



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P.
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

Press Release

Date: 10 April 2025

From: Migrant88

Subject:

White Paper Ref-073: Bangladesh's Role, Approach, and Importance in Palestinian Freedom through Non-Violent Means

Dear Members of Civil Society and Esteemed Media Professionals,

Migrant88 is pleased to announce the release of its latest white paper titled "**Bangladesh's Role, Approach, and Importance in Palestinian Freedom through Non-Violent Means.**" This timely and necessary publication presents an in-depth examination of Bangladesh's long-standing political, cultural, and moral alignment with the Palestinian cause. It outlines strategic, non-violent avenues—such as the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement—that can transform symbolic solidarity into long-term, actionable support.

As the world watches the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Palestine, the need for organized, ethical, and sustained resistance has never been greater. Bangladesh, founded on principles of justice, anti-colonialism, and solidarity with oppressed peoples, has long stood with the Palestinian struggle. However, expressions of empathy must now evolve into institutional, economic, and policy-driven initiatives that align with both our national conscience and our growing global influence.

This white paper outlines how Bangladesh can effectively use its rising consumer power, diplomatic channels, and civil society engagement to support the Palestinian cause. The report offers recommendations on government policies, academic involvement, public awareness, and trade ethics. It also stresses the need to distinguish anti-Zionism from antisemitism—promoting a rights-based, inclusive approach rooted in international law.

We believe this white paper arrives at a crucial juncture. As global institutions and civil society actors begin to reevaluate their roles in systems of oppression, Bangladesh has the chance to emerge as a leader in ethical foreign policy and grassroots mobilization. The document calls on Bangladeshi institutions—both public and private—to adopt ethical investment policies, promote local alternatives to boycott-targeted brands, and strengthen academic and cultural cooperation rooted in justice and solidarity.

We invite members of the media, academic institutions, civil society groups, and human rights advocates to engage with the findings and recommendations in this publication. Your voice and leadership are vital in building a peaceful, informed, and coordinated national response. For further information, clarification, or to arrange an interview with a member of our research or editorial team, please contact our secretariat team:

✉ **Email:** zuhair@migrant88.com, secretariat@migrant88.com

Thank you for your continued commitment to truth, justice, and responsible reporting.

In solidarity,
Migrant88



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

White Paper Ref-073: Bangladesh's Role, Approach, and Importance in Palestinian Freedom through Non-Violent Means

MIGRANT88

Bangladesh is emerging as one of the most concentrated and dynamic consumer markets in South Asia, marked by rapid urbanization, a growing middle class, and increasing disposable income. As of 2023, the country boasts over 170 million people, with a youthful population and a consumer class expected to reach 85 million by 2025 (Boston Consulting Group, 2021). This demographic shift has created fertile ground for global consumer brands seeking expansion beyond saturated Western markets.

Multinational corporations have taken keen interest in Bangladesh's growing brand appetite. Companies like Unilever, Nestlé, and Samsung have seen significant growth in market share, driven by rising aspirations among Bangladeshi consumers for quality, innovation, and status-symbol products (Euromonitor International, 2022). However, understanding local sentiment is crucial for brand sustainability.

Bangladesh holds a unique emotional and political identity shaped by its Islamic heritage and a longstanding solidarity with the Palestinian cause. This support is deeply ingrained in public consciousness and regularly expressed in civil society, media discourse, and government positions. The country has historically maintained strong diplomatic backing for Palestinian rights and consistently criticizes actions perceived as unjust or Islamophobic by global powers (Al Jazeera, 2021).

For global brands, this presents both an opportunity and a risk. While Bangladesh offers a rapidly growing consumer base, companies seen as complicit in controversial geopolitical stances—such as support for Israel during military conflicts have faced consumer boycotts and reputational damage in the region (Reuters, 2023). This means global consumer brands must be not only commercially agile but also culturally and politically attuned.

In navigating the Bangladeshi market, sensitivity to local religious values, geopolitical sentiments, and historical alliances especially concerning Palestine is increasingly becoming a prerequisite for long-term brand success.



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

Understanding the Distinction Between Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism: A Vital Perspective for Bangladesh

In light of growing global tensions surrounding the Palestinian issue, it is critically important for countries like Bangladesh, with a deep-rooted solidarity toward Palestine, to clearly distinguish between anti-Zionism and antisemitism. While both terms are often conflated in global discourse, especially in the West, the distinction is crucial—not only for diplomatic clarity but also for maintaining a principled, ethical stance that reflects Islamic values of justice and brotherhood.

Anti-Zionism is a political stance that opposes the ideology of Zionism—the belief that Jews have the right to establish a state in historic Palestine—often critiquing the Israeli state's policies of occupation, apartheid, and violence toward Palestinians. Many anti-Zionists include Jews, Christians, and Muslims who believe that Israel's actions violate international law and basic human rights. Groups like Jewish Voice for Peace and Neturei Karta, both Jewish organizations, have publicly opposed Zionist policies, highlighting that criticism of Israel is not inherently antisemitic (Jewish Voice for Peace, 2022).

