

**Motions adopted by the North West Region TUC  
28th March 2009**

**Please note the comment from the NW TUC Regional Secretary:**

*“The first motion from PCS was adopted Unanimously, the second motion was carried nem con, but the Executive had expressed the reservation that the motion could not commit the NW TUC to go beyond current TUC policy, and currently TUC policy does not include a trade boycott the movers accept this and confirm that the motion was a request to the TUC nationally.*

*We have an Executive Group meeting on the 21 April that will consider in detail the follow up to the Conference.”*

**20 PCS: Gaza**

This Conference deplores the killings of hundreds of innocent civilians- overwhelmingly Palestinians and the thousands more injured as a consequence of the military attacks by Israel on Gaza.

We support the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and two independent states - Israel and Palestine- living side by side in peace. This can only happen when the occupation and siege of Gaza have ended.

The NWTUC is instructed to campaign for the following demands:

- The complete cessation of Israeli military attacks on Gaza and the Palestinian people.
- An end to the Israeli blockade and violations of international law.
- An end to British exports of arms and military equipment to Israel.

**21 MATUC: Palestine**

This Annual Conference of the NWTUC notes that the 2007 Trades Union Councils Conference, held in Sheffield, agreed the following policy on Palestine: “The humanitarian situation is so grave for the Palestinian people that it may be necessary to consider a consumer boycott campaign of Israeli goods and trade, similar to the successful campaign against the apartheid regime in South Africa.”

Conference further notes that since this resolution was agreed the situation for the Palestinian people has deteriorated even further. The recent Israeli invasion of Gaza has left over 1000 Palestinians dead, including many children and has devastated the infrastructure and many homes in Gaza. The Israeli blockade alongside the invasion has created severe shortages, hunger and illness because food, medical supplies and other essential items cannot reach the people of Gaza.

Conference also notes that Israel’s invasion has produced a considerable groundswell of anger and protest in Britain amongst trade unionists and the wider community evidenced in some of the largest demonstrations on the Palestinian issue ever to be held – both nationally and locally.

This Conference fully supports the call by the NUJ and journalists' unions around the world to call on the United Nations to investigate the targeting of media by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip and their demand that the blockade on foreign media entering Gaza must end. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has reported that five media staff have died as a result of Israeli action in Gaza during the first half of January. Israeli military aircraft have made targeted attacks on the Al Aqsa television station and on the Al-Johara Tower, a building clearly marked as housing media staff. Michelle Stanistreet, NUJ Deputy Secretary, has said in a letter to Ban-Ki Moon "Israel is violating international law, ignoring its own Supreme Court and showing contempt for the United Nations by defying its obligations under Resolution 1738 to protect journalists in conflict zones".

Conference unreservedly condemns the recent Israeli invasion of Gaza, the continuing blockade and the general policy of Israel towards the Palestinian people. Israeli policy is racist and is designed to prevent the Palestinians from securing their basic human right of a homeland they can call their own.

Conference resolves that the time to consider a boycott of goods and trade is now past. The time to implement one is now here. The Palestinian people need deeds not words if their suffering is to be brought to an end.

Conference calls on the TUC and all affiliated unions to:

- Issue the call for a total boycott of all Israeli goods both by members and by the wider community.
- To embargo trade with Israel, in particular to block all work on and deliveries of weapons and war supplies to the Israeli state.
- To vigorously defend all members who undertake direct action to embargo such trade with Israel.
- To produce bulletins and materials explaining the case for support for the Palestinian cause that can be used to win members and the wider community over to such a boycott and embargo.
- To encourage all affiliates to actively support the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign and all demonstrations and actions called in protest against Israeli aggression.
- To support the MATUC and Palestinian Solidarity Campaign conference on Palestine aimed at planning and organising action in support of the Palestinian people.
- To organise further trade union delegations to Palestine so that the Palestinian people can see that the British trade union stand with them in their just struggle.

Conference reiterates its support for:

- The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination
- The immediate withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the occupied territories
- The removal of the illegally constructed "apartheid wall".