

SECTION 10 – INTERNATIONAL

MOTION 106 END ARMS SALES TO ISREAL

“That this Congress welcomes the publication of Amnesty International’s report published on 4 December 2024 which concluded that Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

“The report documents how Israel has, consistently and with impunity, carried out acts prohibited under the Genocide Convention with the specific intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza. These acts include killings, torture (including sexual violence), causing serious physical and psychological harm and “deliberately inflicting on Palestinians in Gaza conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction”.

“Congress notes that a Lancet report (July 2024) suggests the true death toll in Gaza could be as high as 186,000. On 21 November 2024, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for the Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu and former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least 8 October 2023 until at least 20 May 2024.

“Congress is horrified that this genocide is being aided by weapons and munitions manufactured in the UK by companies receiving millions in subsidies from the UK and Scottish Governments. A BBC investigation found that over £3 million in public money has been awarded by Scottish Enterprise to weapons firms, including BAE Systems, Leonardo and Raytheon Systems since 2023. We reject Scottish Ministers’ empty claims that the funding to arms dealers supports them to diversify and create jobs and that it has no relationship to their trade in deadly weapons to Israel.

“Congress calls on the STUC to:

- call for the UK government to ban arms sales to Israel and end all funding to arms companies; and
- to actively support the call for an urgent review of the grants process in Scottish Government and its enterprise agencies to ensure the human rights checks are robust and binding.”

Mover: Public and Commercial Services Union

SECTION 10 – INTERNATIONAL

MOTION 107 STOP ARMING ISRAEL

“That this Congress stands in solidarity with the people of Palestine. It condemns Israel’s assaults on Gaza through bombing, ground incursion and starvation as an act of war, which has resulted in the massacres of thousands of people, three quarters of whom are women and children. It also deplores the rising death toll on the West Bank from army and settler violence.

“It reaffirms its commitment to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) strategy, to put pressure on the government of Israel to end its violence and apartheid towards the Palestinian people in the way that the boycott movement had a key role to end apartheid in South Africa.

“Congress welcomes the suspension of 30 arms export licenses to Israel by the UK Labour government but recognises that 330 are still in force, and that in continuing to send arms to Israel, the UK is complicit in the bloodshed in Palestine and the genocide in Gaza. It believes that the Scottish government also has a part to play and must not provide government funding to any business involved in supplying arms or military hardware to Israel.

“Congress calls on the General Council to act in support of BDS and in solidarity with the people of Palestine by:

- lobbying the Scottish government to end funding to any company and/or organisation involved directly or indirectly/connected to supplying any weapons or weapons parts to Israel;
- urging affiliates to support and promote BDS amongst their members and to campaign for pension fund divestment from companies complicit in Israeli oppression as part of a broader campaign for boycott and divestment from banks and business complicit in Israeli oppression; and
- continuing to promote BDS as a strategy of peaceful resistance in support of Palestine and continue to condemn Israel’s war crimes in Palestine.”

Mover: Aberdeen Trades Union Council

SECTION 10 – INTERNATIONAL

MOTION 108 PALESTINE AND SCHOLASTICIDE

“That this Congress notes that, as well as the catastrophic effects of the conflict in Gaza on the people of Gaza and its infrastructure and intensified violence against Palestinians on the West Bank, Israel’s actions have included the systematic and deliberate destruction of educational buildings and a concentration on preventing Palestinian children and students accessing their right to education, including university education.

“Congress congratulates Birzeit University for its ‘Right to Education’ campaign and notes the successful speaking tour of the UK by the university’s Sundos Hammad in Autumn 2024 who outlined their campaign and calls to action.

“Congress notes:

- that since October 2023, Israel has according to figures from the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and repeated by Birzeit University, killed at least 10,490 students and injured 16,700 more;
- that seventeen universities and higher education institutions have been left paralysed, either partially or completely destroyed by bombings;
- over 88,000 university students have no access to education; and
- more than 500 school teachers and university staff have also been killed.

“Congress believes that the rebuilding of Gaza will require a functioning education system including universities and higher education institutions.

“Congress therefore calls on the STUC General Council to:

- call on the Scottish and UK Governments to contribute to the rebuilding of demolished universities in Gaza;
- write to Scottish university principals asking them to build and maintain relations between their own institution and Gazan higher education institutions, connecting universities and ensuring their long-term resilience and sustainability;

- support schemes, such as SUSPS (Scottish Universities Supporting Palestinian Students) helping students from Palestine to study in Scotland; and
- support speaking tours and campaigns such as Birzeit University's 'Right to Education' campaign."

Mover: University and College Union

SECTION 10 – INTERNATIONAL

MOTION 109 JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE

“That this Congress is clear that Israel’s assaults in Gaza are tantamount to genocide and condemns ongoing settler and Israeli Defence Force violence against Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

“Congress notes

- the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian People and the need for immediate action as a just and lasting peace is not only essential for the survival of Palestinians but also for the integrity of international law and human rights; and
- Israel’s actions have increasingly violated and defied international human rights law, international humanitarian law, the Geneva Convention, the Genocide Convention and countless U.N. rulings and resolutions.

Congress calls on the General Council to

- continue the calls for an end to the violence in Gaza and the occupied territories and a lasting solution to conflict that guarantees self-determination, security and justice for Palestinians; and
- continue support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaign for the end of the occupation and colonisation of Palestinian / Arab lands, the removal of the wall, the recognition of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality and respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in U.N. resolution 194.

