

Please take the time to read these statements left by concerned students, staff, alumni, prospective students, parents, and community members. Over 100 people took the time to write a message to the LSE administration; it is LSE's duty to read their words.

“Divest”

“Free Palestine”

“I do not want my degree to be stained with the blood of innocents.”

“Respect your students voice who are the main reason the school operating”

“Let History look at us with respect rather than disdain.”

“You make me ashamed of this institution”

“There is still a chance for LSE to be on the right side of history. Refuse to keep funding genocide.”

“I support this petition.”

“Divest now! Please don't look away from this genocide against Palestinians”

“Now is the time to make LSE a world leader in the movement for human rights, peace, justice, and Palestinian liberation. Ensure that our institution is not complicit in the causes genocide. Divest now!”

“Shame on LSE!”

“See this as a chance to choose justice and human rights over complacency with suffering”.

“Divest pls”

“As an alumni of the 2021 class, and an active mentor for 1st year undergraduates, I've been deeply disappointed in the SMCs treatment of the student protesters. Having read the ‘assets in apartheid’ report in full, a growing number of the alumni community feel that LSE - as an academic institution - should not be financially complicit in the systemic injustices and apartheid taking place in Palestine. Having spoken with many protesters, the overarching sentiment is a deeply held love of humanity and the struggle of the Palestinian people. **I urge this committee to seriously consider the moral implications of this highly regarded institution being an active and willing financier to the world's first live-streamed genocide.”**

“It is a moral imperative that powerful institutions like LSE stop profiting off of businesses that contribute to large-scale violence and ecological destruction.”

“Please, balance the importance of your actions. **Give priority to humanity. Restore dignity.** LSE is an academic institution that should strive to make the world a better place, not make money from investments.”

“Please consider the ethical reasoning to divest over the political. We are all represented by LSE and should be proud to be part of this institution.”

“I agree that the LSE should carry out divestment.” “Support human rights”

“I sing as a concerned parent in relation with the investment that LSE has supporting armament to continue with the genocide”

“Do not become one of history’s villains, divest.”

“LSE prides itself on being a global community, educating future change makers and encouraging critical thinking. If LSE chooses not to divest, this is all exposed as a weak facade to soulless neoliberalism. It's time for LSE to actually enact the values it preaches.”

“My Jewish values compel me to stand against injustice, and I expect the same of my institutions.”

“DIVEST THE HELL OUT OF THIS”

“Divest now.”

“Your stance on divestment has been disgusting and has deterred hundreds of potential students. DIVEST NOW”

“-10000 aura for you LSE SMC”

“LSE Council must lead the way. **Plausible engagement in genocide, as found by the world’s most important international court, is not just any old wrong. It is an effort at deliberate extinction of a whole people.** The only precedents are from the colonial era. There are no current comparators of a US/EU supported state entity - one that proclaims it shares ‘western’ values of human rights, rule of law, democracy - plausibly engaging in genocidal activity. It is a unique world catastrophe. **Action here carries no precedent value. LSE must not hide.**”

“**The greatest LSE endowment is its reputation.** Students' fees, not capital income, are by far its largest source of revenue. Apart from the very clear moral case to vote for divestment, even on purely financial grounds, it's not obvious at all that divesting will bring costs rather than net benefits.”

“I will not be donating to LSE in the future if the school does not divest.”

“This is an opportunity to be on the right side of history.”

“Divest immediately!!!”

“Divest Now.”

“Ethical investments only. No complicity in apartheid/genocide from our academic institutions anymore.”

“I would like LSE to divest and for the University to end its Financial complicity in the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people”

“Divest, for an LSE that is about leadership not complicity.”

“**The biblical devastation that Israel has unleashed on Gaza is inhuman, unjustified,** and will only aggravate the terrorist threat to Israel itself. If we cannot stop it, then we should at least not abet it.”

“Please.”

“**I am ashamed to be part of a university that would rather drag its very own students to court than divesting from genocide.** When I got into LSE I couldn't imagine a greater achievement than graduating from such a prestigious university. **Today, I am only proud to be part of the LSE Liberated Zone, but no longer of the university itself.**”

“Listen to the demands of the students and end your complicity in the genocide of the Palestinian people! History will not remember the LSE kindly if it continues in its current direction.”

