



**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL  
STUDENT BODY  
SPRING TERM  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR**



**RESOLUTION NO.** R.-207-001

**AUTHORED BY:** Swap Agrawal

**A RESOLUTION TO:** CALL ON THE HARVARD MANAGEMENT COMPANY AND HARVARD COMMUNITY TO DIVEST FROM THE ONGOING ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE AND GENOCIDE OF PALESTINIANS.

**THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:**

WHEREAS Harvard Management Company's (HMC) endowment is [currently valued at over \\$50 billion](#)—one of the largest of any academic institution in the country and larger than the GDP of more than 120 nations across the globe;

WHEREAS the Harvard Management Company [stresses](#) its “responsible” investment approach, “integrating environmental, social, and governance factors in the investment process;”

WHEREAS in 1986, following a years-long community campaign, the University conducted an inquiry into its investments in apartheid South Africa, [subsequently carrying out a “selective divestment”](#) from companies selling products to the South African military or failing to disclose information about their activities;

WHEREAS in 1990, [Harvard divested from tobacco stocks](#), citing the University's “desire not to be associated as a shareholder with companies engaged in significant sales of products that create a substantial and unjustified risk of harm to human health;”

WHEREAS in 2014, Harvard became [the first U.S. endowment fund to sign](#) the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment;

WHEREAS in 2019, the HMC's Committee on Shareholder Responsibility released an [Anti-Genocide Policy](#) calling for transparency regarding "investments or business activities in countries with regimes tied to genocide or crimes against humanity" and consideration of proposals "for avoiding business relations with governments that are implicated in genocide or crimes against humanity or with companies whose business activities materially support such regimes;"

WHEREAS in 2021, [Harvard announced its intent to divest from fossil fuels](#), stating that it would allow its current investments to "expire" and "does not intend" to make future investments in the industry due to the "need to decarbonize the economy and [Harvard's] responsibility as fiduciaries to make long-term investment decisions that support [Harvard's] research and teaching mission;"

WHEREAS in 2020, an [analysis by the The Crimson](#) found Harvard had invested nearly \$200 million in companies tied to the Israeli military and illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine, [as determined by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#);

WHEREAS since 1948, Palestinians have faced [dispossession](#) and [ethnic cleansing](#), most recently exhibited through Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza which has killed more than 30,000 Palestinians, a death toll that largely undercounts Palestinians killed by the [lack of adequate medical treatment, disease, and near-famine like conditions](#) brought on by Israel's bombardment;

WHEREAS as of January 2024, Israel has [completely or partially destroyed every university](#) in Gaza, [killing](#) 4,327 University students, 231 teachers, and 94 University professors;

WHEREAS on January 26, 2024, the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ) found it plausible that [Israel's actions in Gaza amount to genocide](#) and has issued provisional measures instructing Israel to prevent and punish those involved with inciting genocide against Palestinians in Gaza;

WHEREAS since the ICJ mandate to cease genocidal acts, Israel has continued to [maim, kill,](#) and [starve](#) Palestinians, escalating its genocidal campaign;

WHEREAS student governments at universities across the country, including [Brown University](#), [Columbia University](#), [Northwestern University](#), [Pomona College](#), [Stanford University](#), the [University of California, Berkeley](#), the [University of California, Davis](#), the [University of California, Los Angeles](#), the [University of Michigan](#), and the [University of Virginia](#), have passed resolutions calling for divestment from institutions aiding the ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine and the genocide of Palestinians;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Harvard Law School Student Government formally calls upon HMC to divest completely from weapons manufacturers, firms, academic programs, corporations, and all other institutions that aid the ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine and the genocide of Palestinians, including withdrawing investments in securities, endowments, mutual funds, and other monetary instruments that provide material assistance to the commission or maintenance of flagrant violations of international law and human rights against Palestinians; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Harvard Law School Government calls upon all institutions and organizations within the Harvard community to divest from institutions, weapons manufacturers, firms, academic programs, corporations, and all other institutions that aid the ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine and the genocide of Palestinians.

**PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: March 29, 2024**

**VOTE TOTALS:**

  12   YES

  4   NO

  3   ABSTAIN