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What GILEE has done over the years is exemplify what academic and professional allies do that contribute to developing a real discourse of cutting-edge ideas and programs. As such, GILEE and its law enforcement partners have made a national and international impact on public safety by providing cutting edge training that aims at leadership development and capacity building of law enforcement agencies.

All of this while increasingly facing the fallacious BDS movement and its proxies. We need to be showcasing GILEE's success and adopting it around the country. What we are observing today is a co-dependent relationship — Palestinians refusing to engage in a dialogue with Israel, in order to make it disappear, with a vocal minority of Jews denying that this is actually a Palestinian strategy — works against genuine communication and peace. It also works against science, rational policy, and justice. That it has spread to American campuses, along with low-level violence against Israeli and Jewish groups, is ominous.

Recognizing anti-normalization for what it is — repression against the majority of Israelis and Palestinians who genuinely want peace — is the first step toward resuming what has been necessary all along: an honest dialogue that's free of guilt and threats and is conducive to reconciliation.

Boycotts don't engender peace, especially not in the Middle East. They act as a vehicle to deflect from the real obstacles to peace and the real opportunities, many of which are provided precisely by academia in particular in programs like the one GILEE provides. GILEE is an academic professional training program that is advantageous to its participants and to the communities they serve. As such it should be embraced, not boycotted.

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