

Statement, published on 11th September 2020

**As charities, trade unions, religious groups, and civil society organisations, we urgently call on public bodies to uphold their ethical and legal responsibilities to ensure human rights and international law are respected.**

As the Israeli government moves towards illegally annexing additional Palestinian land, the necessity for accountability and collective responsibility in maintaining an international rules based system of law becomes paramount. The actions of the Israeli government are not only an attack on the rights and futures of Palestinians, but also against the very foundations of international law.

Official annexation would culminate years of gradual de facto annexation - which has been taking place through the appropriation of land, forcible displacement of Palestinians, and the transfer of an Israeli settler population to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

We echo UN Special Rapporteur, Professor Michael Lynk, in calling on the international community to ensure there is a cost to defying international law in the context of settlement expansion. This mirrors Palestinian civil society calls for effective measures to stop annexation and Israel's ongoing infringements on their human rights.

Local authorities, churches, Local Government Pensions Schemes, universities, and businesses all have a clear responsibility to ensure they are not aiding or sustaining violations of international law. We call on all such bodies and organisations to guarantee they are not complicit in further entrenching Israel's occupation of the Palestinian people, and that their practices of investment and procurement reflect their ethical and legal responsibilities to uphold an international system of law.

Signed:

Archbishop of Wales, The Most Rev'd John D E Davies,  
Amos Trust  
Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen  
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union  
Bishop of Bangor, The Right Rev'd Andy John  
Bishop of St Davids, The Right Rev'd Dr Joanna Penberthy  
Campaign Against the Arms Trade  
Communication Workers Union  
Fire Brigades Union  
GMB Union  
Iona Community  
Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions UK  
Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights  
Muslim Association of Britain  
National Education Union  
Palestine Solidarity Campaign UK  
Public and Commercial Services Union

National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers  
Sabeel-Kairos  
Scottish Palestinian Forum  
Transport Salaried Staffs' Association  
University and College Union  
UNISON  
Unite the Union  
War on Want