

# THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE – A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter May 2025

This month: Time to Act - SIGN in Solidarity - May Day Statement - IWMD - Conferences - BADIL- Swedish Solidarity

# Time to Act?

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SPSC have discussed with both the First Minister and leader of Opposition, the ICC warrant for the arrest of Benjamin Netanyahu, and also how South Africa's [ICJ Genocide case](#) can be assisted.

John Swinney visited our stall at the STUC Congress and was asked if his government would enforce [the ICC warrant](#). He claimed it to be a matter for the law officers, so it wouldn't be appropriate to comment. He was further asked to invite the South African ambassador to Bute House for discussions on how the Scottish Government can play a role in supporting South Africa and those nations who have joined the ICJ case against Israel.

He gave a commitment to look into this and invited us to engage further. Anas Sarwar also claimed to “*fully support the ICC Warrant*”. As with John Swinney we have been in touch and will expect the commitments given to be fulfilled.

You can use [this link](#) to write to the First Minister.

**Mr Swinney, will you take this opportunity to state publicly a clear position of opposition to genocide and in favour of the rule of law?**

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## NEW - SIGN in Solidarity

SPSC have launched our [statement of Solidarity with Palestinian Workers](#).

This not only expresses unwavering solidarity. But is the starting point to assist signatories towards the required effective action.

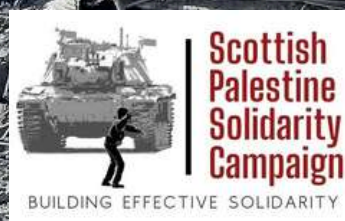
Declaring support for BDS and Palestinian freedom, equality and justice and committing to making our trade union branches and trades councils Apartheid Free Zones should be a straightforward step.

As the statement says, we understand the Palestinian struggle to be part of a broader struggle for freedom, equality and justice, and the liberation of oppressed people as being inextricably linked to the struggles of workers in Scotland.



**READ & SIGN in Solidarity NOW**

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**FEATURE - May Day - No Complicity With Apartheid**

The Palestinian Trade Unions' have issued a May Day Statement.

The statement reminds us that it is the duty of unions to ensure that the workers they represent are not involved in actions that involve complicity in genocide, apartheid, and Israel's illegal occupation.

The key demands include declaring our unions to be Apartheid-Free Zones, and to end corporate and institutional complicity with Israel's apartheid regime and the genocide of the Palestinian people.

Unions and workers worldwide are urged to translate solidarity into serious pressure campaigns on governments, corporations, and institutions to comply with their obligations under international law by ending all complicity in Israel's colonial oppression.

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## CONFERENCES - Green Solidarity



The [Scottish Greens](#) held their spring conference in Stirling on Saturday 12 April, SPSC had a stall which was busy throughout, with delegate after delegate engaging in conversation, and several signing up to join SPSC.

The first in-person meeting of the party's new [Palestine Solidarity Group](#) took place. The forming of this group within the party is a very positive development.

The Greens have been consistent in their opposition to the genocide, but there is a recognition that more can be done and frustration that complicit weapons makers continued to be publicly funded during the their time in government.

We have engaged with the committee and look forward to working together to coordinate action.

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## CONFERENCES - STUC Congress



The [STUC Congress](#) took place between 28-30 April at the Caird Hall in Dundee.

It had been hoped that this year there would be an appetite to take decisive action on Palestine, and as it turned out all seven motions on Palestine were carried.

Submitted by [Aberdeen Trades Union Council](#), [Dundee Trades Union Council](#), [Glasgow Trades Union Council](#), [Midlothian Trades Union Council](#), [ASLEF](#), [PCS](#), and [UCU](#), these items contain strong demands for action, the wording can be read on these links.

We welcome these votes for action, and that Unions will now be encouraged to affiliate to SPSC, whilst Apartheid Free Zones are endorsed. This is a meaningful deepening of solidarity and we believe that the commitments in these motions can be a significant step forward.

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## FEATURE - BADIL

### DONATE TO BADIL



Our partner [BADIL](#) have launched their “*Raise Palestinian Refugees’ Voices and Rights*” campaign.

SPSC are again assisting in the appeal, this time we are particularly looking to reach out to academics, and researchers and the unions who represent such workers. But everyone who values the production of authentic knowledge is encouraged to contribute.

BADIL produces its biennial [Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons](#) providing in-depth analysis of the Palestinian refugee question.

The campaign aims to raise £35K which will be used on the research project which challenges the strategy of eliminating Palestinian refugees, their voices and rights and the [international protection](#) they are titled to.

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## FEATURE - Remembering The Murdered Workers



International Workers' Memorial Day (IWMD) is the day that the trade union movement unites to remember workers at home and across the globe who have paid the ultimate price, those who left for work and never returned.

International Workers' Memorial Day is held on Monday 28th April 2025, this year the Edinburgh commemoration was held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> SPSC laid a wreath, and our Trade Union officer spoke in memory of the Palestinian workers murdered by Israel.

Members of SPSC also attended and spoke at other commemorations around the country.

Read full IWMD report [Here](#)

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## UPDATE - Swedish Solidarity

A Webinar took place on 16 April where Erik Helgeson, the dismissed Swedish Dockworkers' Union's vice president Erik Helgeson explained the circumstances of his sacking by Gothenburg Roro Terminals.

Erik was involved in organizing a blockade in February against arms deliveries to and from Israel.

We are currently working with international allies on an urgent campaign to support Erik, this will be launched soon to apply pressure to DFDS, the owner of the terminal.

**DEFEND TRADE  
UNION RIGHTS -  
SUPPORT  
ERIK HELGESON!**



This attack on Helgeson is clearly about more than the solidarity action and is a classic case of “*union busting*”. An attempt to weaken the Dockworkers' Union and deter workers from activism and standing up for their rights.

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## KEY CONTACTS

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Contact SPSC Trade Union Officer -

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Join our Trade Union Network -

<https://qrco.de/TUnetwork>

Join SPSC -

£10 for an individual membership and £25 to affiliate.

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## KEY CAMPAIGNS

### DECLARE YOUR BRANCH AN APARTHEID FREE ZONE

Visit [apartheidfree.scot](http://apartheidfree.scot) and sign up to become an Apartheid Free Zone (AFZ).



### DON'T BUY INTO GENOCIDE

Demand supermarkets remove all Israeli produce from their shelves. Visit the [link](#) and add your details, the message will be delivered to the CEOs of all the major supermarkets.



### DON'T BANK ON APARTHEID

A key Bank-roller of apartheid, Barclays Bank facilitates and profits from Israel's occupation and genocide. Add your details to the pre-populated [letter](#) and deliver a message to the CEO.



If as a worker you are expected to handle blood soaked produce or dirty money, complain to your manager, join a union, and speak to your reps. **Organise, Organise, Organise**, following the example of the workers who are now refusing to handle such goods.

