Model Motion 2

Our Branch is an Apartheid-Free Zone

This Branch notes:

1. The long-standing internationalist traditions of the Scottish trade union movement and its solidarity with workers struggling against racism, colonialism, occupation and oppression.
2. The continuing denial of Palestinian people's fundamental rights, including their rights to freedom, equality, self-determination and dignity.
3. The importance of the international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, initiated by Palestinian civil society, as a means of applying peaceful economic and institutional pressure to end apartheid and violations of Palestinian rights.
4. The Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) has committed to the Apartheid Free Zones Scotland campaign.
5. The STUC Congress 2026 decision called for all STUC workplaces to become Apartheid Free Zones and for affiliated unions to be encouraged to make the same commitment.
6. That trade unions have a particular responsibility to ensure that their investment policies, procurement practices, workplace activities and institutional relationships reflect their commitments to equality and international solidarity.

This Branch believes:

1. Trade unions should not knowingly support or benefit from institutions, companies or economic activities implicated in violations of Palestinian human rights.
2. Declaring our branch an Apartheid-Free Zone is a meaningful step towards turning trade union policy into action.
3. Our branch has a responsibility to promote awareness, encourage collective action and build solidarity with Palestinian workers and communities.

This Branch resolves to:

1. Formally declare this trade union branch an Apartheid-Free Zone (AFZ) signing up at the Apartheid Free Scotland website.
2. Write to the Executive Committee / General Secretary asking that the union becomes an AFZ nationally.
3. Encourage members to support ethical procurement and investment policies, including campaigning for the divestment of union and workers' pension funds from companies implicated in serious human rights violations.
4. Promote the Apartheid-Free Zones campaign among members, other union branches, workplaces and local communities, encouraging other branches and trades union councils to declare themselves Apartheid-Free Zones.
5. Work with the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign (SPSC), Apartheid Free Zones Scotland and other trade union organisations to develop practical solidarity initiatives.

Reference:

AFZ Toolkit:

https://bdsmovement.net/sites/default/files/AFZ_Toolkit.pdf

AFZ Scotland:

https://apartheidfree.scot/unions/