



11 July 2024

International Science Council position on academic boycotts

1. The International Science Council (ISC) understands an ‘academic boycott’ to be a collective protest by members of an academic community or institution to express disapproval of other academics, academic communities or academic institutions or to put pressure on them to meet certain demands.
2. The ISC, as a general principle, does not endorse academic boycotts. This position is consistent with both the right to engage in scientific enquiry as enshrined in [Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (read in conjunction with [Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)) and with the [ISC Principles of Freedom and Responsibility in Science \(Statute 8\)](#). Exceptions to the general principle will be considered by the ISC Governing Board when there are clear and systemic violations of human rights.
3. The ISC recognizes that the right to engage in critical enquiry, and to pursue the free and responsible practice of knowledge creation, requires personal contact and exchange among academics. Academic boycotts potentially limit the sharing of knowledge by isolating members of certain academic communities from opportunities to exchange with their peers.
4. The ISC acknowledges that individual academics, acting in accordance with their conscience, may decide to limit or refuse scholarly communication or collaboration with other academics, academic communities or academic institutions.

This is an update to the ISC’s previous position on 25 May 2021 on [conference and event boycotts](#).