

Solidarity statement from Orgullo Crítico - The Critical Pride of Madrid

[#QueersForPalestine](#)
[Estado de Palestina](#)

From Madrid to Berlin – Queer BDS will fight. Queer BDS will win!

From the Critical Pride of Madrid we want to express our deepest solidarity with the queer BDS activists of Berlin who have been fighting hard not to be silenced and to put the Palestinian cause on the queer agenda in the Radical Queer March on the 27th of July 2019.

This in spite of resistance both from within the queer movement, from the organizers of the march, as well as from the surrounding society that tries to criminalize BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel). We have seen your impressive mobilization in this difficult context and want to congratulate you.

On the other hand, as left wing queer activists we are deeply shocked and concerned to see parts of the radical queer movement take a position against the Palestinian struggle, call the police on the Queers for Palestine block putting BIPOC's, migrants and refugees in possible danger, and even dare to call BDS antisemitic or racist, when it's exactly the opposite – antiracist, anticolonial and self-declared against anti-semitism along with islamophobia, including lots of jewish people participating in the BDS movement.

The accusation of antisemitism is totally absurd and belongs to right-wing rethorics.

To see it used by left wing queers is striking and hurtful. We call for these queers to get out of their German bubble and do some critical self-reflection. BDS is obviously a political movement against the oppressive and fascist politics of a state, not against individuals or religions.

The Critical Pride of Madrid mobilizes around 10.000 queer people for our yearly demonstration the 28th of June, the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, and we have been putting Palestine solidarity and the fight against Israeli pinkwashing, occupation and apartheid very high on the agenda for several years.

Because Palestine is a queer issue! Anticolonialism is a queer issue! Fighting fascist state politics is a queer issue! BDS means fighting a system of oppression that the Israeli state has maintained for more than 70 years, the worlds longest existing military occupation, expelling millions of Palestinian people from their lands, demolishing entire villages, killing thousands of Palestinians, building walls and check-points, installing a system of apartheid and daily discrimination, with the only objective to expand their colonial project. Inspired by the South African struggle against Apartheid, Palestinian civil society broadly as well as the Palestinian queer movement in particular have asked international society to follow BDS as the best strategy to support the fight for Palestinian liberation and to support Palestinian queers. It's self-centered western white-savior mentality to claim that you know better what queer Palestinians need. To say it short, there is nothing more queer than intersectional queer solidarity with the Palestinian struggle.

Pinkwashing is a clear strategy of the Israeli state, using LGTBQI+ rights to justify its racist politics and to remove focus from the illegal occupation of Palestine. As critical queers we must oppose this homonationalism and instrumentalization of our queerness.

Queer rights must never be used as state propaganda to oppress other marginalized groups. Queer liberation must always be intersectional, antiracist and anticolonialist. There is absolutely no pride in Israeli apartheid, and there is absolutely nothing radical, queer or antifascist in rejecting BDS and the political solidarity movement with the Palestinian people.

It's not enough just to say that Palestinians are welcome in queer spaces or demonstrations.

The radical queer movement needs to take an active political stand to support the Palestinian cause and to fight Israeli apartheid and occupation.

Let's unite for an intersectional queer struggle and queer-powered BDS, against pinkwashing, homonationalism, racism and colonialism, and for freedom and justice in Palestine. This is what radical queer politics is about.

Keep up the good work. From Madrid to Berlin – Queer BDS will fight. Queer BDS will win!

[#FreePalestine](#) [#pinkwashing](#) [#CSDBerlin2019](#) [#pride2019](#) [#YesYesBDS](#)[#queerpride](#) [#berlin](#) [#radicalqueermarch](#) [#BDS](#)

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