In contrast, antisemitism refers to hatred or discrimination against Jewish people solely because of their religious or ethnic identity. This form of hatred has led to centuries of oppression, including the Holocaust. Islamic teachings strictly prohibit such prejudice, and the Qur'an emphasizes respect and dialogue with the "People of the Book" (Qur'an 29:46). Historically, Jewish communities found refuge in Muslim lands during times of persecution in Europe—such as under the Ottoman Empire and in Al-Andalus (Muslim Spain)—demonstrating a legacy of coexistence and protection.

For Bangladesh—a Muslim-majority country with a population deeply invested in the Palestinian cause—it is vital to embrace this distinction. While it stands strongly against the atrocities committed by the Israeli state, Bangladesh must simultaneously promote understanding that Jewish people globally are not responsible for the actions of a state or political ideology. Misidentifying Jews as enemies of Islam or as perpetrators of injustice only undermines the legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle and opens the door for Islamophobia by validating accusations of religious extremism.

Moreover, many Jews themselves are victims of Zionist oppression—in Israel and abroad. In the Middle East, some Arab Jews (Mizrahi Jews) have faced cultural erasure under Zionist assimilation policies (Shohat, 1999). In the West, Jews who critique Zionism are often marginalized by their own communities, while also being attacked by right-wing nationalists. It is essential to recognize that Muslims and Jews share common experiences of



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

discrimination, surveillance, and marginalization, especially in Western countries (Siddiqui, 2023).

Just as ISIS has hijacked the image of Islam through a violent, politicized agenda that the vast majority of Muslims reject (Sandberg & Colvin, 2020), Zionism—particularly in its settler-colonial and ethno-nationalist form—has increasingly conflated Jewish identity with a political project of domination and displacement. This conflation has harmed not only Palestinians—Muslims, Christians, and Jews—but also Jewish communities worldwide who do not identify with Zionist ideology.

Historically, Palestinian Jews lived alongside Muslims and Christians in relative harmony before the influx of European Zionist settlers in the early 20th century. The arrival of political Zionism disrupted this coexistence by imposing a racialized and exclusivist identity that aimed to replace the diverse and indigenous fabric of the land with a singular, nationalist vision (Pappé, 2020). As a result, the first victims of Zionism were often Palestinian Jews themselves—displaced, delegitimized, or absorbed into a militarized settler identity. Today, the broader Jewish identity is at risk of being reduced to a Zionist narrative, silencing dissenting Jewish voices and fuelling antisemitism by equating Judaism with the actions of the Israeli state (Butler, 2019).

By drawing a clear line between anti-Zionism (a political critique) and antisemitism (a form of racism), Bangladesh can take a mature, globally respected position—defending Palestinian rights while standing in solidarity with Jews who oppose injustice. This will strengthen interfaith alliances, enhance its moral credibility, and set a model for Islamic countries navigating complex geopolitical narratives.

Failure of Bangladesh’s Foreign Policy and the OIC in Addressing the Palestinian Issue

Despite Bangladesh’s longstanding and vocal support for the Palestinian cause, its foreign policy has failed to translate moral solidarity into meaningful diplomatic action. Since its independence, Bangladesh has consistently upheld Palestine’s right to statehood, refusing to recognize Israel and aligning itself with the broader Muslim world. However, beyond symbolic gestures, there has been little substantive contribution to the Palestinian struggle in terms of international advocacy, mediation, or aid (Kabir, 2020).

One of the key limitations lies in Bangladesh’s dependency on larger geopolitical players, including Gulf nations and Western donors, which often constrains its diplomatic manoeuvrability. Although public sentiment in Bangladesh remains overwhelmingly pro-



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

Palestinian, successive governments have prioritized economic diplomacy over sustained advocacy for Palestine at international forums. Statements of condemnation lack follow-through in terms of UN resolutions, trade policy, or humanitarian assistance.

Meanwhile, the OIC, established in 1969 to protect Muslim interests—including Palestine—has repeatedly failed to deliver concrete outcomes. Divisions within the OIC, differing national interests, and the growing normalization of ties with Israel by key member states (such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia) have rendered the body largely ineffective. As noted by Sayigh (2021), the OIC has become “more symbolic than strategic,” offering declarations rather than decisive action.

In recent crises—such as the Israeli bombardments of Gaza in 2021 and 2023—OIC meetings produced strong rhetoric but little coordinated response, and Bangladesh largely echoed these sentiments without initiating any independent diplomatic efforts (Daily Star, 2023).

Ultimately, the disconnect between public opinion, national policy, and collective Islamic diplomacy reflects a broader failure of both Bangladesh and the OIC to meaningfully support the Palestinian cause beyond symbolic solidarity.

Risks of Speaking Against Zionism and Global Support for the Zionist Agenda

Speaking against Zionism, the political ideology that supports the establishment and maintenance of a Jewish state in historic Palestine, can carry significant individual and national risks, particularly in countries with strong diplomatic and economic ties to Israel. Individuals, especially activists, academics, and journalists, have faced censorship, job loss, online harassment, and accusations of antisemitism when criticizing Israeli policies or Zionism (Weiss, 2023; Maira, 2018). In some Western countries, anti-Zionism is increasingly conflated with antisemitism, despite being distinct political positions (Butler, 2019).

