



# The Global Israel Alliance

## Ambassador Program—**Action Alert**

Airbnb has just decided to not allow anyone with a home in the “West Bank” (Judea and Samaria) to list on their website. Please read this and on the last page are the email addresses of those you can send an email to.

In case you don't know what Airbnb is: They are an online company through which you can arrange or offer lodging, primarily homestays, or tourism experiences. Basically it is a great way to travel and to avoid paying the high cost of a hotel. They are massive and a very successful company. Private people can list their homes or apartments for rent on their site and it offers a great way to make some extra money. I used their site to book an amazing family vacation this past summer.

They have succumbed to the worldwide BDS (Boycott, divest and sanctions) movement who tries to get companies to stop doing business in the so called “West Bank.”

**Here is part of Airbnb's statement: "We concluded that we should remove listings in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank that are at the core of the dispute between Israelis and Palestinians."**

*Reaction of Simon Wiesenthal Center: November 19, 2018*

*The Simon Wiesenthal Center, a leading Jewish Human Rights NGO is urging its 400,000 constituent members and Jews the world over to boycott Airbnb after its CEO announced it will no longer allow its services to be used by Jewish residents on the West Bank.*

*“This is double standard anti-Semitism pure and simple. Nowhere else on the planet has Airbnb stopped making its service available in disputed territories, except Judea and Samaria,” said Rabbis Marvin Hier and Rabbi Abraham Cooper, SWC Founder and Dean and Associate Dean and Director, Global Social Action Agenda.*

*“To be clear, no Israeli leader, left, right, or center, would ever return to the indefensible ‘Auschwitz borders,’ a term coined by the founder of Israel’s peace movement, the late Israeli Foreign Minister, Abba Eban,” they added.*

*"We take note that Airbnb has no problem doing business in the territory of the Palestinian Authority, which names schools and shopping centers in honor of mass murderers who have killed innocent civilians and have a ‘pay to slay’ policy when it comes to killing Jews.*

*“We don’t expect Airbnb to be geo-political experts, but today’s draconian and unjust move, which only empowers extremists and terrorists, merits only one response—taking our community’s business elsewhere,” the Rabbis concluded.*

# 'Airbnb disgracefully submitted to BDS'

Israelis protest Airbnb decision to drop Jewish homes in Judea and Samaria.

Tourism Minister Yariv Levin demanded that the management of the Airbnb accommodations site cancel its [decision](#) to remove apartments in the Jewish communities of Judea and Samaria from the site.

Levin said: "This is a disgraceful and miserable decision and a disgraceful surrender by the company." He instructed his ministry staff to formulate immediate measures to limit the company's activity throughout the country and instructed ministry management to implement a special program to encourage tourism and accommodation in vacation apartments throughout Judea and Samaria.

Strategic Affairs Minister Gilad Erdan also condemned the decision to boycott Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria.

"This is an unfortunate decision that constitutes submission to the anti-Semitic BDS organizations and is based on political considerations rather than business considerations," said Erdan.

"The boycott organizations do not distinguish between the entire territory of the state and Judea and Samaria. As far as they are concerned, the entire State of Israel has no right to exist as a Jewish state. The heads of Airbnb will have to explain why they chose to take a racist political stance against some of Israel's citizens."

Erdan also called on apartment owners who were hurt by the site's decision to step forward. "I call on the property owners affected by the decision to examine the filing of claims against Airbnb in accordance with the law to prevent harm to the State of Israel through a boycott, and I intend to contact the most senior political officials in the United States to examine whether this decision violates legislation against boycotts in more than 25 states in the United States".

Social Equality Minister Gila Gamliel called the move "a hypocritical decision by a company that operates in the darkest dictatorships in the world and preaches morality to us."

International Law Professor Eugene Kontorovich noted that Airbnb continues to list properties in other occupied and disputed territories. This is not about disputed territories, as AirBnB has listings in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, Turkish-occupied Cyprus, and more. So it is only Jewish properties in the Jewish homeland that are banned. AirBNB's approach of singling out Jews from all the disputes in the world will put it at odds with U.S. state BDS laws, and principles of discrimination. AirBNB's action also shows the danger of the UNHRC's "blacklist" of Israel-related companies, which AirBNB was bullied by the United Human Rights Council.

Efrat Council head Oded Revivi called the move a blow to peace and reconciliation efforts.

"It is disappointing to see that because of extreme pressure, the site surrenders and damages the essence of its existence and uniqueness. The advantage of the site was the ability to bring people together, to cause conversation and [raise] questions and not only to make money. The decision does an injustice to the settlers, constitutes submission to extremists and will turn out to be a mistake and distancing peace," Revivi said.

**Airbnb has just removed all listings for Jewish houses and apartments in Judea and Samaria. This is discriminatory, offensive, and antisemitic. Let's let them know how outraged we are!**

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