



# SCHOLAR SHIELD



## Addressing Academic BDS

### Context & Need

Following the Hamas attack on October 7th, there has been a notable surge in anti-Israel activities on university campuses worldwide. This surge is being manifested through protest encampments, marches, blockades, preventing the access of Israeli and Jewish students and faculty to sites on campuses and more. Academic BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) supporters are calling for the severance of research collaborations with Israeli scientists and academic institutions, termination of student exchange programs, excluding Israeli researchers from submitting proposals to national and international research funds, cessation of investments by universities endowment funds in Israeli companies etc.

### Institutional Response

The escalating Academic boycott, either implicit or explicit, necessitates proactive measures by universities and government agencies to both assess the potential impact and address the needs involved in combating it. To this effect, the Samuel Neaman Institute for National Policy Research has formed a task force entitled "Scholar Shield". This task force collaborates with the Council of University Heads (VERA), the Council of College Heads (VARAM), relevant government ministries, and other stakeholders.

### Project Objectives & Approach

The project aims to collect data on BDS initiatives, analyze it and develop insights that would help individual researchers, university leadership teams, the Council for Higher Education and government ministries thwart the boycott attempts and mitigate their impact

### Key Activities



#### Mapping BDS Incidents

- Incident Reporting system
- Data Mining



#### Information Center

- Mapping BDS Initiatives
- Creating Global Network



#### Knowledge accessibility & Dissemination

- Dashboard
- Dynamic Toolbox
- Periodic Reports



#### Research Focus

The collected data and accumulated knowledge will enable the project team to address critical research and policy questions, such as:

- Identification of countries/universities with stronger BDS impacts and trends over time.
- Analysis of Israeli universities' exposure to academic BDS and trends over time.
- Examination of research fields more vulnerable to academic BDS and trends over time.
- Quantification of the overall impact of academic BDS on Israeli academia, including economic damages.
- Identification of effective responses and best practices in tackling the phenomenon.

