

# THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE – A WORKERS ISSUE

Scottish PSC Trade Union Network Newsletter July 2025

This month: Resist Repression - Lessons from Connolly - Time is Killing Us - Send In The Clowns - STUC Youth - PCS Launch - New Unions

**WE ARE ALL**  
**PALESTINE**  
**STATE REPRESSION**  
**CTION**

**Growing Repression Will Effect Us All -  
Workers Have a Duty to Resist**

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## RESIST REPRESSION

At the time of writing it is still possible to **think** that the direct non-violent actions of Palestine Action may be legitimate, by the time you read this, expressing such thoughts may well be illegal.

Regardless of your view on [Palestine Action](#), the criminalising of ideas should make us all very uneasy.

Transgressions such as sympathy for non-violent action in the UK, or the belief that people suffering genocide have a right to defend themselves, cannot be tolerated by this Labour Government.

**This is the purest of Orwellian thought crime.**

If such attacks on speech and thought are normalised, they will inevitably be used against other movements that defy power, struggle for justice and seek a fairer society.

Trade unionists must take up this issue and campaign against the use of anti-terror legislation. Please use this briefing to [write to your MP](#) opposing this alarming development.

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**Glasgow Trades Council have released this statement  
What is your organisation's position?**

## **Glasgow Trades Union Council:**

### **We Are All Palestine Action**

We Are All Palestine Action: we must do everything we can to stop the UK government from designating them a terrorist organisation.

Despite mass peaceful protest against the genocide, the British state remains complicit in the erasure of the Palestinian people.

Palestine Action is a direct action group that has been protesting against the supply of weapons to the Israeli military. Spraying paint and breaking windows is not terrorism - Israel's genocidal war is.

We won't allow the government to repress the rights of protesters. As a movement, we must do everything to defend civil disobedience and oppose parliament's proscription of Palestine Action.

Today, the women who protested the storage of nuclear weapons at Greenham Common are correctly considered heroes. What is the difference between them and Palestine Action?

While we're still allowed to say it, we call on the whole trade union movement to join us in supporting Palestine Action and campaigning publicly and privately to stop this crackdown.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

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## LESSONS FROM CONNOLLY

SPSC gratefully accepted an invite from the [James Connolly Society](#) to provide the main speaker at the annual Commemoration in Edinburgh's Cowgate. The commemoration takes place each year on 5 June close to where [Connolly](#) was born on this date in 1868.



A socialist, and trade union leader, he was executed for his part in the 1916 Easter Rising against British rule in Ireland.

The Palestinian struggle was connected to Connolly's struggle, the struggle against settler colonialism globally. And all struggles of marginalised and oppressed people.

We must be inspired by Connolly – by his consistent class-based opposition to capitalism, his understanding of the connectivity of issues, and of how the world really works.

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## TIME IS KILLING US – SPSC Delegation Report Back

Our delegates recently returned from a 10-day visit to Palestine in early June and have been giving presentations at a series of public meetings, reporting back on their recent visit.

Part of their visit involved working with partners of the [Plant a Tree in Palestine](#) project – one farmer told the delegation about living under occupation and the rapidly encroaching settlement building on his village land; he was keen that we understand that time is running out - in his own words **“Time is killing us”**.

There are further report-back meetings scheduled in [Peebles](#) on 3 July and [Falkirk](#) on 20 August, with more to be added.

There is no substitute for first-hand reports from those who have seen with their own eyes the reality of land confiscation, illegal settlement and dispossession, coupled with rampant discrimination and denial of basic rights.

Get in touch and we will arrange for one of our delegates to speak at your union's Branch meeting.

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## CONFERENCES - Youth Action

The Annual [STUC Youth Conference](#) took place on the 14th and 15th June at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel in Clydebank. The conference is a forum for discussion and debate on issues impacting young people.

With a median age in Gaza of only 19, the genocide has disproportionately impacted the young, such a war on the young must have been on many delegates minds.

A [PCS](#) motion in Solidarity with Palestine was carried, which instructs the Youth Committee to promote union affiliation to the campaign, and to lobby representatives, demanding that UK and Scottish Governments work to ensure safe delivery of [UNRWA](#) aid, and also, to support demonstrations and solidarity actions. An Emergency motion was also adopted, which called for pressure to be applied to the UK Government to sanction Israel, with the STUC policy of [Boycott, Divest and Sanctions](#) reiterated, and an end to the training of IDF Soldiers by the British Army demanded.

**How many more motions need to be passed before we enact our BDS policies?**

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## SWINNEY & SARWAR - Send In The Clowns?



In the absence of the engagement promised during the STUC Congress, both John Swinney and Anas Sarwar were contacted again by SPSC.

Finally we did receive responses from both - a lengthy generic response sent on behalf of the First Minister which did not address either of the two specific questions asked!

He has again been asked to address the points raised.

The short reply from Anas was more positive, stating that he *“appreciated the conversation and took the points raised on board. He supports the enforcement of the [ICC](#) (warrant) and [ICJ](#) (Genocide case), is following up on the other suggestion (assisting South Africa's case) and is in regular communication with embassies that have taken a similar interest.”*



Despite this, it is a Labour Government that is unapologetically participating in Israel's genocide.

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## PCS ACTION



Following on from our participation in the Scottish Government Group [PCS](#) annual Conference in May, this engagement has continued, and we will provide a speaker for West & Central Scotland Branch on 3 July.

Meanwhile, workers have launched a targeted boycott of [Coca-Cola](#) products in staff canteens. We provided a speaker for the successful launch event at St Andrews House on 18 June.



**PCS members are taking workplace action - what can you do?**

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## FEATURE - A War On Workers

Israel's assault on the Palestinian people is not only military, it is economic. In Gaza, almost all jobs have been wiped out, whilst in the West Bank, hundreds of thousands of jobs have vanishing under raids, settler attacks, and closures. This is not accidental, it is a systematic policy to destroy the Palestinian economy and erase a people's ability to survive and resist. The aim is not even to exploit, it is to eliminate. Workers are being deliberately starved, bombed, and erased, not just as individuals, but as a class and as a people.



Despite everything, independent trade unions are rising in resistance, organising from the ground up. Worker-led, and uncompromising, these unions are resisting both occupation and economic strangulation. Rejecting “normalisation” with Israeli institutions and fighting for dignity, justice, and liberation. They are a key force in the wider Palestinian struggle and need our support.

An important part of the recent SPSC delegation to Palestine was meeting with the [Palestinian New Federation of Trade Unions](#) (The New Unions). They appealed directly for us to develop and encourage effective solidarity. SPSC calls on unions and workers to forge links with The New Unions, and to build this solidarity. ***We are here to help facilitate links with The New Unions - get in touch to find out more.***

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## CURRENT CAMPAIGNS



The Jewish National Fund (JNF) serves as a global fundraiser for Israeli ethnic cleansing, occupation and apartheid. Despite this role in institutionalised racism and apartheid, the JNF enjoys charitable status in over 50 countries including Scotland!

This comes with financial privileges including tax relief, Canada has led the way by revoking this status, the [regulator in Scotland](#) must do the same.

It has been [STUC policy since 2012](#) to campaign to have charitable status revoked.

## WRITE TO - Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

Signatures continue to be added to our [Statement of Solidarity with Palestinian Workers](#) these will soon be published on the website. Have **you** signed yet?

## READ & SIGN in Solidarity NOW

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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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Visit our website to find out about coming events  
and BDS campaigns - [www.scottishpsc.org.uk](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk)

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