In the United States, anti-BDS laws passed in over 35 states restrict public employees and institutions from boycotting Israel, thereby punishing constitutionally protected political expression (ACLU, 2022). Similarly, Germany and France have criminalized or limited BDS advocacy, citing concerns over antisemitism, even though many activists and Jewish groups argue this undermines legitimate criticism of Israeli policies (Shamas, 2021).

On the national level, countries that challenge Zionist narratives or support Palestinian liberation—such as South Africa, Malaysia and Venezuela—have faced diplomatic backlash, economic sanctions, or reputational smears. The Global South’s criticism of Zionism is often



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

portrayed in Western media as extremism or intolerance, diminishing these nations' geopolitical credibility (Pappé, 2020).

Countries like the U.S., U.K., and Germany provide billions in military aid and diplomatic protection to Israel, often vetoing UN resolutions condemning human rights violations (Al Jazeera, 2023). This support, grounded in both geopolitical strategy and historical guilt over antisemitism, enables Israel's continued impunity and suppresses dissenting voices globally.

In recent months, U.S. authorities have escalated crackdowns on pro-Palestinian activism, arresting several international students and residents linked to campus protests. Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University graduate and U.S. permanent resident, was detained by ICE and faces deportation. Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Turkish student at Tufts University, had her visa revoked and was arrested over protest involvement. Yunseo Chung, a South Korean student, was detained at a sit-in. Ranjani Srinivasan fled to Canada after her visa was cancelled. Badar Khan Suri, an Indian scholar, was arrested outside his home. Civil liberties groups warn these actions threaten free speech and due process. As of now, numerous human rights activists, journalists, academics, and pro-Palestinian supporters are facing deportation, job loss, travel restrictions, and legal harassment globally due to their advocacy. These repressive actions reflect a growing trend where criticism of Zionism or Israeli state policy is increasingly conflated with antisemitism, leading to the silencing of legitimate political expression (Butler, 2019; Weiss, 2023).

For young Bangladeshis aiming to engage on global platforms—whether in academia, diplomacy, or international advocacy—participation in overt anti-Zionist activism can carry significant personal and professional consequences. As Zionist lobbying networks and allied state actors wield considerable influence across international institutions and governments, individuals who publicly support Palestinian rights risk being flagged, shrivelled, or excluded from key opportunities (Maira, 2018).

This global repression of Palestine solidarity has intensified in the wake of renewed Israeli military actions in Gaza. Governments and institutions—especially in the West—have enacted anti-BDS laws, banned protests, and curtailed freedom of speech, making it increasingly dangerous for dissenting voices to be heard (ACLU, 2022). Such dynamics are particularly precarious for individuals from the Global South, including Bangladesh, who may already face visa scrutiny and limited mobility due to geopolitical and racial profiling.

In this context, while solidarity with Palestine remains a moral imperative, it is also vital for activists and professionals to understand the risks and geopolitical terrain involved.



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

Navigating this landscape with strategic awareness and collective support is essential to protect voices from Bangladesh and elsewhere who stand for justice.

Hijacking Anti-Zionism: Risks of Extremism and Greenwashing in Bangladesh

While anti-Zionism is rooted in political opposition to Israel's settler-colonial policies and support for Palestinian liberation, it can be co-opted by extremist groups in Bangladesh to serve ulterior agendas. These groups may adopt anti-Zionist rhetoric not out of genuine solidarity, but to fuel religious fundamentalism, distract from domestic issues, or build legitimacy among conservative populations. By conflating anti-Zionism with antisemitism, extremists risk undermining the broader global human rights narrative and provide a pretext for repression by state or international actors (Siddiqui, 2023).

In Bangladesh, some groups with histories of intolerance or violent activism have attempted to align themselves with pro-Palestinian causes to boost grassroots credibility. This co-optation can distort the narrative, alienate progressive movements, and provide ammunition to critics who associate anti-Zionist activism with extremism (Kabir, 2020).

Simultaneously, corporations and political actors in Bangladesh may use symbolic support for Palestine as a form of greenwashing or virtue signalling, masking unethical practices or failures in governance under the guise of moral posturing. This allows institutions to avoid addressing local injustices—such as labour exploitation or suppression of dissent—while appealing to public sentiment through performative solidarity (Hassan & Rahman, 2022).

True solidarity with Palestine must be anchored in consistent ethical values, including support for human rights, pluralism, and anti-colonialism at home and abroad. Co-opting the cause for extremist or reputational gain not only weakens the legitimacy of the movement but also distracts from the actual suffering of Palestinians and their demands for justice.



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

Misconception of the BDS Movement:

One of the most common misconceptions surrounding boycotts—particularly those tied to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement—is the belief that such actions inevitably harm the local economy, result in job losses, or destabilize trade. Critics often argue that boycotting multinational corporations or divesting from specific industries could deter foreign investment or strain diplomatic ties. However, these concerns are frequently overstated and lack substantive evidence, especially when the boycotts are strategic, targeted, and grounded in ethical considerations.

In reality, boycotts rarely lead to long-term economic harm when they are consumer-driven and issue-specific. For instance, campaigns urging divestment from companies complicit in human rights violations typically affect only a small fraction of trade portfolios and are intended to pressure those companies to reform, not to dismantle entire sectors (BDS Movement, 2024). Moreover, studies of the anti-apartheid boycotts in South Africa show that while targeted sanctions may have disrupted some economic activities, they played a crucial role in pushing for systemic change without causing widespread unemployment or economic collapse (Carmody, 2002). In the context of BDS, divestment and boycotts are aimed at companies directly involved in Israel’s occupation or apartheid system—not against Jews, Israelis, or trade with ethical businesses.

