



Photo: Jess Hurd

Annual Report

2024



**PALESTINE
SOLIDARITY
CAMPAIGN**

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Introduction from PSC Chair

We meet at this year's AGM having witnessed over a year of what has been the most horrific assault on the Palestinian people. The genocide that we have watched unfold has been live-streamed across our social media screens and the things that we have witnessed we will never be able to forget.

The estimations of those killed increases on a daily basis and we will not truly know the numbers until the war on Gaza ends. Considering that just over 50% of the population of Gaza are children, it is not surprising that the number of children killed in the attacks are highly represented, but the reality is worse than we could have imagined: around 44% of verified victims are children and 26% women. Over 17,000 children have now been killed and the age group most represented among the dead are five to nine-year-olds.

Across the West Bank attacks have increased significantly since October. Over 750 Palestinians have been killed – a report by DCIP states that 20 percent of the Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 2000 have been killed after October 7th, 2023 at a rate of one child every two days.

And yet despite this, our political leaders continue to sell Israel weapons even as it stands charged in the International Court of Justice for the crime of genocide. It is obscene to refuse to halt arms sales at a time when two senior Israeli government leaders stand personally accused of seven war crimes and crimes against humanity. Even following the ICC issuing arrest warrants for Israeli leaders including Benjamin Netanyahu, our government has continued to support Israel, continued to supply arms and refused to say that they would arrest Netanyahu if he tries to enter Britain. All of this further underlines the disgrace of Britain's ongoing complicity in Israel's genocide.

In the midst of all of this darkness the only light has been the endurance of the Palestinian people and the extraordinary flowering of solidarity we have seen globally but especially here in the UK from ordinary people. The huge turnout at our national demonstrations has been astonishing, at its height over 800,000 but regularly more than 100,000 on the streets of London calling for a ceasefire and for our government to stop arming Israel. We have not witnessed this level of sustained national mobilisation since the suffragettes. Our membership and branches have grown in number and we have seen local demonstrations, vigils, meetings and boycott actions on a weekly basis.

We have worked with our trade union partners to build support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaign. This follows the call from our Palestinian trade union partners asking for the global trade union movement to pressure organisations and companies complicit with Israel's crimes. That call makes explicit the need for trade unions to build BDS campaigns and to make their unions apartheid-free zones.

Right now every ounce of our energy and effort must be devoted to using all levers of pressure to call for a ceasefire, for the ending of weapon sales to Israel and for immediate aid to be allowed into Gaza.

But our longer term task is to harness all the energy and activism that has been brought into the movement over the last year into sustained campaigns to achieve the change required to enable the Palestinian people to finally be free.

We know that history did not begin on October 7th 2023. Palestinians have suffered decades of oppression and dispossession. This genocide is built on the foundations of more than 75 years of colonisation, military occupation and apartheid.

There is much that we must continue to do in building our movement but we cannot and must not stop until there is a permanent ceasefire, until the genocide is ended, until all the walls of apartheid are dismantled – until the day when Palestinians are finally free.

In solidarity,

Louise Regan

PSC Chair



Objective 1: Build solidarity

Actions to meet the objective of raising awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people and to build solidarity with their struggle for liberation, have continued to reach unprecedented levels of audience as we have led the response in the UK to Israel's continuing genocide in Gaza. We have maintained the cycle of regular national marches as a focal point of solidarity. At the time of writing we are planning the last march for 2024 which will bring the total since October 2023 to 24, the most recent of which are still drawing crowds of up to 100,000. A mobilisation of this size and duration has not been seen in Britain since the suffragette movement. The marches deliver a visible sign of solidarity to Palestinians that they are not alone, and to people in the UK a demonstration of the size of the solidarity movement. But crucially a key purpose is to galvanise people to take the energy of the streets into sustained boycott and divestment campaigns in their communities, driven by PSC's network of branches. PSC's increased visibility through the marches, and through growth of social media following, has led to a huge increase in our subscriber base – those who sign up to receive regular email call-outs for action – which has grown from just below 70,000 to 275,000.

