

# 2014 Boycott of Settlement Products

## Why & How

The United Methodist General Conference, the global policy making body for the entire church, voted in 2012 to call on all nations to ban products made in illegal settlements beyond Israel's internationally recognized borders. ([Resolution # 6111](#) – Opposition to Israeli Settlements)

Immediately following the General Conference, United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) set out to learn which products are being imported to the United States from these illegal settlements. Researchers subscribed to a service called "Import Genius" which provides records and bills of lading for all US imports. They also did empirical research in stores to learn which settlement products are carried by different retailers. Their report was entitled [Seizing the Mandate](#). A Boycott Committee was established to determine how this information could be used to implement the church's call for a settlement boycott.

In November, 2014, UMKR launched a church-wide boycott of six consumer products produced in Israeli settlements. These are products frequently encountered by American shoppers, and represent only a handful of more than 40 consumer goods with settlement origins in the US market. Information on these products is included on these pages.

There are also many industrial and commercial products which come into the US from the settlements. These will be addressed in Phase 2 of the boycott initiative in 2015. Americans will be surprised to learn that items as diverse as friction plates for lawnmowers, spun-melt fabric for diapers, yarns for the carpet industry and aluminum siding for the construction industry are being imported from these illegal factories. All enjoy preferential trade and tariff treatment intended for goods made in Israel. This means our Treasury is losing millions of dollars in tax revenues each year.

The U.S. goods trade [deficit](#) with Israel was \$9 billion in 2013. Goods imported to the US from Israel and the illegal settlements totaled \$22.7 billion that year. Imports to the US from Israel have grown at twice the rate of US exports to Israel since the Free Trade agreement between the two countries was signed. For more on the US-Israel Free Trade Agreement, click [here](#).

United Methodists are urged to contact the Commerce Department to ask that goods from Israel's settlements be labeled as such, and that tax and trade benefits intended for Israeli goods not be extended to goods from the settlements. This will be a major focus of the UMKR Boycott Committee in 2015.

# What to Boycott

UMKR's recommends boycott of the following consumer products from illegal settlements:

## **SodaStream**



SodaStream has its main manufacturing plant in Ma'ale Adumim, an illegal settlement. It is sold in Staples, Costco and many other stores.



## **Ahava**



Ahava products are made in Mitzpe Shalem, an illegal settlement, with minerals and mud from the Dead Sea. They are sold in high-end department stores and pharmacies, and are carried by TJ Maxx, Marshall's, and Ulta.