Another misconception is that local workers, particularly in developing countries, will suffer if global brands are boycotted. However, many of these brands outsource manufacturing to local firms under exploitative terms, often offering low wages and limited job security. Replacing unethical partnerships with companies that uphold human rights can stimulate more sustainable economic development in the long term (Hassan & Rahman, 2022). Furthermore, consumer activism can empower local industries and brands by encouraging ethical consumption and greater self-reliance.

In short, while concerns about economic impact deserve attention, they must be weighed against the moral urgency of addressing injustice. Boycotts, when implemented thoughtfully, do not threaten national economies; rather, they offer tools for civic empowerment and global accountability.

Understanding the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement: Strategy, Implementation, and Scope within the Framework of Bangladesh

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, initiated in 2005 by a coalition of Palestinian civil society organizations, represents a global, non-violent strategy to hold Israel



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

accountable under international law. Its core objectives are to end the occupation of Arab lands, ensure equal rights for Palestinian citizens of Israel, and advocate for the right of return for Palestinian refugees. From a Bangladeshi perspective—rooted in its own anti-colonial history and solidarity with oppressed peoples—the BDS movement offers a morally consistent and strategic framework to support Palestinian liberation without resorting to violence.

Globally, BDS has made significant impacts across economic, cultural, and political spheres. Corporations such as Veolia and Orange have withdrawn from Israeli settlement-linked projects after sustained advocacy, demonstrating the effectiveness of economic pressure (BDS Movement, 2024). In the academic and cultural sectors, numerous artists and scholars have declined engagements with Israeli institutions, reinforcing Israel's international isolation and highlighting its human rights record. Politically, BDS has re-centered the Palestinian issue in global discourse, encouraging institutions and policymakers to reassess their complicity in human rights abuses.

For Bangladesh—projected to become the world's ninth-largest consumer market by 2030 (The Daily Star, 2022)—its economic influence and trade relationships hold growing global significance. Aligning consumer behaviour and foreign policy with BDS principles allows Bangladesh to leverage its market power in the pursuit of justice. Deeply held Islamic values and widespread public support for Palestine further strengthen the potential for effective grassroots mobilization. Bangladesh's longstanding commitment to justice and international solidarity positions it as a key voice among Global South nations advocating for human rights and international law.

To engage effectively, Bangladesh must adopt a multi-pronged strategy. At the state level, the government can implement policies to restrict trade with companies complicit in Israeli apartheid, occupation, or settlement expansion. Civil society, media, and educational institutions can lead public awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the ethical implications of their purchases. Simultaneously, Bangladesh's academic and cultural sectors should refuse collaborations with Israeli institutions that uphold or benefit from systems of oppression.

Unlike spontaneous protests or reactive outbursts, the BDS movement is a long-term strategic campaign that builds sustained global pressure on Israel. It mobilizes civil society, drives institutional accountability, and generates long-lasting shifts in public perception. Given the cyclical nature of the Palestinian issue, Bangladesh must move beyond symbolic responses and adopt structured, long-term planning. A policy-driven, legally informed commitment to BDS will ensure consistent and principled support for Palestine, strengthening Bangladesh's standing as a moral actor on the international stage.



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

Furthermore, the BDS movement is grounded in international legal legitimacy. A 2024 legal opinion by Al-Haq and SOMO asserts that businesses and individuals who aid a state engaged in apartheid or genocide could face international legal consequences (Al-Haq & SOMO, 2024). This is further supported by the International Court of Justice’s advisory opinion that declared Israel’s occupation and apartheid illegal, and the International Criminal Court’s issuance of arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials (ICJ, 2024; ICC, 2024). Supporting BDS, therefore, is not only a moral imperative for Bangladesh but a legally sound position aligned with global norms.

The BDS movement emphasizes focused, strategic boycotts—modelled after the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. These campaigns prioritize companies with proven links to Israeli abuses, broad public visibility, and achievable goals. This approach has already resulted in successful withdrawals by brands like G4S, Puma, Pillsbury, and McDonald’s from operations associated with Israeli apartheid (BDS Movement, 2024). Bangladeshi students, trade unions, religious groups, and civil society organizations can meaningfully contribute by organizing peaceful boycotts, engaging in shareholder advocacy, and raising public awareness.



Fig: Strategy from BDS campaign, find more details in <https://www.bdsmovement.net>

Moreover, the BDS National Committee (BNC) calls for a comprehensive boycott of Israeli companies unless they explicitly reject apartheid and recognize Palestinian rights, including the right of return (BNC, 2024). Since no Israeli company currently meets these conditions,



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

the movement focuses on sectors such as military-tech, finance, agriculture, and water infrastructure. Bangladesh, with its expanding manufacturing and tech industries, must ensure its supply chains are free from complicity in occupation. State-owned enterprises and institutional investors should be encouraged to divest from funds connected to these sectors—mirroring actions taken by universities and pension funds in Europe and North America (AFSC, 2024; UNHRC, 2024).