The national mobilisations have enabled us to provide platforms for Palestinian speakers – but alongside these, we have continued to ensure that key Palestinian voices are given audiences at our fringe meetings at party Conferences, Trade Union Conferences, and three Conferences we have hosted, on Divestment, for Trade Unionists and for students. Logistical challenges for our Palestinian partners the Palestinian Institute for Public Diplomacy (PIPD) have meant we were able to hold fewer solidarity sessions than planned – online events designed to platform Palestinian speakers from across historic Palestine to address key aspects of the ongoing struggle for liberation – but these remain part of our planning going forward.

On the 8th May, International Women's Day, branches amplified Palestinian women's voices in our local communities and hosted Palestinian women from Gaza. These events served to highlight the specific impact on women due to the violent, misogynistic nature of settler-colonial apartheid.



Protest in Cardiff as part of a National Day of Action.

Whilst we have continued to undertake work to platform Palestinian artists and use wider cultural voices to engage new audiences, including through having artists speak and perform at national marches, our capacity to organise significant cultural events at a national level has been diminished by the demands of the mass mobilisations. We have supported the work of newly formed groups such as the White Kite Collective, and sent speakers to established events such as the Beautiful Days Festival and Tolpuddle Festival. Branches have also used cultural spaces as places to raise awareness and reach new audiences, with a good example being Welsh branches holding a stall over all eight days of the National Eisteddfod which attracted over 18,000 visitors. We have developed our inhouse capacity to use video as a means of raising awareness, such as the one produced to address the ongoing Nakba as part of the commemorations in May, and ones used to highlight ongoing BDS campaigns.

Once again we provided support to the Big Ride, the cycling event which has become a regular part of the solidarity calendar, with branches engaging along the route and Tower Hamlets branch hosting an end of Ride rally in East London.

Objective 2: Strengthen our campaigning

Broadening civil society space

This year we have continued to face extraordinary and sometimes ridiculous attacks on our ability to campaign freely for Palestinian rights – from the ongoing attempts to demonise and restrict our protests, to calls for PSC to be ‘blacklisted’ by MPs, and the bizarre media portrayal of our massive February lobby as the greatest threat to parliament since the Gunpowder Plot. In the process of pushing back against these assaults we have strengthened our alliances, expanded our political space in key areas, and scored a major victory over the previous Tory government by defeating the toxic anti-boycott bill.

The defeat of the anti-boycott bill, which sought to shield Israel from democratic criticism over human rights abuses and violations of international law, is a major win for our BDS campaigning work. Although it threatened to undermine a wide range of groups that use boycott or divestment tactics for progressive causes, the government made no secret that its target was our campaigns in support of Palestinian rights. Its introduction by the Tory government was part of an international effort by Israel and its allies to undermine the BDS movement through similar laws passed in the USA, Germany and elsewhere.

Although the bill ultimately fell due to the General Election, the government did not simply run out of time. It failed to get this draconian legislation through because of the enormous pressure that we were able to bring to bear. PSC was proud to convene and lead a broad coalition of more than 70 civil society organisations, made up of trade unions, charities, NGOs, faith, climate justice, human rights, and solidarity groups, in opposition to the anti-boycott bill. We secured the backing of the TUC, local councils, and the Scottish government. In February, the Welsh Senedd voted to reject the bill, the result of sustained campaigning led by PSC branches along with other groups in Wales that included our first ever e-action in the Welsh language!

Crucially, ahead of the third reading vote, our e-action was used to send nearly 60,000 constituent letters to MPs and over a thousand people joined our protest outside parliament. All of this pressure helped to push the Labour front bench into

voting against the bill – having initially abstained. By the time it reached the House of Lords, the government was facing fierce opposition, and we knew that the clock was ticking. Along with our civil society partners, we worked with a range of sympathetic peers to draft and submit amendments and bog down the bill in committee stage. Michael Gove himself has since cited this opposition as the reason why the bill did not pass. The defeat of the anti-boycott bill has allowed us to ratchet up our divestment campaigns in local government and universities.

