Model Motion 5

Stop Rosebank – Defend Workers, Climate Justice, Palestinian Human Rights and International Solidarity

This Branch notes:

1. The proposed Rosebank oil field in the North Sea represents a major expansion of fossil fuel extraction at a time when urgent action is needed to tackle the climate emergency.
2. The development is estimated to produce carbon emissions equivalent to approximately 70% of the UK's annual emissions.
3. Rosebank will do nothing meaningful to reduce household energy bills or guarantee energy security, as its oil is intended primarily for sale on the international market.
4. The UK oil and gas workforce has experienced significant job losses over the past decade, demonstrating that continued reliance on fossil fuel extraction does not guarantee secure employment for workers.
5. Workers in the oil and gas industry deserve a properly funded, worker-led just transition, with secure, well-paid jobs, retraining opportunities and investment in renewable energy and associated industries.
6. Ten trade unions, including UNISON, the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), the National Education Union (NEU), PCS and others, have called on the Labour government to reject Rosebank.
7. Trade unions have a responsibility to defend workers' interests while campaigning for a safe, sustainable and socially just future.
8. Rosebank's co-owner, Ithaca Energy, is majority-owned by Delek Group, one of Israel's major energy companies.
9. Delek Group has been identified by the United Nations in connection with business activities linked to settlements which are illegal under international law.
10. Delek Israel, a subsidiary of Delek Group, supplies fuel to the Israeli military, with military personnel able to refuel at hundreds of its petrol stations.
11. More than £200 million in profits could flow to Delek Group through its ownership interests in Rosebank.
12. Delek Group has already reportedly made approximately $1 billion through its North Sea oil and gas interests via Ithaca Energy.
13. Legal experts have warned that approving Rosebank could expose the UK Government to the risk of breaching its obligations under international law.
14. The Palestinian people continue to face occupation, dispossession, violence and grave violations of their human rights, including the ongoing genocide in Gaza.
15. Trade unions have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with oppressed peoples and oppose corporate activities that contribute to or profit from human rights abuses.

This Branch believes:

1. Climate change is a trade union issue, affecting workers' health, safety, livelihoods and the communities in which we live and work.
2. The interests of workers and the environment are not in conflict. Workers must not be made to pay the price for the failures of successive governments and the fossil fuel industry.
3. Public money and government support should be directed towards renewable energy, public services and sustainable industries rather than subsidising further fossil fuel extraction.
4. A just transition must be based on trade union involvement, collective bargaining, secure employment, decent wages and strong employment protections.

5. Rosebank risks locking the UK into further fossil fuel dependency while undermining our climate commitments.
6. International solidarity is a fundamental trade union principle. We cannot separate our commitment to workers' rights, equality and human dignity at home from our responsibility to oppose exploitation, occupation and human rights abuses internationally.
7. Public money, tax relief and government approvals must not support corporations whose activities violate international law or facilitate the oppression of other peoples.
8. The UK Government must uphold its obligations under international law and ensure that British economic and energy policy does not enable or financially benefit companies implicated in human rights abuses.
9. Climate justice, Palestinian solidarity and workers' rights are interconnected struggles for a fairer and more just world.

This Branch resolves to:

1. Submit this motion to the appropriate union structures, requesting that the union's national leadership takes the necessary action to join the other ten trade unions who have signed the open letter opposing Rosebank. Formally adding our union's name to the campaign and supporting the call for a transition away from fossil fuels.
2. Publicly oppose the development of the Rosebank oil field and call on the UK government to reject its approval.
3. Publicise this position among our members and encourage branches and representatives to support the campaign, including by encouraging members to send the pre-populated Action Network letter.
4. Support a worker-led just transition for oil and gas workers, guaranteeing secure, well-paid employment, retraining, pension protection and investment in renewable energy industries.
5. Work with other trade unions, environmental organisations and community campaigns to build opposition to Rosebank and further fossil fuel expansion.

Reference:

Stop Rosebank (10 unions Call):

https://www.stopcambo.org.uk/updates/ten-trade-unions-call-on-uk-government-to-reject-controversial-rosebank-oil-field

Stop Rosebank: Action Network Letter:

https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/no-oil-profits-for-occupation-and-genocide

Energy Apartheid:

https://www.scottishpsc.org.uk/campaigns/energy-apartheid-campaign/