As Israel's economy faces growing instability—marked by capital flight, reduced foreign investment, and reputational damage—BDS activists have framed this trend as pushing Israel toward becoming a "#ShutDownNation" (BDS Movement, 2024). For Bangladesh, this is an opportune moment to align its policies with global justice movements. Through ethical trade practices, informed consumer behaviours, legal accountability, and international advocacy, Bangladesh can emerge as a significant force in the global struggle for justice, freedom, and equality for the Palestinian people.



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
 LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
 NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR
 W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
 E: secretariat@migrant88.com

Bangladesh Boycott Strategies: A Framework for Non-Violent Economic Resistance:

To align with the principles of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, Bangladesh can adopt the following peaceful and strategic boycott mechanisms to hold complicit corporations accountable while empowering ethical alternatives:

Category	Strategy	Definition / Description	Examples / Notes
Contractual & Institutional	Non-Renewal of Contracts	Government and institutions avoid renewing contracts with companies complicit in Israeli occupation or apartheid.	Ending contracts with unethical service providers in utilities or infrastructure.
	Ethical Privatization	Shift public services to ethical private operators with oversight on human rights compliance.	Replacing foreign contractors with vetted ethical local firms.
	Operational Swaps	Replace unethical operators with alternative organizations that meet ethical standards.	Switching from foreign logistics firms to ethical regional partners.
Consumer-Based Substitution	Buying Alternative Brands	Encourage consumers to replace boycott-targeted brands with ethical or local alternatives.	Choosing local drinks over Coca-Cola, or local dairy over Nestlé.
	Promoting Ethical Consumption	Awareness campaigns on the origins of products and ethical consumer choices.	Social media campaigns, university awareness drives.
Policy & Trade Tools	Tariff Adjustments	Apply higher tariffs or trade restrictions on goods from boycott-listed companies or countries.	Introducing import duties on goods tied to Israeli settlements.
	Alternative Trade Partnerships	Diversify import sources to ethical trade partners that uphold human rights standards.	Sourcing electronics or food from ethical producers in the Global South.

By combining state-level policy tools with grassroots consumer action, Bangladesh can implement a robust boycott strategy that is peaceful, strategic, and aligned with international law. This multi-layered approach not only strengthens the BDS movement but also promotes ethical trade and self-reliance in the Bangladeshi market.



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)

LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,

NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

E: secretariat@migrant88.com

The table lists brands operating in Bangladesh directly, through affiliates, or within the supply chain using public data and the BDS website. For details on each brand's support for Israel and its policies, visit (<https://www.bdsmovement.net>). The decision to boycott is a personal choice and an exercise of freedom of speech, which should be respected in Bangladesh and elsewhere for ones who is willing or not willing to participate.

Brand/Company	Type	How to Boycott	By Whom	When	Alternative Brands	Bangladesh Boycott Strategies
Chevron (Caltex, Texaco)	Consumer Boycott	Avoid fuel stations and products under these brands	BDS Movement	Ongoing (since 2024 escalation)	Local fuel stations, EVs, biofuel providers	Contractual & Institutional
Intel	Consumer Boycott	Avoid purchasing Intel-based devices or products	BDS Movement	Ongoing	AMD-based devices, ARM processors	Consumer-Based Substitution
Dell Technologies	Consumer Boycott	Avoid Dell products and services	BDS Movement	Ongoing	Lenovo, Asus, local PC brands	Consumer-Based Substitution
Siemens	Consumer Boycott	Avoid Siemens-branded appliances and tech	BDS Movement	Ongoing	Networking technology	Consumer-Based Substitution, Policy & Trade Tools
Hewlett Packard (HP)	Consumer Boycott	Avoid all HP products including laptops, printers	BDS Movement	Ongoing	Canon, Brother, or locally assembled devices	Consumer-Based Substitution
Carrefour	Consumer Boycott	Avoid shopping at Carrefour stores	BDS Movement	Ongoing	Local grocery chains or cooperatives	Policy & Trade Tools
Disney+	Consumer Boycott	Cancel or do not subscribe to Disney+	BDS Movement	Ongoing	Other streaming platforms (e.g., Netflix, local apps)	Policy & Trade Tools
Coca Cola	Grassroots Boycott	Avoid Coca Cola and its sub-brands	Grassroots Campaigns	Since Oct 2023	Pepsi alternatives or local cola brands	Consumer-Based Substitution



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)

LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,

NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P. KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