We have maintained our close working relationship with the European Legal Support Center (ELSC) through regular meetings to coordinate support for activists facing attempts to suppress Palestine solidarity, especially in academic contexts. We have provided regular support for students and university staff unfairly subjected to IHRA and related abuse of disciplinary procedures due to their advocacy for Palestinian rights. This includes our involvement in the campaign against the outrageous attempt by the University of Leeds to remove Prof. James Dickins' emeritus status due to his campaigning work and in our organising in defence of Stella Maris, Rector of the University of St Andrews, who has been blocked from carrying out her duties following an email she circulated to students calling for an end to Israel's genocide and apartheid, including our petition signed by over 17,200 people.

We are also challenging media censorship, misrepresentation of the solidarity movement, and anti-Palestinian bias. This includes our e-action letter to Ofcom after ITV censored a t-shirt with a watermelon in the shape of a map of historic Palestine from an episode of Big Brother, and our Ofcom complaint about Sky News's attempt to cover up the racist violence of Israeli football fans in Amsterdam, signed by nearly 35,000 people.

In addition, we have been increasingly involved in challenging censorship and repression in cultural spaces – working in partnership with the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), Artists for Palestine UK, and the British Palestinian Committee to apply both internal and external public pressure where required. For example, our campaign to challenge the Royal Academy was widely covered, after the disgraceful removal of artworks by young artists challenging Israel's genocidal violence against the Palestinian people in Gaza. Here too, this work is far from merely defensive. A fast growing number of arts unions and cultural organisations, as well as tens of thousands of individual artists, have now publicly endorsed the PACBI call. Our work with cultural workers has, for example, helped to strengthen the existing campaign against Barclays sponsorship of Sadler's Wells theatre. PSC worked closely with a coalition of organisations including Queers for Palestine to challenge Israel's participation in the Eurovision Song Contest, helping to make it the most controversial edition in history.

Stop Arming Israel

In January we opened a new front on the Barclays campaign, asking for people to boycott the bank. Launched with a sit-in at a Barclays bank in central London, we have since held four account closure days with more than 4,000 former Barclays customers using our tool to close their accounts so far this year. In May, we took action outside and inside Barclays AGM, which became dominated by both Barclays financing of the arms trade with Israel, and of fossil fuel projects. The week before Barclays AGM, we co-published a new report with campaign partners War on Want and Campaign Against the Arms Trade detailing Barclays increased financial ties with companies arming Israel. We have supported campaigns targeting Barclays sponsorships of cultural events, including the successful Bands Boycott Barclays initiative which saw Barclays forced to sever its sponsorships of a range of music festivals this summer after hundreds of bands and artists refused to

perform at Barclays sponsored events. In addition, we organised a letter-writing campaign and protest outside Wimbledon in opposition to Barclays sponsorship of the tennis tournament, alongside a guerilla projection in Wimbledon to oppose Barclays sponsorship. Throughout the year this has been a major focus of branch campaigning, including a series of Stop Arming Israel/Barclays days of action in March, April, May, June, September, and November with coordinated actions both outside and inside Barclays branches across the country.

Our call for an arms embargo against Israel has dramatically moved up the agenda this year to the extent that by September the government was forced to suspend some arms export licenses. We handed a petition into 10 Downing Street with more than 70,000 signatures, organised a protest at parliament on the 17th of April attended by around 5,000 people, and incorporated the slogan 'Stop arming Israel' into the national demonstrations and as a major theme of our parliamentary lobbies.