Mover: Midlothian Trades Union Council

SECTION 10 – INTERNATIONAL

MOTION 110 LASTING PEACE IN PALESTINE

“That this Congress recognises that the current situation in Gaza is not a new occurrence, but a continuation of decades of human rights abuses.

“Congress welcomes the most recent ceasefire negotiation and agreement and notes the role that trade unions have played in showing international solidarity and calling on politicians to take action.

“This Congress notes that a just and permanent peace, consistent with international law, must include the right to collective self-determination of the Palestinian people as well as a resolution on the right to return.

“Congress acknowledges however, that this is a is still a long way away and more work is needed to achieve peace and prosperity for the Palestinian people.

“Therefore, this Congress commits to:

- encourage unions to affiliate to the Scottish Palestinian Solidarity Campaign;
- write to the Israeli Ambassador calling for an end to the genocide of the Palestinian people;
- Step up Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaigning, encouraging all affiliates to support and promote BDS amongst members, including through the Apartheid Free Zones (AFZ) campaign;
- continue the fight against all forms of discrimination;
- write to the Scottish First Minister and UK Prime Minister calling for an end to UK and Scottish government potential complicity in Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity, including an end to all arms sales;
- promote and support a series of workplace days of action in support of the Palestinian people; and
- support workers who refuse to build, handle and transport weapons destined for Israel.”

Mover: Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen

SECTION 10 – INTERNATIONAL

MOTION 111 PALESTINE

“That this Congress condemns the Israeli State for its crime of extermination and acts of genocide in Gaza.

“Congress acknowledges that, one year since its support for the General Council statement, the Israel Government has escalated military action in the Occupied West Bank, Yemen, Lebanon and Syria.

“Congress gathers after the election of a UK Labour Government, a government unwilling to halt arms sales to Israel, unwilling to support the ICC in its prosecution of International Law and unwilling to recognise the State of Palestine.

“Congress calls for a public enquiry into the UK Government’s continued support, both political and military, of the Israeli State’s genocide against the Palestinian people.

“Congress calls on the British Government to:

- deny an export licence to any piece of British manufactured equipment or component which could contribute to the Israeli State’s continuing genocide of the civilian population and wanton destruction of civilian infrastructure in Gaza;
- expel the Israeli Ambassador to the UK;
- join South Africa’s Genocide case against the Israeli State at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, as Ireland has done; and
- officially recognise the State of Palestine.”

Mover: Dundee Trades Union Council

SECTION 10 – INTERNATIONAL
MOTION 112
PALESTINE

“That this Congress continues to be seriously alarmed at the ongoing and advancing genocide and apartheid rule in Gaza and the West Bank by the Israeli State. Despite calling for peace, we note that the UK Labour Government continues to fraternalize and sell arms to Israel.

“The STUC demands the UK Labour Government use all its efforts in the international arena to bring about a cessation of hostilities and find a negotiated solution, using all means at its disposal, including sanctions and divestments, and rejecting UK military escalation and intervention.

“To speed up the process of securing that peaceful settlement, the STUC demands action from the UK government, including:

- effective and immediate sanctions to be placed on the Israeli economy including the seizure of Israeli state assets held in the UK;
- an effective and enforceable regime of sanctions against Israeli traded goods, including raw materials, components and finished goods. Such a ban must include a prohibition on Israeli cargo from UK ports, refineries and terminals alongside exports to Israel of UK goods;
- action to stop the institutions of the City of London being used as a global money laundering hub for the wealthy, and the seizure of UK held or traded assets, including housing and corporate holdings, of targeted supporters of the Netanyahu regime;
- a comprehensive programme of support for UK workers, their families and companies impacted by such actions above, including wage protection and company support while alternate supply chains are established;
- immunity from third party litigation for those workers and their unions taking direct action against Israeli goods in support of Palestinians and in line with the objectives of this motion; and
- to provide full support for all those fleeing the conflict and to receive Palestinian refugees - and all refugees - with compassion and assistance.”

Mover: Glasgow Trades Union Council

SECTION 10 – INTERNATIONAL
MOTION 116

PEACE IS A LABOUR MOVEMENT ISSUE

“That this Congress notes that despite the election of a Labour government, Britain continues to play a belligerent role in international relations by:

- supplying weapons and military, technical, logistical, diplomatic and intelligence assets to assist Israel's genocide in Gaza and attacks on Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iran; and
- supplying British-made weapons, military support, credit and billions of pounds in public funding in trying and failing to achieve a military defeat for Russia in Ukraine, rather than working for a negotiated lasting peace and disarmament.

“Congress notes with alarm that the Labour government has combined announcements of the need for increases in military expenditure with demands for cuts and further public sector austerity, while local authorities and universities face bankruptcy and the NHS has huge waiting lists.

“Congress rejects the politics of lowering living standards and austerity in public services to fund a policy of unending and escalating war that could take us to the brink of nuclear armageddon.

“Congress believes that the trade union and labour movement and the Labour Party should work actively for peace by promoting policies that end its promotion of the global war.

“Congress calls on the STUC General Council to:

- endorse RMT's 2024 Annual General Meeting decision that peace is a labour movement issue, and to call for trade unions and peace organisations to convene a labour and peace movement summit in Scotland to work out the basis of a new foreign policy with the promotion of peace and social justice at its heart; and
- utilise this conference to outline a strategy for the orderly and planned divestment from the arms economy and toward the creation of new, sustainable industries within Scotland.

Mover: **North Lanarkshire Trades Union Council**