“LSE has a name as a reputable institution which seeks to shape students who contribute to society in positive ways, yet the actions it has taken against its students this year have indicated otherwise. **It brings me deep sadness to see the lack of care, not only for its own students, but also for humanity in general.** This genocide needs to end and **you have a choice as to whether or not you will continue funding it or stand with your students in saying no to violence and in showing your student body, and the world at large, that LSE does in fact value human life.** What side of history will you stand on and what legacy do you want LSE to have?”

“**Israel is bombing the village where my family exists. Please help. let them continue to exist**”

“There will come a day when the LSE will look back on the stance it took on genocide, and moments like this will determine whether LSE took a proactive stance on the right side of history, in **accordance with its stated values as an institution of political and human sciences, or whether LSE was one of the ineffectual bystanders who engages in meek, retrospective condemnation of events in which it was complicit.**”

“**40,000 people dead.**”

“Divest immediately. The Liberated Zone is backed by 90% of the current student body, and we will make sure that its legacy lives on long past 2024 and the end of the genocide. **You are losing current and future alumni donors as you wait to divest, and prospective students will hesitate to affiliate themselves with you.** Future students will carry on our work while we support them from the sidelines. **Divest - we will not rest.**”

“**I have family in the West Bank who are at risk of displacement by a settlement enterprise funded and supported by the companies we are asking you to divest from.** Please choose the side of humanity.”

“I urge you to listen to the majority of LSE's staff and students, who are calling for divestment now. **It is time to act.**”

“SMC felt targeted by peaceful protestors, protestors fighting against genocide. I wonder how targeted they would feel if they were living in Gaza...”

“Dear LSE Council, I want to be able to show my LSE degree with pride. **Please don't stain my certificate with the bloods of innocent children and civilians** by investing in Wars, Genocides and Fossil Fuel.”

“Tuition's declining share of revenues and the meagre state of faculty salaries, alongside the persistent adjunctification of the “community of scholars” the LSE and higher education aspire to be, render the LSESU and Palestine Society's calls for greater accountability in financial governance increasingly relevant. While I have read and respect the administration's stance on the importance of resisting calls for performative activism and politically-motivated statements, I urge the school community to treat divestment seriously and financial governance as a core area where the school can commit to fulfil and further its own principles. **Honestly and openly discussing divestment from enterprise and economic activity held morally objectionable by a large portion of the School's academic community need not be seen as acceding to a specific set of political demands. Rather, it represents a commitment to use the School's assets in a way that benefits its scholars, staff, and students without compromising their ideals or future freedoms in accord with the broader aims of sustainable development and scholarship.** Committing to educating future leaders and academics means stewarding resources responsibly, and I recognise the financially material impacts of divestment could be meaningful, but **an effort should be made to discuss those pathways for responsible investment that leave members of the School with a clear conscience about the university not compromising its own mission in an errant and self-centred attempt to conserve or accumulate financial assets at the cost of its human community.**”

“Make your students proud. Be on the good side of history.”

“**Listen to the people you represent**, we are demanding divestment from arms.”

“LSE management have evicted their students for speaking up against genocide which is **highly disturbing**. As students we urge you to vote on the proposals to divest, it's appalling that LSE have ties with genocide and **the least the university can do is to pass these proposals considering it's been 8 months of the genocide and over 40,000 Palestinians have been martyred.** We as students and others in the wider community will never understand how your conscious allows you to maintain ties with Zionist organisations considering the fact that we are witnessing modern day settler colonialism and ethnic cleansing at its highest level against our Palestinian brothers and sisters, and as an institution which has a large focus on the humanities, **it's your responsibility to be active and take a stand against injustice, rather than finance it and repress students.**”

“Let's do this and preserve our humanity” “Just act for justice and peace”

“**LSE should be ashamed of its' complicity** in the ongoing genocide in Gaza and their egregious investments in fossil fuels. LSE must divest.”