With support from the central office, PSC branches have taken action against arms factories and fairs in their areas, including Hastings & Rye PSC's campaign targeting its local General Dynamics factory. Richmond & Kingston PSC continued their opposition to the International Armoured Vehicles arms fair at Twickenham Stadium in January and this years-long campaign has now led to the fair not returning to the stadium in 2025. PSC branches protested outside the DPRTE arms fair in March, the Farnborough Airshow in July, and the SDSC arms fair in November. We are also using an e-action to lobby Sadiq Khan asking him to take action to stop DSEI returning to London in September 2025.

LGPS Divest

For the first half of 2024, this campaign was effectively on hold while we fought the anti-boycott bill. Since then, it has exploded with incredible new energy. PSC has supported the emergence of numerous local campaigns with some early successes – notably in Waltham Forest, where the council committed to divest from arms companies following a local campaign, and Islington, where the council committed to divest from some companies complicit in Israel's illegal settlement enterprise. Centrally we are aiming to ensure that these local campaigns have the tools and infrastructure to campaign effectively without the need to constantly reinvent the wheel – providing model motions, template petitions, leaflets and other resources. We have set up an e-action to write to local councillors and are currently updating our database detailing the complicit investments of LGPS funds. We are also commissioning a legal opinion covering both the ability and the obligation of pension schemes to divest from companies that are complicit in violations of international law. The LGPS Divest campaign was a significant element of the Divest for Palestine conference and day of action in August, and our trade union conference in October. A divestment workshop is planned for early 2025.

No way to treat a child

Through this campaign we have continued to work closely with our long time Palestinian partner organisation, Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCI-P). It was a central theme of our April lobby of parliament, that included an online briefing from DCI-P and the focus of several e-actions including a letter to the Foreign Office in March highlighting 'Israel's war on Palestinian children' sent by over 16,000 supporters to MPs in September amplifying DCI-P's report 'Targeting childhood: Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank'. We further wrote to MPs in November to coincide with UN day of the Child and organised a parliamentary briefing meeting for MPs in December with DCI-P's Advocacy Officer Katherine Ravey.

Stop the JNF

This year grassroots activists in Stop the JNF continued to work with grassroots Palestinian partners (including the Popular Struggle Coordinating Committee and Faza'a) on the Plant a Tree in Palestine project; produced a newsletter covering a range of topics; started planning a delegation to Palestine (which was postponed due to the deteriorating situation in the West Bank); and started work with the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians as they prepare their case to remove charitable status from the JNF UK.

Objective 3 – Build political alliances

Parliamentary lobbying and political party influence

In 2024, we stepped up our parliamentary work. For the first half of the year a key focus was the anti-boycott bill alongside calling for a ceasefire. More recently we have shifted focus onto pressing MPs to end Britain's complicity with Israel's crimes. We have organised four mass lobbies of parliament, and impactful e-actions including the 80,000 people who wrote to their MP ahead of the scheduled vote calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. We have instituted regular briefings in parliament in conjunction with the British Palestinian Committee (BPC) to increase our engagement with supportive MPs and their staff. Through our "Vote Palestine" initiative we helped to make Palestine a major issue in the general election to an extent never seen before.

Post-election, we find ourselves facing a substantially altered political landscape. On the one hand, a Labour government is potentially more susceptible to our political pressure than the previous one despite its ongoing support for Israel. On the other hand, there is a more diverse parliament with a large cohort of Liberal Democrats, the new pro-Palestine independent group, and four Green MPs. We have pushed MPs and the government around some key immediate demands including the restoration of funding for UNRWA, dropping the previous government's objections to the ICC case against Netanyahu, and on arms sales to Israel. On each of these we have seen some movement, although the suspension of only some arms sales remains totally inadequate.

We also had a very active party conference season with a presence at SNP conference and a stall and fringe at Green Party conference for the first time. We had a significant intervention at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool. In addition to our eve of conference national demonstration, we held two fringe meetings – 'Labour, Palestine and Islamophobia' and 'Justice for Palestine: confronting genocide and ending apartheid.' In conjunction with Labour and Palestine we circulated a model resolution which we succeeded in getting onto the agenda but unfortunately was not prioritised for debate.

