations and are designed to be put into practice. They might involve amendments of public procurement policies of the institution concerned. Passing these motions requires extensive legal work and a high level of commitment from the institutions as well.

This model has been extensively developed in the [Spanish State](#).

The “Occupation free local councils” resolutions usually focus on the Israeli occupation, without explicit mention of Israeli apartheid or support of the BDS movement. [Barcelona municipality](#) is an example of this type of motion.

- **Local Councils adopt a “socially responsible decision” in the context of campaigns targeting complicit companies or other entities:** local councils decide not to cooperate with a company that is the target of BDS campaigners. In this case, there is no sustained focus on the local council: when the decision is adopted by the council, organisers move on to prevent/terminate business cooperation between the targeted company and another party or institution. The HP Free motion of [Dublin city council](#) is an example of this model.
- **Local Councils issue a political declaration in support of BDS or the right to BDS.** Non binding motions in support of BDS or recognising the right to BDS are passed in plenaries. This kind of motions does not have legal implications and can cover a wide variety of examples, from those councils calling on their governments to impose a military embargo to other motions expressing support and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Tips and recommendations for making your local government an AFZ

- **The text of the motion: what to include**
Local government institutions become AFZ by approving a motion in the relevant decision making body. The text of the motions can take various formats, depending on the socio-political context and the particular type of AFZ you have decided to follow, as explained above. In any case, it is preferable that motions are not limited to political statements condemning Israeli practices or expressing support for the Palestinian people or BDS. Motions with teeth also include a set of decisions regarding concrete measures which will be carried out by the local council itself in order to translate its political position into practice, as well as calls for practical measures by the national government or third parties.

Some examples of such practical decisions in motions are:

- The local council adopts policies that will end its relationship (commercial, cultural, sports or academic) with certain illegal Israeli practices such as settlements, the entire colonial and oppressive regime of military occupation, or the whole Israeli apartheid system. One such policy is to exclude companies that profit from IHL and/or human rights violations from public tenders.

- The council decides to raise awareness about the settler colonial and apartheid features of Israel's regime, and/or,
 - To promote BDS as an effective nonviolent tool for defending Palestinian human rights.
 - The council calls on the national government to halt arms trade and military cooperation with Israel, or to prohibit trade with the illegal Israeli settlements, or to adopt other measures, including sanctions, which are necessary for compliance with the state's obligations.
- **Protect the motion from legal challenges**
 Important tips for making your AFZ campaign safe are included below, in the section "timeline". Please read this section carefully before you start. It suffices to point out here that, in order to avoid unnecessary legal challenges, the practical policies which you would like your local government to adopt as part of the AFZ motion in order end its relationship with certain illegal Israeli practices, or the illegal occupation, or its apartheid regime as a whole, are best formulated as general policies that are directed at all entities involved in flagrant violations of IHL and/or human rights anywhere. Once the motion is adopted, your local or regional council is required to apply the general policy to entities responsible for such violations in the context of Israel's apartheid and elsewhere.
 - **Think in terms of process!**
 Making your local council AFZ can be a long procedure and should be considered as an ongoing process of proactive socially responsible citizenship and solidarity. It starts with understanding the reality of oppression and dispossession that Palestinians have been facing for decades and the role that international complicity plays in maintaining this and other systems of oppression.
 - **Is not only about passing motions, but about building knowledge and capacities**
 Understanding the context is key for understanding why BDS is an effective tool that can end complicity and alter the current power relations in favour of justice and human rights. Councillors need to have sufficient understanding of why it is important to be an AFZ. We need to build the councillors' capacities, as well as relationships of trust between the councillors and the local civil society groups or organisations promoting the campaign.
 - **A general timeline for getting a public institution to be an AFZ could be:**
 1. Identifying our allies and helping them build their capacities
 The starting point of our campaign can be organising a series of workshops on what it means to be an apartheid and settler colonial regime, why talking about occupation is not enough in the case of Palestine, and what BDS is. Raising awareness of the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) (Ruggie Principles) and the legal framework of State Responsibility for Internationally Wrongful Acts (Articles 40, 41), can be a very good entry point.

Workshops can be organised for political parties or for local councils. The former might ensure a broader impact, but the latter might be more accessible.

Be aware that the promoters of an AFZ motion may be subjected to public scrutiny and quite possibly, harsh criticism. It is important that politicians and parties promoting the AFZ motion understand the rationale behind it and its implications and are prepared with solid arguments for defending their position.