“Do the right thing. **You know everyone wants divestment.** So divest!”

“Divest”

“I am appalled and ashamed that my tuition fees, which will place me in life-long debt, contribute to the destruction of human life. **I have developed a huge disrespect for the abuse and appropriation of the revolutionary legacy of LSE alumni. Act as you preach.**”

“Dear Council, I am very concerned about LSE's action not to Divest from Israeli occupation. Israel has breached number of UN laws and are currently on trial for a "plausible genocide". In fact, the current Leader in standing (Benjamin Netanyahu) has been accused by ICC and ICJ as a "war criminal". Please do the right thing and encourage LSE to stop all its involvement. From history we can see Educational Institution has been the beacon of hope. **If such "prestigious" University is involved in such deplorable acts then people will start doubting Education Institutions and will lose faith in our system.**”

“**You will divest.**”

“The future of humanity hinges on choices made today.”

“**LSE Council have exposed how diligently they are willing to take their own students to court and suppress their freedom of speech, right to assembly and vilifying students for putting into practise what they have been taught at this university. I wholeheartedly beg that LSE Council recentres these same efforts into following through on the incredible work of the Assets in Apartheid report.** History- including future LSE students- will look back on this council, having had the opportunity to divest their finances (indirect or direct) from crimes against the Palestinian people, should they throw around menial excuses & stall this process. **Every second stalled is a bloody stain on LSE's reputation.**”

“**As a prospective student it has been extremely concerning to watch how LSE have been treating its students in the past month, it is even more concerning that LSE preferred taking its OWN STUDENTS to court rather than to continue a civil dialogue on divestment.** One of the things that made me choose LSE was the fact that, throughout history, LSE has been a home to encouraging global change, it was the place where Malcom x was invited to speak on the civil rights movement and the intersectional causes of liberation. **It is sad and disappointing that LSE is not that place anymore, maybe it never was.** Shockingly enough as it is that LSE, an academic institution, already invests in businesses that support killing of innocent civilians, fossil fuel, and other harmful practices to humanity and the wider environment, LSE tries to portray itself as the leader of global rights. **All the stated above practices and hypocrisies have made me rethink my decision multiple times about studying at LSE,** having my name connected with an institution that is -now- participating in those acts. **And what type of school refuses to have a continuous dialogue with its students?? If you ask me, that feels more like a business that cares about its investment more than an educational institution that cares about academic development,** and a business is definitely not something that I am interested to pay my hard-earned money or my hard-earned scholarship into.”

“**As staff at LSE, it's imperative more than ever that we support the students considering the fact that we are now 8 months into the genocide in Gaza.** We have a responsibility towards the

struggle for liberation and its management's responsibility to divest funds from companies that are complicit in the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. The message is clear, divest funds now and stop student repression on campus. **It's out of order that management sent their own students to court, rather than actively taking** a stand against the settler colonial project done by Israel and the ongoing genocide in Gaza. We support the students right to protest, it's a collective responsibility to fight for Palestinian liberation."

"Please vote to enact all Section 5 proposals"

"I write to you in distress and disappointment as a student who has spend four years at this institution, at the LSE's refusal to divest with immediacy from investing in assets in entities complicit and profiting from what the top international law courts, the ICJ and ICC, have determined as a plausible genocide. A vote against divestment by the LSE in companies benefitting a state that has been found guilty by the UN Commission of the crimes against humanity of intentional extermination, murder, torture, gender persecution, forcible transfer of the population, and collective punishment of the civilians in Gaza, a state whose leaders have an arrest warrant application issued by the ICC pending as war criminals- would to me be an open admission that 1) **You care more for finances than human lives and international law, and simply do not care that the LSE may be, at this exact moment, complicit in the crimes listed above as long as the investment portfolio remains intact** 2) **The LSE is a hypocritical institution that preaches modules on international law, human rights, the importance of international institutions in upholding them and EVEN a module titled 'IR312: Genocide', teaching students how to recognise 'the manner of [genocidal campaign's] perpetration, progression, and diffusion; their impact on the maintenance of international peace and security; their consequences for the reconstruction and development of states and the building of nations; and their adjudication in domestic and international courts and tribunals.'** **but actively discourages and attempts to silence it's students when its own teachings are being used to hold the institution accountable for its complicity in such a horrific process.** I hope you come to see the hard work of these students to get LSE to divest from a plausible genocide not as an inconvenience, as you seem to have treated it until now, but rather as an attempt to stop the LSE from making a historical decision to intentionally continue funding companies complicit or profiting from genocide. **The power is in your hands with this vote, what you decide holds many implicit meanings regarding your view of Palestinian lives, human rights, international law and your students' voice."**