Trade unions

PSC's Trade Union Advisory Council (TUAC) has continued to meet regularly to discuss and plan solidarity activities in affiliated unions. This led to the drafting and tabling of a motion passed unanimously at TUC Congress. For the first time the motion recognised that all Palestinians – including those with Israeli citizenship – are subjected to a system of apartheid and called for an end to all arms trade with Israel and reaffirmed support for BDS campaigning.

PSC had a presence at almost all trade union conferences this year, engaging with



PCS Union members protest in Newcastle as party of Workplace Day of Action.

thousands of trade union activists at all levels. This included some packed fringe events at the conferences of UNISON, NEU and the TUC, and stalls at a number of other conferences, notably at FBU, GMB, UNISON health/women/LGBTQ+/Retired Members conferences, PCS, TUC young workers and women's conferences. Motions were passed, reinforcing existing policies, sometimes unanimously, at a number of conferences, including the NEU, TUC and RMT.

Trade union affiliates have been involved and taken part in many PSC activities, including a TU bloc and TU speakers at the national demonstrations. We engaged hundreds of trade union members through a successful online Trade Union solidarity seminar series, to raise awareness and develop links between Palestinian and British trade unionists in various sectors such as health workers and education workers.

In October, we held our successful PSC TU conference, hosted by NEU, featuring key Palestinian voices and trade union leaders and activists. Although it was cut slightly short due to the emergency day of action and London rally in Trafalgar Square, the packed event saw important debates and discussions that reflected the strong resolve in the Trade Union movement to step up solidarity work with Palestine, notably around BDS. Affiliations levels have been overall maintained – with the recent addition of Equity at a national level!

Youth and students

2024 saw the student encampments for Palestine that started in the USA arrive in Britain – with protest camps established on at least 35 British campuses. PSC was in close contact with all of the encampment organising groups. The Youth and Students Campaigns Officer, branch activists, and other PSC staff visited many of the actions and provided them with a wide range of support from amplifying their media content, links to legal support resources, workshops on how to achieve their demands, and PSC speakers at the encampments.

All of the encampments were demanding that their universities divest from complicit companies, many using the information from our University Complicity Database to choose targets. This development had been inspired by events in the US but also built on the four occupations (Goldsmiths, Leeds, Bristol and Nottingham), that came out of our day of action in February, and at UCL the following month.



PSC supported student encampments such as the one in Cambridge.

These were all intimately supported by PSC. We were also part of organising the successful walkouts earlier in the year, and held three national days of action, where students took action demanding divestment across the country.

At the start of the year, we were already supporting active divestment campaigns in 21 universities and this number has now grown considerably. One indication of this upsurge of activity is that requests from student societies for our Freshers' Fair materials packs rose from 30 in 2023 to 150 in 2024!

In October we held our successful national student conference, co-organised with PYM and Muslim Students for Palestine and attended by 100 students from universities across Britain. This conference allowed students to come together and collectively strategise for building the movement in the new academic year.

Objective 4: Organise for growth

Membership

During the financial year ending in August, membership grew dramatically at a rate of 76%, taking the total figure to an unprecedented 14,167. The increase in membership we have seen in response to Israel's genocide in Gaza has been sustained throughout the year, as Israel has escalated its attacks across the Middle East.

This year we recruited a new Deputy Director Funding, Membership and Development. This increased capacity and strategic oversight has enabled PSC to devise new strategies for increasing membership, branch activity, and income generation, as well as to plan further recruitment to expand the work of the team.

The project to switch to a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system has proven more complex and labour intensive than anticipated. By the end of 2024, the entire data reconciliation backlog will be cleared and the project to automate the process is scheduled to be completed early in the New Year.

At various points throughout the year, we have delivered successful recruitment emails targeted at high interest periods in our campaigning calendar, which led to sharp uptake in new joiners.

