

TUC Policy on Palestine 2019

Passed overwhelmingly on Wednesday 11 September 2019 at Congress in Brighton.

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### **75 Palestine – supporting rights to self-determination**

Congress notes:

The US and Israeli administrations are destroying prospects for peace in Palestine – by recognising Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, stopping funding for Palestinian refugees, the continuing siege of Gaza, expanding illegal settlements and plans to annex illegally large areas of the West Bank. Trump’s “deal of the century” is an attempt to destroy core Palestinian rights.

Congress believes:

- a. TUC policy must prioritise Palestinians’ rights to freedom, justice and equality, including by applying these principles based on international law to all UK trade with Israel.
- b. The TUC needs to condemn the ongoing injustices against the Palestinians, denied their right to self-determination since the British Mandate, and during the 1948 Nakba when Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes.

Congress resolves to:

1. oppose any proposed solution for Palestinians, including Trump’s ‘deal’, not based on international law and UN resolutions recognising their collective rights to self-determination and to return to their homes
2. support efforts to establish an ethical policy on all UK’s trade with Israel, framed around international law on settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and stopping any arms trade with Israel used in violation of the human rights of the Palestinians
3. commit to raise the pressure on corporations complicit in arms trading and supporting Israel’s illegal occupation and settlement building, by working with its affiliated unions, with the international trade union movement, and the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, to develop strategies to put pressure on complicit corporations to cease all such activities.

Moved by: Artists’ Union England

Seconded by: PCS

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Clarification read out by Tim Roach (General Secretary GMB) on behalf of the TUC General Council:

The General Council reiterates TUC policy condemning the human rights abuses faced by the Palestinian people and opposes Israel’s illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories. We continue to oppose the US policy of withdrawing much

needed aid from the United Nations Works and Relief Agency (UNWRA). This is particularly concerning given that in recent years the UN has predicted that Gaza was on track to become unliveable by 2020.

We continue to condemn the blockade of Gaza and the annexation of further land in the West Bank and recognise calls by UN officials to halt further demolitions and concerns expressed about the expansion of illegal settlements. The blockade and occupation must be resolved in line with UN resolutions and international law.

Existing policy has called for the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement until the rights of the Palestinians are established and we are committed to raising pressure on corporations complicit in arms trading, the settlements, and the occupation.

The General Council is pleased that Palestine is one of the TUC's four priority international solidarity areas and that we will be supporting, alongside many affiliates, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign's trade union conference in October. We reiterate our policy to work to actively encourage affiliates, employers and pension funds to disinvest from, and boycott the goods of, companies who profit from illegal settlements, the Occupation and the construction of the Wall and to encourage affiliates to support the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and particularly to work with the PSC trade union network.

In supporting the motion that General Council wants to emphasise the TUC's longstanding support for a two-state solution based on peace and security for both Israel and Palestine and justice for the Palestinian people, as well as the need for the British government to recognise the Palestinian state.

We have had policy calling for a two-state solution since 1982 and it has been consistent as Congress policy ever since. This is in line with UN resolutions adopted supporting a two-state solution and self-determination for the Palestinian people. Last November, the UN Secretary General repeated the support for the two-state solution as the way to achieve lasting peace. The General Council supports efforts for peace and justice for all the people of Palestine and Israel and extends our solidarity to our sister and brother trade unionists.

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