

STUC Congress Motions Passed April 2026

Apartheid Free Zones Scotland

“That this Congress notes and welcomes the many motions carried last year cementing our continued and committed support for the Palestinian people and the commitment to Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) of Israeli goods and services.

“Congress believes declaring your workplace, trade union, or community group an Apartheid Free Zone (AFZ) is pledging to support the principles of the BDS Movement and boycotting Israeli products and institutions, and those international companies who profit from Israel’s human rights abuses.

“Therefore, Congress calls on the General Council to:

- uphold the previous commitments and STUC policy to support the BDS movement and increase the visibility of the STUC and wider trade union movement in the BDS campaign;
- declare all STUC workplaces as Apartheid Free Zones;
- encourage all affiliates to declare their respective unions and workplaces as Apartheid free zones; and
- work with affiliates, AFZ, and Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign (SPSC) to promote and encourage the campaign.”

Mover: West Lothian Trades Union Council

Composite M (covering Motions 48 & 49)

Ethical Procurement

“Congress believes that the Scottish Government Procurement Policy should be strengthened to prioritise human rights, ethical practices, and international law. The U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights should play a central role in due diligence processes.

“Congress believes our public bodies should be empowered to exclude companies from procurement:

- when they engage in unethical, illegal, or exploitative practices;
- when their conduct undermines public trust in the ethical standards of our public bodies; and
- when continuing such contracts risk reputational damage to our public bodies.

“Congress believes public contracts should reflect the values of the society they serve. Values rooted in dignity, fairness, and responsibility. Congress expects our procurement systems to uphold these principles.

“Congress calls on the General Council to lobby the Scottish Government to amend the Scottish Procurement Policy Handbook as follows:

Section 14. Human Rights be amended such that:

- In carrying out due diligence, public bodies shall give any assessment of human rights a weight equal to other considerations; and
- Public bodies have a legal obligation to exclude companies from tendering for public supply contracts where the company, or any parent or subsidiary company, is known to have directly encouraged or assisted, financially or materially, the armed forces, security forces, or police forces of any state where there is evidence that those forces have committed war crimes, or have breached the Geneva Convention or the Genocide Convention or any other International Humanitarian Law.

Section 24. Fraud response procedures, anti-competitive practices and cyber security be amended such that:

- Public bodies have a legal obligation to exclude companies from tendering for public supply contracts where the company, or any parent or subsidiary company, has been found previously to have engaged in anti-competitive practices, such as collusion and conflict of interest, cartel activity or bid rigging practices, whether within the UK or in any other market.”

Mover: Edinburgh Trades Union Council

Composite R (covering Motions 108, 109, 111)

International Crisis

“That this Congress notes:

- the United States has for years pursued a policy of economic warfare, political destabilisation, and military intimidation and aggression against Venezuela;
- the Trump administration’s escalating actions against Venezuelans have been widely considered as illegal under international law, and the ultimate abduction of their President, Nicolas Maduro, has rightly been condemned by the trade union movement;
- the US launched an act of piracy from Scotland to steal tankers of oil north of our shores;
- US military aircrafts have used Scottish airports and airspace as part of wider US military operations; and
- allowing Scotland’s land, airspace, and infrastructure to be used by US military forces risks implicating Scotland in acts of aggression that violate international law and the sovereignty of other nations.

“However, Congress believes our political leaders have failed to match this immediate recognition of lawlessness. Keir Starmer’s response, which fails to condemn US actions as a breach of international law, demonstrates complicity and is an alarming demonstration that our political leaders will abandon any morals they profess in order to guard self-interest.

“Furthermore, Congress notes Starmer’s announcement committing to 5% GDP on military spending, which may have short term benefits for jobs, and believes trade unions must act to stop British weapons being used to destroy lives and nations across the globe.

“Congress believes that:

- no nation has the right to interfere militarily or economically in the sovereign affairs of another;
- Scotland should pursue a foreign policy based on peace, international solidarity, and respect for national self-determination;
- the use of Scottish airports, civilian infrastructure and resources by US warplanes engaged in aggressive or imperialist actions directly contradicts these principles;
- Scotland must not be complicit—directly or indirectly—in warmongering, imperialism, or the suffering of civilian populations abroad; and
- we must condemn any attempt to normalise or conceal Scotland’s involvement in such actions.

“Congress calls on the General Council to:

- lobby MPs and MSPs to reject efforts to escalate towards more war and the breakdown of international law;
- support an immediate end to the use of Scottish airports, airspace, and facilities by US warplanes involved in acts of aggression against Venezuela or any other sovereign state;
- demand transparency and accountability from the Scottish and UK Governments regarding all foreign military use of Scottish territory;
- support international efforts to end sanctions, military intervention, and interference against Venezuela;
- stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people and with all nations resisting imperialist aggression;
- campaign for a future in which Scotland’s land and resources are used for peace, not war;
- to work with all bodies, be it political, trade union, or grassroots, to stop any further use of Scottish territory as a launchpad for US military activity, and exert our rights of sovereignty against this imperialist aggression; even if this includes expelling all US military personnel from Scottish soil; and
- support affiliates to develop an anti-imperialist industrial strategy.”

Mover: Musicians’ Union