



divest initiative feedback

David Koffman

to:

jhorwood

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From: "David Koffman" <koffman@yorku.ca>

To: jhorwood@yorku.ca,

Dear Ms. Horwood,

I am writing to express my discomfort with the weapons divestiture campaign, specifically its basis in "Israel apartheid" rhetoric. Though the text of the motion focuses on weapons manufacturers in the narrow sense, its is clear that the subtext, context and "post-text" (i.e. how the decision will be understood by the broader world, outside the wording of the text itself) focus centrally on Israel. It is well known that Students Against Israeli Apartheid (an off-campus and extremely partisan political organization) drafted this motion, just as they drafted earlier incarnations of the motion that focused more specifically on Israel, as an action of the "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" movement. As you likely know, the Canadian government has frowned upon the BDS movement; it is morally inadequate and historically and intellectually spurious. I strongly believe that York University should distance itself from the BDS movement, in all of its guises.

best,

dk

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