E: secretariat@migrant88.com

Burger King	Grassroots Boycott	Avoid Burger King outlets	Grassroots Campaigns	Since Oct 2023	Home-grown burger joints	Consumer-Based Substitution
Papa John's	Grassroots Boycott	Avoid Papa John's pizza	Grassroots Campaigns	Since Oct 2023	Local pizzerias	Consumer-Based Substitution
Pizza Hut	Grassroots Boycott	Avoid Pizza Hut restaurants	Grassroots Campaigns	Since Oct 2023	Local pizza chains or homemade options	Consumer-Based Substitution
Microsoft	Grassroots Boycott	Avoid and lobby against Azure cloud and AI services	Grassroots Campaigns	Since Oct 2023	Open-source platforms like Ubuntu, Lynix, Libre office	Consumer-Based Substitution
Google	Pressure Campaign	Use alternatives, lobby against Project Nimbus	BDS Movement	Since 2021, intensified in 2024	DuckDuckGo, Ecosia, or independent tech solutions	Consumer-Based Substitution
Amazon	Pressure Campaign	Use alternatives, avoid Ring, lobby and protest	BDS Movement	Since 2021, intensified in 2024	Shop directly from local retailers	Policy & Trade Tools
Booking.com	Pressure Campaign	Avoid bookings via the platform	BDS Movement	Ongoing	Use local travel agencies or platforms	Consumer-Based Substitution
Airbnb	Pressure Campaign	Avoid Airbnb listings	BDS Movement	Ongoing	Use local accommodation or travel platforms	Consumer-Based Substitution
Reebok	Pressure Campaign	Avoid using reebok	BDS Movement	Ongoing	Use Hoka, Addidas, Puma etc	Consumer-Based Substitution
Teva Pharmaceuticals	Pressure Campaign	Opt for alternative generics	BDS Movement	Since Oct 2023	Generic drugs from local pharmaceutical companies	Policy & Trade Tools



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P.
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

Bangladesh Must Uphold Non-Violence: Protecting the Integrity of the BDS Movement Through Peaceful Resistance

Bangladesh's support for the Palestinian cause must remain grounded in resistance, aligning with the principles of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Engaging in physical retaliation, such as vandalism, arson, or property damage against companies perceived as complicit in Israeli apartheid, would not only contradict the ethical foundation of BDS but also undermine Bangladesh's moral and diplomatic credibility. Acts of violence risk being labelled as extremism, allowing detractors to dismiss the legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle and frame it as irrational or unlawful (BDS Movement, 2024). Such actions could also lead to criminal charges under both domestic and international law, jeopardizing the safety and freedom of individuals involved and potentially inviting international scrutiny on Bangladesh's legal commitments.

The BDS movement is explicitly non-violent and has consistently called for peaceful methods such as economic pressure, cultural disengagement, and civil disobedience to challenge Israeli occupation (BDS Movement, 2024). Violence not only distracts from these objectives but also alienates global allies, including progressive Jewish and interfaith groups that support Palestinian rights. Bangladesh must therefore focus on strategic, legal, and peaceful means of protest to advance the cause while maintaining its reputation as a responsible actor on the global stage.

Participation in BDS Must Be Strategic for Bangladesh

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which calls for the withdrawal of support from institutions and corporations complicit in Israeli apartheid, presents a powerful tool for solidarity with the Palestinian people. However, for countries like Bangladesh, with a rapidly developing economy and a deeply integrated manufacturing sector, participation in BDS must be approached with caution, sensitivity, and strategic foresight. A reactive or emotional engagement in boycott campaigns can inadvertently harm local economies and communities. Therefore, a structured, informed, and strategic model is essential for making the BDS movement sustainable and impactful in the Bangladeshi context.

First and foremost, Bangladeshi citizens must be reminded that BDS is a *non-violent movement*, rooted in international law and guided by the principles of human rights. The goal is not to create economic chaos or encourage emotional reactions that lead to destruction of property or irrational consumer behaviours. For example, throwing away a product already purchased from a Zionist-affiliated company or buying such products just to destroy them is both wasteful and environmentally irresponsible. It neither benefits the Palestinian cause nor addresses the issue at the systemic level. Instead, the public should be encouraged to focus on finding and supporting alternatives to these brands.

Bangladesh, with its large garment manufacturing base, is a significant player in the global supply chain. Many international brands, some with affiliations to Israeli interests, manufacture their products in Bangladesh. A careless boycott targeting these brands without assessing their



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P.
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

relationship with the local workforce could result in unintended consequences such as job losses, factory shutdowns, and economic setbacks. These outcomes would disproportionately affect the most vulnerable segments of the population, particularly women and low-income workers who dominate the garment industry.

Hence, it is crucial to create a culture of *informed consumerism*. Rather than calling for a total and immediate boycott of all associated brands, a phased and educated approach must be adopted. Civil society, religious leaders, and youth activists can play a vital role in disseminating accurate information and promoting ethical alternatives. Campaigns should prioritize awareness, not aggression. Posters, seminars, and digital content can highlight which products to avoid and what local alternatives exist, without urging the destruction of goods or stores.

Equally important is *policy engagement*. Citizens should advocate for the Bangladeshi government to adopt ethical investment and procurement policies. Instead of attacking local vendors or workers connected to multinational corporations, pressure should be directed toward governmental action: urging trade policy reviews, investment screening based on human rights criteria, and public endorsement of BDS principles in international forums. Legislative engagement through letters, petitions, and lobbying can encourage the government to limit economic ties with companies clearly identified as complicit in Israeli apartheid.

Moreover, Bangladesh must prepare its economic infrastructure to handle the transition. Any reduction in business from international Zionist-affiliated companies could lead to a decline in export orders, potentially affecting employment. Therefore, a national strategy should be developed to diversify trade partners and support local entrepreneurs and industries that align with ethical trade values. Creating incentives for companies that manufacture and market locally-produced alternatives will not only support the BDS cause but also contribute to national economic resilience.

