



Lana Robinson
Clerk, Canadian Friends Service Committee
60 Lowther Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 1C7

July 10, 2015

Dear Ms. Robinson,

Thank you for writing to me about the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. I apologize for the delay in responding.

While I personally do not agree with the strategy of the BDS movement, I am appalled by the government's assessment of the BDS movement as "the new face of anti-Semitism." It is important to make the distinction between being anti-Israel and anti-Semitic. If the Green Party formed government, we would respect the BDS movement's right to freedom of expression. We would chart a course committed to peace and non-violence. The two-state solution can only occur if we support the creation of the Palestinian state.

The Green Party of Canada believes that any effort aimed at only one side in this conflict will not end the violent responses that exacerbate human suffering. Canada's role in the Middle East should be to reduce tensions, find working solutions, and uphold international humanitarian law, not to take sides in this chronic conflict. We must work towards a mutually acceptable compromise that will achieve a lasting peace.

The Green Party supports a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict that addresses the security, economic, and religious concerns of both sides. Diplomatic efforts to build constructive relationships between the two communities are required. Continual dialogue will build community support for the negotiated peace agreement, and will ease implementation and ensure that it does not break down from pressures within the Israeli and Palestinian communities. Both Israel and Palestine have a right to statehood that must be respected.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.
Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.

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