

ASLEF AAD (National Conference) - motions passed May 2026

Item 36 - Responsible Procurement and Ethical Investment (Edinburgh No1 Branch)

That this 2026 AAD recognises that ASLEF's purchasing and investment decisions have significant impacts on the environment and society, both locally and globally. Responsible procurement and investments offer an opportunity to lead by example—ensuring our practices reflect our ethical values and support environmental sustainability, social justice, and workers' rights.

Conference believes there is a need to formalise commitments to ethical procurement and investment, as other unions have done, enabling greater focus and scrutiny of decision making.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee is instructed to research and, based on best practice, develop and publish both a **Responsible Procurement Policy** and a **Responsible Investment Policy** applicable at all levels of the union and to be followed by all who represent ASLEF, ensuring that:

Environmental, social, and labour standards are applied alongside price and quality in all procurement decisions;

- Preference is given to suppliers who share ASLEF's values, with ongoing engagement to raise standards;
- Transparency, fairness, and best practice are embedded throughout all procurement processes;
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and not-for-profit suppliers are encouraged to participate;
- ASLEF has no investment or procurement dealings with organisations known to breach labour or health and safety laws, cause environmental harm, engage in arms trading, or act in ways incompatible with union policies (e.g., where the union supports boycott campaigns);
- Investments prioritise renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and strong labour rights and governance practices;
- A review of existing procurement and investments is carried out, and where non-compliant products, services, or investments are found, a judicious plan is put in place to address these;
- Higher ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards are promoted through active and transparent engagement with pension fund managers;
- Pension fund trustees representing ASLEF members champion the union's ethical criteria in all investment decisions;

Further, the Executive Committee is instructed to ensure that a detailed report on the implementation and outcomes of these policies is included in the union's annual report going forward, enabling scrutiny of decision making, and allowing progress to be measured.

Item 37 - Opposing State Repression in the UK (Edinburgh No1 Branch)

That this 2026 AAD condemns the escalation of state repression in the UK — including the 2025 proscription of Palestine Action — a gross abuse of state power which criminalises peaceful protest and represents an Orwellian “thought crime” approach to political dissent.

Conference notes with alarm that this repression has been enabled by the political establishment, the media, and institutions, including much of the trade union movement, which has largely remained silent. This complicity legitimises state overreach and risks leaving our movement lacking both relevance and credibility.

Conference further understands that these attacks on democratic rights, freedom of speech, activism, and trade union solidarity will not stop here. Once normalised, such repression will inevitably be used against any progressive movement that challenges the established order.

Conference notes specific examples including:

- The proscription of Palestine Action, criminalising peaceful direct action;
- Use of terror legislation, heavy policing, surveillance, and intimidation of activists;
- Arrests and legal action for organising or participating in lawful demonstrations;
- Harassment campaigns by police, with activists subjected to repeated home visits — sometimes several in one day;
- Armed police deployed against people handing out leaflets;
- Thousands arrested for peaceful opposition to genocide;
- Restrictions on free speech in workplaces, universities, and public forums under the guise of security or antisemitism concerns.

Conference instructs the Executive Committee to:

- Publicly oppose state repression, including by condemning the proscription of Palestine Action;
- Support and defend the rights of activists and trade unionists to organise and campaign in solidarity with Palestine;
- Work with other unions, civil society, and legal groups to challenge and overturn repressive laws and practices;
- Call out institutional complicity, including within the trade union movement;
- Educate members on resisting repression and defending solidarity across all causes;
- Campaign to safeguard democratic freedoms and use all means at disposal to lobby for the reversal of laws and policies that criminalise activism.