

JVP Petition in opposition to HB 161 anti-BDS

PROTEST IN NORTH CAROLINA

We are North Carolinians of conscience who oppose House Bill 161, "Divestment From Companies That Boycott Israel," which was introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly this February.

This bill would prohibit companies from taking conscientious stands on how they conduct business by punishing those who take part in the international movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. The bill unconstitutionally limits the free speech of advocates for Palestinian human rights.

Legislators are introducing bills in at least 18 states limiting the right to protest, and this bill is part of a campaign to shield those in power from principled opposition. The bill calls this nonviolent movement "economic warfare" and is part of a broader pattern of criminalizing People of Color led justice movements.

We appreciate that some legislators are interested in challenging antisemitism; we believe these people would do well to challenge antisemitism in the context of racism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia, rather than attacking a movement in which many Jews participate.

We join together to condemn this repressive tactic of silencing free speech and prohibiting protest, and we call on our State Legislators to reject this bill.

ORGANIZATIONS

Jewish Voice for Peace -- Triangle NC

Youth Organizing Institute (Durham)

Quaker House of Fayetteville NC

Triangle Showing Up For Racial Justice

Just Peace for Israel/Palestine (Black Mountain)

Coalition for Peace with Justice (Chapel Hill)

Muslims for Social Justice (Raleigh)

Black Workers for Justice

North Carolina Public Workers Union - UE Local 150

MAPAC (Muslim American Public Affairs Council)

Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia (MERI)

Standing on the Side of Love Ministry at Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist

Triangle Unity May Day Coalition

AIME (Abrahamic Initiative on the Middle East)

Muslim Women of the Carolinas

Balance & Accuracy in Journalism

New South Progressives (Charlotte)

NC United for Refugees and Immigrants

North Carolina Council of Churches

The Justice Ministry Council of the Eno River Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship (Durham)