Building broader alliances with other social movements can be crucial for avoiding certain attacks from lobby groups that seek to block the initiative.

2. Drafting the motion

The BNC can provide some solid, well-written model motions, based on tens of experiences in local councils. This is the most important text, and we should strive to get it right! A poorly written text may open the way for those opposed to Palestinian rights or commitments to social responsibility to stop the passage of the motion, or allow pro-Israel lobby groups to attack its legal validity.

Drafting motions is best done in consultation with legal experts that know relevant domestic legislation (including procurement laws and regulations governing the powers of local authorities, among others) as well as international law and resolutions concerning Israel and the Palestinian people.

If you are thinking of including a procurement policy that excludes businesses that violate IHL and/or human rights, make sure an expert on public law in your country has reviewed the text prior to its presentation.

Note that not everyone is aware of the current situation of the Palestinian people; make sure to provide enough supportive documentation for every statement or assertion you are making and that your calls are based on international law. The [ICJ Advisory Opinion](#) about Israel's Wall, [UNSCR 2334](#), [UNGAR 194](#), and the [European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City](#), are only a few examples of authoritative sources you can use.

3. Finding supporters within local government institutions and negotiating with other parties

Once you have helped your closest allies in building their capacities and drafted a motion, the next critical step is to get the support of the majority of the municipal decision making body. This will most likely rest on the shoulders of your political allies. If you foresee that the motion will not win enough support to be passed, it is advisable to delay presenting it for a vote, and to keep building capacities and awareness among the different political parties in order to get their support.

At this stage, you may have to change or adjust the language of the motion, including its decisions and calls. Remember: think big, start small. A less ambitious motion can be the first step of many more to come. An important operational principle of the BDS movement is gradualness.

4. The adoption of the motion

Finally, the day of the vote has come. Make sure all administrative procedures

are carefully followed: all your political work can be useless, if administrative regulations are not respected.

Have a press release and media spokespersons ready. Explain what the local council has decided, why it adopted the motion, why this is good for the community that the council represents and serves, and why this is not only good for Palestinians, as a response to their call for meaningful solidarity, but is also a contribution to a better and more just world. Encourage the council to publicize and give visibility to its decision.

5. Follow up

The passing of the motion is just the starting point of a new phase in which local BDS groups need to be active. Monitoring the implementation of the decisions adopted is central for the success of this campaign. For doing so, we need to mobilize public support for the local council, empower it, and work hand in hand with it.

In addition, councillors might face attacks such as public smearing. Support and guidance on how to react is important in order to avoid a withdrawal of the motion. Councils may also receive legal complaints. Working with them to mobilize a network of supporters and helping to develop solid legal arguments to counter the attack are also part of our role. All of this will be easier if the motion is based on solid legal advice and legal argumentation.

6. Some other ideas to consider

Local governmental institutions represent their constituency, including local civil society. It is therefore important that work on AFZ campaigns is not only conducted in and with the councils but also widely spread among the social and cultural spaces of our cities and towns. Building pressure from the grassroots, spreading the word and generating a network of AFZ cultural and social spaces will help you in creating an enabling environment for working with the local government institutions.

COMBATING RACISM AND REPRESSION: A MUNICIPAL APPROACH TO MILITARY EMBARGO CAMPAIGNS

Israel uses occupied Palestine as a laboratory for the development of its lethal arms and security industry. New Israeli weapons and repression strategies are “field-tested” on Palestinians and then exported as “tested in combat”. Israeli military and security companies promote and sell their services (tested on Palestinian civilian population) to a good number of local authorities across the world. Police training and cooperation, surveillance systems used in “Smart cities” and lethal crowd control methods are some of the services offered to local authorities by Israeli companies and authorities.

AFZ is about creating spaces free from oppression and discrimination in Palestine and elsewhere. Talk to your local government, organise municipal campaigns to ensure that your local security model is not done in cooperation with institutions complicit in the Israeli apartheid regime.