It is also vital to address the *psychological and cultural dimensions* of this movement. In Bangladesh, there is strong emotional support for the Palestinian cause, rooted in Islamic solidarity and historical alliances. However, emotion must be paired with strategy. People must understand that true resistance lies not in impulsive boycotts but in sustained, non-violent pressure that builds over time. Educational institutions, especially universities, can serve as hubs for this kind of critical engagement. Students and faculty can form BDS chapters that conduct research, propose policy, and host dialogues focused on justice and ethical global citizenship.

Furthermore, Bangladesh's participation in BDS should serve as a model of responsible activism for other developing nations. By refusing to engage in reactionary tactics and instead investing in long-term structural change, Bangladesh can show the world that solidarity does not have to come at the cost of economic stability. Instead, with planning and prudence, it can be a path toward national empowerment and moral leadership.

In conclusion, BDS participation in Bangladesh must be strategic, informed, and rooted in the principles of justice and non-violence. Rather than encouraging wasteful or destructive behaviours, efforts should focus on creating ethical alternatives, protecting local labour, and influencing



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P.
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

government policy. Only through a measured and thoughtful approach can Bangladesh truly support the Palestinian cause while safeguarding its own economic and social well-being. Solidarity must be smart, sustainable, and just.

Recommendations for Bangladesh's Participation in the Anti-Zionist Movement

Government-Level Actions:

- Reaffirm Non-Recognition of Israel: Maintain Bangladesh's principled stance of not recognizing Israel until Palestinian statehood is realized.
- Adopt Ethical Trade Policies: Prohibit imports from Israeli settlements and avoid trade with companies complicit in occupation and apartheid.
- Support UN Resolutions: Consistently vote for and co-sponsor UN resolutions condemning Israeli human rights violations.
- Propose OIC Reform: Advocate within the OIC for stronger, unified action—economic, legal, and diplomatic—against Israeli aggression.
- Launch a Palestine Solidarity Desk: Create an official task force to monitor and promote pro-Palestinian policies across ministries.
- The government should disclose all private and state-level relations with Israel, including any spyware (Pegasus) or intelligence sharing deals.

Civil Society & Public Engagement:

- Mobilize Institutions and Civil Society: Actively encourage participation in the BDS movement by engaging universities, trade unions, and civil society organizations through educational initiatives and peaceful advocacy.
- Conduct Independent Investigations: Media outlets and civil society actors should lead research initiatives to uncover corporate affiliations with the Zionist agenda. Public dissemination of findings will enable consumers to make ethically informed choices.
- Build International Partnerships: Establish local BDS chapters in collaboration with global civil society networks resisting Israeli apartheid. These alliances will enhance coordination and amplify Bangladesh's voice in international solidarity movements.
- Support Local Alternatives: Encourage the development and promotion of ethical, local brands as viable alternatives to boycott-targeted companies, creating self-reliant consumer ecosystems.
- Promote Public Awareness: Leverage mass media, mosques, schools, and cultural platforms to clarify the distinction between Zionism and Judaism, and to deepen understanding of the Palestinian struggle.
- Foster Interfaith Solidarity: Host dialogues with progressive Jewish and Christian groups that oppose Zionism and support justice in Palestine, building a broader coalition for human rights.
- Engage Startups and SMEs: Offer incentives for startups and small businesses to produce or promote alternatives to products associated with complicit multinational corporations, aligning entrepreneurship with ethical resistance.



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P.
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

- Develop BDS Bangladesh chapter: Collaborate on public events, academic forums, and creative campaigns to localize the movement and engage diverse segments of the population.
- Student Solidarity Missions: Initiate programs sending top Bangladeshi university students to the West Bank to witness conditions firsthand and return as informed advocates—mirroring Israel’s own outreach to Jewish youth for narrative-building.
- Expand Academic Engagement: Encourage university-led research not only on the political economy of Zionism but also on Palestinian history, culture, literature, and socio-economic resistance. These academic avenues can reinforce Bangladesh’s principled stance and enrich regional discourse on justice and decolonization.

Legal and Institutional Steps:

- Divest from Complicit Firms: Urge public and private institutions to withdraw investments from companies supporting Israeli apartheid
- Ban Zionist Lobbying Groups: Prevent the registration or operation of pro-Zionist organizations in Bangladesh.
- Amend Procurement Guidelines: Require government contractors to disclose ties to Israeli or settlement-linked companies.

Conclusion:

Bangladesh, with its deeply rooted solidarity for the Palestinian people and its strong Islamic identity, stands at a moral and political crossroads in the face of ongoing Israeli occupation and apartheid. As a nation forged through a struggle against oppression and injustice, the people of Bangladesh carry a legacy that aligns naturally with the global movement for Palestinian liberation. Participation in the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement is not merely a symbolic gesture—it is a meaningful act of global citizenship and moral consistency.

By refusing to consume products and services that directly or indirectly support Israel’s occupation, Bangladeshi consumers can exert economic and ethical pressure that echoes beyond borders. At a time when global brands are being challenged to align with human rights, Bangladesh’s collective consumer voice can contribute to shifting corporate behaviours, international accountability, and public awareness. Moreover, embracing an anti-Zionist position—understood not as opposition to Jewish identity but as a rejection of an exclusionary ethno-nationalist project—places Bangladesh in solidarity with many progressive Jewish, Muslim, and global human rights voices advocating for justice and equality.