"Vote for divestment - **the students are calling - hear us**" "LSE's investments in egregious activities is unconscionable." "Dear Members of the LSE Council, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding LSE's current investment of £89 million across 117 holdings in 137 companies that are complicit in human rights violations against the Palestinian people and in supporting the Israeli military. **As a reputable institution that prides itself on promoting social justice and ethical standards, it is imperative that LSE aligns its financial practices with these core values.** The companies in question have been documented to contribute directly or indirectly to the ongoing oppression, occupation, and systemic discrimination faced by Palestinians. This not only undermines the principles of international law but also contradicts the ethical guidelines that should govern our institution's investments. **As an educational institution that shapes future leaders and policy-makers, LSE has a moral and ethical responsibility to ensure that its financial investments do not perpetuate or condone human rights abuses.** Continuing to invest in these companies implicitly endorses their actions and **tarnishes the reputation of our institution.** Divesting from these holdings would send a powerful message that LSE stands firmly against human rights violations and is

committed to ethical investment practices. Moreover, it would align our investment portfolio with the growing global movement advocating for responsible and sustainable investment. I urge the LSE Council to take immediate action to divest from companies involved in crimes against the Palestinian people and to adopt a more ethical investment strategy that reflects our institution's commitment to social justice, human rights, and ethical conduct. Thank you for considering this urgent matter. **I look forward to your positive response and am hopeful that LSE will take the necessary steps to ensure our investments align with our values and principles.** Yours sincerely, Wasima”

“The founding purpose of the School is: "for the betterment of society". This should also apply to the School's financial investments.”

“The student body of LSE urges you to divest from complicity in the horrific crimes being committed against Palestinians.”

“Please vote to divest now. The LSE must not be complicit in killing innocent lives.”

“I humbly request you to **apply LSE's ESG policies to indirect investments along with the direct investments** as well and fully commit to disarmament and environmental sustainability.”

“Fortunately, the LSE investment strategy is already very clear about the importance of NOT financing global warming. Given the harm inflicted by weapons on family members and friends of the LSE community it is **important that the LSE stops financing weapons manufacturers. That should apply to ALL weapons and both direct and indirect investments** which is feasible by investing in ESG mutual funds. **Choosing to invest in weapons is (also) a political choice!** Prof. Wouter Den Haan”

“DIVEST NOW. BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS!!!”

“Our University is not a private enterprise—democratic institutional design starts right here, with divestment!” **“Divest now or be complicit in genocide”**

“This is simple. Stop investing in arms. Stop profiting from the killing of children. It seems hard because there are trade offs and there is a bottom line. There is no trade off. **No education funded or supported by arms is worth having.** Furthermore, if you can't divest because of returns, are you saying the University is run by finance capital? If the **University is run by finance capital** what value does it have as an independent academic institution?”

“Divest!”

“This institution claims to be for the betterment of society, and to transform the world, but ultimately this institution funds genocide, climate breakdown, and global instability. You give us modules about decolonisation, degrowth, and you even have the audacity to have buildings named after the Suffragettes. **It seems to me you like to have the aesthetic of looking progressive, but your investments reveal all.** You have the option to ‘transform the world’ on the 25th of June by voting to

divest. It's not difficult, controversial, or complicated, **we are sick of your condescending tone. Palestinians are under the rubble as we speak. Temperatures are soaring, and countries in the Global South bear the brunt of the harms of climate change and the arms trade. We have understood what the 'causes of things' are in this instance, (which are your egregious investments) and are thus asking you to divest.** The students historically have been leading figures, so in the future, it will be recorded that the **LSE shamefully took its courageous students to court, and evicted them during their Eid celebrations** (which started on the evening of Saturday 15th June btw - this only needed a simple google search from you). We are not being audacious, instead you are through your egregious investments, so I hope you choose to divest."

