

## **BDS and antisemitism: Examining the Ministry of Strategic Affairs Report**

**In the face of criticism which delegitimizes Israel's right to exist as the homeland of the Jewish people, the ministry's report is a starting point.**

By [Amos Yadlin, Michal Hatuel Radoshitzky](#) / October 11, 2019

In recent days, Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry published a report documenting some 100 examples in which activities of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign qualify as antisemitic, based on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, which has been adopted by 15 countries and by the European Parliament. Given the difficult task of operationalizing what antisemitism is, all cases documented in the report manifest at least one of the following characteristics: expressions of classic antisemitism; Holocaust inversion; and denial of the Jewish people's right to self-determination.

Three central claims emerge from the more than 90-page report.

- One: Delegitimization and demonization of the State of Israel by the BDS movement invariably results in the stigmatizing of Jews worldwide and in Israel.
- Two: Some members of the BDS leadership are antisemitic.
- Three: The argumentation patterns and methods of the BDS movement – which include the denial of the Jewish people's right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland and the singling out of Israel for boycott – are antisemitic

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