In a globalized economy where every purchase is political, Bangladesh’s participation in boycotts is an extension of its longstanding commitment to justice, equity, and human dignity. It reinforces the nation’s role not only as a growing consumer powerhouse but also as a principled actor in global civil



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P.
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

society. Now more than ever, standing with Palestine is not just an act of empathy—it is a reaffirmation of Bangladesh’s identity, values, and place in the global movement for freedom and human rights.



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)
LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P.
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

References

- ACLU. (2022). *Anti-BDS laws: An unconstitutional attack on free speech*. American Civil Liberties Union.
- Al Jazeera. (2021). *Bangladesh reaffirms support for Palestine amid Israeli aggression*. <https://www.aljazeera.com>
- Al Jazeera. (2023). *UN Security Council: US vetoes resolution on Gaza ceasefire*. <https://www.aljazeera.com>
- Al-Haq, & SOMO. (2024). *Legal opinion on corporate complicity in genocide and apartheid*.
- BDS Movement. (2024). *Guide to BDS boycott & pressure corporate targeting*. Palestinian BDS National Committee.
- BDS Movement. (2024). *Guide to BDS boycott & pressure corporate targeting*. Palestinian BDS National Committee.
- BDS Movement. (n.d.). *Our impact*. <https://bdsmovement.net/our-impact>
- BDS Movement. (n.d.). *What is BDS?* <https://bdsmovement.net/what-bds>
- Boston Consulting Group. (2015). *Bangladesh: The surging consumer market nobody saw coming*. <https://www.bcg.com/publications/2015/bangladesh-the-surging-consumer-market-nobody-saw-coming>
- Boston Consulting Group. (2021). *The surging consumer market in Bangladesh*.
- Butler, J. (2019). *The backlash against anti-Zionism*. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com>
- Carmody, P. (2002). *Between globalisation and (post) apartheid: The political economy of restructuring in South Africa*. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 28(2), 255–275.
- Daily Star. (2022). *Bangladesh to be 9th largest consumer market by 2030*. <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-be-9th-largest-consumer-market-2030-3147411>
- Daily Star. (2023). *Dhaka condemns Israeli attacks, calls for ceasefire*.
- Daily Star. (2023). *Will boycotting Israeli products bring peace for Palestinians?* <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/geopolitical-insights/news/will-boycotting-israeli-products-bring-peace-palestinians-3474406>
- Euromonitor International. (2022). *Consumer lifestyles in Bangladesh*.
- Hassan, M., & Rahman, M. (2022). *Greenwashing and corporate virtue signaling in South Asia*. *South Asian Journal of Business and Management Cases*.
- Hassan, M., & Rahman, M. (2022). *Greenwashing and corporate virtue signaling in South Asia*. *South Asian Journal of Business and Management Cases*.
- ICC. (2024). *Arrest warrants: Situation in the State of Palestine*. International Criminal Court.
- ICJ. (2024). *Advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the Israeli occupation*. International Court of Justice.
- Jewish Voice for Peace. (2022). *Our mission*. <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org>
- Kabir, A. (2020). *Bangladesh's Middle East diplomacy*. *Journal of International Affairs*.
- Maira, S. (2018). *Boycott!: The academy and justice for Palestine*. University of California Press.
- Pappé, I. (2020). *Ten myths about Israel*. Verso Books.
- Reuters. (2023, September). *Coke, Pepsi boycott over Gaza lifts local sodas in Muslim countries*. <https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/coke-pepsi-boycott-over-gaza-lifts-muslim-countries-local-sodas-2024-09-04>
- Reuters. (2023). *Muslim-majority countries push back on global brands amid Gaza conflict*. <https://www.reuters.com>
- Sayigh, Y. (2021). *The strategic irrelevance of the OIC*. Carnegie Middle East Center.
- Shamas, K. (2021). *Europe's double standard on free speech and Palestine*. *Middle East Eye*.
- Shohat, E. (1999). *The invention of Mizrahim*. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 29(1), 5–20.
- Siddiqui, A. (2023). *Shared struggles: Jews and Muslims facing Western surveillance*. *Middle East Monitor*.



MIGRANT 88 RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY (KT0519337-W)

LEVEL 23-1, PREMIER SUITE, 1 MONT KIARA,
NO 1, JALAN KIARA MONT KIARA, 50480 KUALA LUMPUR W.P.
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
E: secretariat@migrant88.com

- Sveinung Sandberg, Sarah Colvin, 'ISIS is not Islam': Epistemic Injustice, Everyday Religion, and Young Muslims' Narrative Resistance, *The British Journal of Criminology*, Volume 60, Issue 6, November 2020, Pages 1585–1605, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/aaa035>
- *The Qur'an (29:46)*. "Do not argue with the People of the Book except in the best manner..."
- UNHRC. (2024). *Database of business enterprises involved in Israeli settlements*. United Nations Human Rights Council.
- Weiss, P. (2023). *Silencing Palestine advocacy in the West*. Mondoweiss. <https://mondoweiss.net>
- Wikipedia. (n.d.). *Bangladesh–Palestine relations*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladesh%E2%80%93Palestine_relations