"Assalamu Alaykum brothers, The student encampment was evicted on 17 June 2024, marking LSE as the first UK university to do so. !! This decision to divest will be a historical step to end LSE's institutional complicity in the egregious Palestinian genocide, arms trade and the climate breakdown, backed by 89% votes in the recent LSESU referendum with 2584 participants. In response to the eviction, let us unequivocally DIVEST, NOW!!"

"Divest from harmful investments"  

"Put humanity and moral values before profit."

"LSE's reputation is important to you, no? You are single-handedly tarnishing it yourselves by linking the name to Palestinian genocide. Empty words of empathy are not enough: we need grand-scale action that can stop this massacre. You must understand the collective voice of those funding the board you sit at. And if truly wish to remain politically neutral, then isn't it only logical to divest so as not to appear to have chosen a side? If not for political reasons, then for ethical ones instead: earn back the respect of your students and alumni by divesting. **And if not for your students, then for the children of Gaza who are being robbed of an education and a chance at life. We urge you.**"

"The school motto is *"to know the causes of things."* Its purpose is *"for the betterment of society"*. Either we make good on these claims and divest from crimes against the Palestinian people, the arms trade, and climate breakdown, or we **abolish every single course and program at the LSE and only offer BSc/MSc/PhD degrees in hypocrisy.**"

"Your lack of care regarding your personal complicity in murder is more than violent. **Claiming that you serve an apolitical university does not absolve you of the blood on your hands**, the blood of tens of thousands of human beings. Silence during the brutalization of kids who deserve to go to college, men who deserve to see old age, humans who deserve life is the ultimate form of violence, and it is a disgusting political statement. If each of you has a moral compass, you will vote to divest."

"You know which is the right side of history. Your decision today determines your legacy. STOP thinking about money for once, find your humanity."

"Please divest to be part of the right side of the history"

"Hypocrisy on 'academic freedom' begins in not recognising the fundamentals. There are **no universities left in Gaza** from the scholasticide and hundreds of staff and students dead. Divest now"

“As an alumna, I am enraged by the LSE's investments in apartheid and genocide. It's absolutely urgent that the LSE immediately follows the steps put forward in the Assets in Apartheid report.”

“It should not be controversial to divest from apartheid, weapons, and climate destruction. This is an opportunity for LSE to be pioneers in ethical investing and collaboration with their students, staff, and alumni.”

“I have signed this petition anonymously because of fear of retaliation and consequences to my career, which I think helps emphasise how shockingly imbalanced the discussion around this issue is.”

“How can a higher education institution like LSE be affiliated and have financial relationships with arms-producing companies? What is the point of higher education, obtaining all these degrees, if we **cannot then question where our School invests its money?** It is unacceptable that an institution that prides itself on "academic freedom", would choose to not only take students to court, but would also silence them by ending negotiations”

“**The tide is shifting in universities around the world. This is your chance to be part of it.** If your priority is truly limited to institutional risk and students who will feel the impact of divestment in generations to come, remember that the genocide in Gaza will hold major legal implications for all institutions complicit, both directly and indirectly. That includes LSE. Remember that this genocide is possibly the most horrific historical event that many younger generations are witnessing in their lives. Students and staff have historically wanted divestment. Students and staff today demand divestment. **And if you make no move towards divestment today, the students and staff of LSE's future will continue to disrupt this institution until you do.**”

“LSE prides itself on being a global community, educating future changemakers and encouraging critical thinking. If LSE chooses not to divest, this is all exposed as a weak facade to soulless neoliberalism. **It's time for LSE to actually enact the values it preaches.**”

“I would like LSE to divest and for the University to end its Financial complicity in the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people”