We are a group of more than 50 rabbis, cantors, and rabbinical students, and we speak on behalf of a large and growing movement of Jews that numbers in the hundreds of thousands that seeks an equitable and lasting peace for for Palestinians, for Israeli Jews and for all the peoples in the land. We do so from a place of love and in line with Jewish values.

As rabbis, we wholeheartedly endorse the Cambridge City Council's resolution in defense of human rights and against Hewlett Packard. The resolution calls on the city to stop purchasing and procuring products through rate contracts the state of MA holds with HP Inc and HPE, until the company ends its corporate complicity in the Israeli occupation of Palestine, U.S. deportations, and mass incarceration. This resolution is aligned with the Jewish principle of not seeking gain from theft. Socially responsible investment will bring us all towards a more just future.

We are proud to join the cross-section of immigrant rights, prison reform, and Palestinian justice leaders—both local and national—that also stand in support of this resolution. We believe it is our religious and moral duty to champion human rights and we respect Massachusetts Against Hewlett Packard's (MAHP) work on this courageous resolution that seeks to protect all communities from harm, from Cambridge to the US/Mexico border to Jerusalem.

This resolution recognizes the preciousness of human life and human rights, which we see reflected in the Jewish teaching that all people are created in the image of God, and that we are commanded to love our neighbor, and the stranger, as we love ourselves. We have seen with our own eyes the brutality of Israel's military occupation and the daily violations of Palestinians' most basic human rights. We believe in the inherent dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians, and therefore find hope in the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement for Palestinian rights.

While we support the Palestinian call for BDS, we want to underscore that this resolution is broader than the Palestinian struggle alone. This resolution represents our duty as taxpayers to move our money away from companies that perpetuate racist violence worldwide. We want to highlight that this beautiful resolution draws on Cambridge's rich history as a city that is ahead of its time in pushing its contractors to do business ethically.

Some will try to paint this issue as one of whether or not you support the Jewish community, and therefore Israeli policy, but this argument unfairly flattens Jewish identity and community. There are many different opinions about BDS among Jews. Some Jews support BDS, some are selective in their support for certain BDS campaigns, and some oppose BDS. This is a critical debate within the Jewish community, and a growing movement of US and international Jews see BDS as an important way to put non-violent economic pressure on the state of Israel. As Rabbis, we see the safety and freedom of the Jewish people as inseparable from that of Palestinians, immigrants, incarcerated people, and all who are impacted by HP's violence. There is absolutely nothing antisemitic about supporting this resolution.
The essence of the Jewish religious tradition is to act for justice and the Cambridge City Council would fulfill the best of our Jewish teachings in acting on its ethical and social obligations to do business in a way that makes this world more peaceful and just. Our prayer is that the movement won’t stop here, but that other city councils will join Cambridge in using their economic power to stand for all human rights.

Signed,
The Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council