For existing members, we have crafted tailored communications and delivered successful member events, including the Divestment Conference.

We have been receiving digital mobilisation strategy insight from a cutting-edge agency which previously advised us on a *pro bono* basis to help us maximise the support for our campaign to end Israel's genocide in Gaza. These insights are helping us to better formulate, target and analyse our communications and interventions with members and non-members alike.

Branch support and development

This year saw a further expansion of our branch network across England and Wales to a record 93 branches, with several more in the process of being founded.

Given the unprecedented expansion of our branch network and the range of their activities, this year we recruited a Branch Development and Support Officer on a fixed-term basis. Having this increased capacity has ensured that branches have a single point of contact for support, has helped address conflict early and effectively where it arises in branches, and helped develop the skill and knowledge base of our branches. In 2025 we will be expanding this capacity to two full-time, permanent roles.

Hiring full-time capacity in this role has also strengthened the ability of the branch support group to offer workshops to help build organising skills, guidance on conflict resolution, and general advice from experienced activists to help strengthen our branch network across the organisation.

Given the necessity for PSC to be reactive to Israel's escalations, this year we have continued to hold our online branch forums on a weekly basis. This has ensured that branches have always been kept up to date with the latest developments and the national office can hear what is being done in local communities across the UK to campaign for Palestinian liberation.

We also launched a new branch social media support group, with monthly training sessions. Through this network, branches are able to share tips and advice for creating engaging and accessible social media content, as well as to get a steer from the national office on messaging and best practice.

We held two physical branch forums in London and Birmingham which were engaging, informative and collaborative. A third planned branch forum in Cardiff has been postponed to the New Year. We have also continued to support branches with organising a wide range of local events through providing advice, materials, speakers, and promotion.

Income generation

Income for the financial year was £3,431,028, a growth in the year of 357%, far surpassing the target laid out in last year's annual plan to double our income. This incredible increase was delivered due to the outpouring of support from thousands of supporters in response to the barbaric scenes that they have seen of Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza.

We have sent over 20 targeted fundraisers to our large supporter email list, successfully raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for our demonstrations and broader campaigning work. We continue to push those who donate on a one-off basis to switch to recurring donations.

While the vast majority of our donations continue to be small one-off donations from individual donors, this year has also seen us secure several large donations of many thousands of pounds from individuals and national trade unions, and the addition of PSC as a benefactor in several wills.

We have been able to offset the majority of the high costs of our national demonstrations through on-the-day collections by recruiting and training a group of committed collections volunteers.

Introduction

The Annual Plan sets out the next stages in our work to build a mass campaign of solidarity with the Palestinian people to enable the ending of the complicity of the British Government, public bodies, companies and corporations with Israel's system of oppression.

The plan sets out the key priorities for PSC with four key overarching objectives within which campaigns are developed and work organised: building solidarity, strengthening our campaigning, building political alliances, organising for growth. A key principle is to focus on several core campaigns which pending developments, and on review, we sustain from year to year until won. The plan sets out in broad terms the areas of work and the goals and objectives within each campaign. PSC's staff team will map out more detailed plans of action within each work area, and in March we will be holding a branch forum where PSC's network of branches will gather to create a calendar of key campaigning dates for the year. Progress in meeting the goals and objectives is reviewed across the year by the EC.

