

TUC Women's Conference
11th – 13th March 2009

Conference is appalled at the assault on the Palestinians in Gaza, resulting in the loss of 1440 lives and injuries to innocent civilians, including women and children, condemns the action and the collective punishment imposed on them by the state of Israel.

Conference condemns the use of overwhelming military force by Israel against the people of Gaza which resulted in death or injury for hundreds of innocent civilians, especially amongst women and children.

Conference further condemns the use of violence to resolve this long running dispute. Violence, whether from Israel toward Gaza or from rocket attacks or terrorist actions against Israel, will only lead to further violence. Conference believes violence will not solve the dispute and that the problem will only be resolved through full recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people.

Conference believes that only when a sovereign, independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian state is created, living side by side with a secure Israel will there be chance for peace and stability in the Middle East. Conference strongly believes that justice for the Palestinians is essential to any solution to the existing conflict.

Conference recognises the need to strengthen the role of women in the trade union movement in Palestine and welcomes the development of a joint project between the TUC and the Palestinian general Federation of Trade Unions.

On top of bearing the brunt of family responsibilities and economic discrimination, Palestinian women face:

- i) 34% unemployment leaving 70% of families below the poverty line;
- ii) roadblocks and checkpoints restricting movement and access to healthcare;
- iii) danger and instability due to the Israeli occupation and internal tensions within Palestinian society.

Conference calls on the TUC, in conjunction with the Women's committee and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, to organise within the next year:

- a. a solidarity delegation of women trade unionists to Palestine; and
- b. a speaking tour by women members of the PGFTU to highlight the Palestinian cause amongst trade unionists in the UK.

Moved: UNISON
Seconded: UNITE the union