Tips and recommendations for developing a community approach for combating racism, repression and discrimination

Here are some pieces of advice for using AFZ as a tool for combating repression in your community:

- **Build alliances with anti-racist, antimilitarism or anti-repression movements in your city**
Israel exports repression worldwide. Weapons, crowd control methods and cyber espionage technologies are tested in Palestine and then sold to governments, mainly (but not only) in the global South, for repressing social movements, activists and human rights defenders. Let's unite our struggles against their repression!
- **Exert direct public pressure** on local government officials to end police cooperation or surveillance projects that whitewash Israel's war crimes.
- **Promote local legislation and administrative decisions** that your local government and public institutions will not host or participate in police trainings and international weapons expos which commonly include Israel, other repressive states and their arms producers.
- Ask your local government to **pass motions urging their national governments to impose a comprehensive military embargo on Israel**
- Check out **other inspirational campaigns** tackling police cooperation and military embargo from a municipal approach such as [Cities for Palestine](#) or [Deadly Exchange](#).

MODEL MOTIONS

Below you can find some model motions for social and cultural AFZ. Note that these are just models that can serve as an inspiration for you to develop your own motions.

Get in touch with us at info@bdsmovement.net if you need support for drafting your AFZ motions.

Declaration of social AFZ

We, *[name of the group/space/association/other]*, as *[social movement/association/social centre/other]* involved in the struggle for social justice, declare this space as an APARTHEID FREE ZONE (AFZ) and affirm our support for and commitment to the growing international movement for Palestinian rights and for justice, equality, and freedom for all.

We commit to respecting the principles of the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS), which, inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, urges nonviolent pressure on the Israeli state until it complies with international law by meeting the following three demands 1) End its 1967 occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantle the Wall; 2) Recognize the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and 3) Respect, protect and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.

We will not stay silent in the face of flagrant injustice. We refuse to be complicit in a culture of impunity, power abuse and human rights violations. Because we want to be the change that we want to see in the world, we want this space to be free from oppression, violence, racism and sex, gender, class, ethnic, religious or any other kind of discrimination. As an AFZ, we refuse to provide any kind of support to the Israeli apartheid regime or to engage in the normalization of relations with a regime of racism, oppression and dispossession.

We recognize that all our struggles for social, racial, gender, and economic justice and for self-determination are deeply interconnected and can only gain strength and power from mutual support and transnational solidarity.

Acknowledging *[name of the group/space/association/other]* as an AFZ allows us to take a step further in the fight for decolonisation in this world and to stand on the right side of history.

Declaration of cultural AFZ

We, *[name of the cultural association/music or film festival/theatre/other]*, as *[cultural association/music or film festival/theatre/other]* involved in promotion of culture as a tool for liberation, declare this space as an APARTHEID FREE ZONE (AFZ) and affirm our support for and commitment to the growing international movement for Palestinian rights and for justice, equality, and freedom for all.

We commit to respecting the principles of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), which, inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement, urges international cultural workers and cultural organizations, including unions and associations, to boycott and/or work towards the cancellation of events, activities, agreements, or projects involving Israel, its lobby groups or its complicit cultural institutions.

Israel uses culture to cover up its grave violations of international law. Israel's cultural institutions are part and parcel of the ideological and institutional scaffolding of Israel's regime of occupation, settler-colonialism and apartheid against the Palestinian people. These institutions are clearly implicated, through their silence or active participation, in supporting, justifying and whitewashing Israel's occupation and systematic denial of Palestinian rights. When international artists perform at Israeli cultural venues and institutions, they help to create the false impression that Israel is a "normal" country like any other.

We will not stay silent in the face of flagrant injustice. We refuse to be complicit in a culture of impunity, power abuse and human rights violations. Because we want to be the change that we want to see in the world, we want this cultural space to be free from oppression, violence, racism and sex, gender, class, ethnic, religious or any other kind of discrimination.

As a cultural AFZ:

- We refuse to participate in any kind of cultural event organised in apartheid Israel.
- We refuse to participate in any kind of cultural event organised with the support of complicit Israeli private or public institutions or Israeli lobby groups.
- We refuse to engage in the normalization of relations with a regime of oppression, dispossession and racism.
- We reject funding and any form of sponsorship from the Israeli government, complicit Israeli public institutions or Israeli lobby groups for the development of our cultural activities.

We recognize that all our struggles for social, racial, gender, and economic justice and for self-determination are deeply interconnected and can only gain strength and power from mutual support and transnational solidarity.

Acknowledging *[name of the group/space/association/other]* as an AFZ allows us to take a step further in the fight for decolonisation in this world and stand on the right side of history.