The plan is written in the context of Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza. This shows no signs of ending and, at the time of writing, is escalating as Israel has launched a campaign of mass ethnic cleansing and erasure in the North of Gaza, which according to the UN is placing every one of the thousands of Palestinians who remain in this area at risk of being killed. For months, we in the solidarity movement have warned that granting Israel impunity for its crimes would not only leave thousands of Palestinians to face further slaughter, but would embolden Israel to provoke a wider conflagration. Now that reality is unfolding with the indiscriminate bombing of Lebanon, which has killed thousands, most of them civilians, and Israel's moves to begin a war with Iran. At such moments when we see the horror intensifying and our government doubling down on its complicity there are two risks we must confront across the movement: The first is that people succumb to despair and hopelessness. All of us can feel moments of impotence in the face of the power that sustains Israel's regime of oppression. But our response needs to be to heed the words of Omar Barghouti, the co-founder of the BDS movement, who told us at our recent Trade Union Conference that we do not have the luxury of feeling despair or genocide fatigue – because Palestinians do not have that luxury. The second risk we must confront is of division and disunity, sometimes expressed in arguments about the tactics we use. Whilst Israel's unleashing of genocide has changed the political realities here and on the ground in Palestine, some fundamental dynamics remain the same. PSC's basic theory of change in line with that of the wider BDS movement does not alter. We believe that Israel will not end its oppression of the Palestinian people, nor dismantle the structures of apartheid which sustain that oppression, without external pressure. The right of Israel to exist as a state that privileges the rights of Jews above Palestinians is supported widely across Israeli society. The two fundamental levers of change will be the ongoing resistance of the Palestinian people and external pressure applied to Israel. Our role is to help apply the latter as part of the global solidarity movement. This means our focus must be an end to the complicity of government, public institutions, companies, and corporations by building a movement that will generate mass involvement in campaigns, pressuring these bodies and working toward Israel becoming diplomatically, politically, financially, and culturally isolated.

We enter 2025 with the highest ever levels of income, membership, branch network, and visibility including across social media. On one simple measure, our subscriber base (those we write to directly to take part in actions) has grown from 65,000 to close to 300,000. We are also now in a political environment where there is a far greater awareness across the public, reflected in opinion polls, of the nature of Israel's oppression, and a greater receptiveness to our messages. We therefore

have increased capacity to generate mass engagement in our campaigning.

We should also be sustained by the knowledge that despite the ongoing complicity of Western Governments, Israel is becoming increasingly isolated – on trial at the world's highest court, its leaders facing prosecution at the ICC, and across the world where Governments like ours do not act their citizens are rallying and winning important boycott and divestment victories. The message is being delivered to corporations around the world: there is no more business as usual with a state enacting the crimes of genocide and apartheid. Companies like G4S, Orange and Puma have been forced to abandon contracts by boycott campaigns – the credit agency Moody's has downgraded Israel's rating, warning it will soon reach junk status. Here in Britain, having campaigned successfully to defeat the Tory Government's anti-boycott bill which would have ended the ability of public bodies to divest from complicit companies, we have been ramping up campaigns targeting local government pension schemes and universities, winning victories with decisions to divest made by Waltham Forest Council and Kings College.

At the same time, there has been an increase across the political establishment of attempts to suppress and demonise the movement via narratives of support for terrorism and antisemitism. In this sense, aspects of our political space are more challenging. This includes our task – as anger grows across the movement at the continuing complicity of the western political establishment – of bringing those sympathetic to the Palestinian cause into campaigns that are strategic and likely to build the movement, not marginalise it or add to its demonisation. A key part of how we do this is to reassert the fundamental anti-racist principles of which we campaign. Anti-racism commits us to confronting and challenging all forms of racism including antisemitism. It also commits us to robustly resisting any attempt to conflate antisemitism with anti-Zionism. We are an anti-Zionist organisation because we understand Zionism as a racist ideology and movement that led to the foundation and expansion of a state founded on the principle that between the river and the sea Jewish people have privileged rights over Palestinians.

This is the context in which we outline plans to build solidarity, strengthen our campaigning, protect our space, cement and build political alliances, and continue to grow PSC as an organisation.

Objective 1: Build solidarity

This objective covers our awareness raising work and providing platforms in the UK for Palestinian voices.

Key themes

Organising large national marches in partnership with the national coalition will continue to be a key part of our actions to generate solidarity for as long as they maintain momentum and we judge them to be of strategic usefulness in generating pressure for a ceasefire, raising awareness of the Palestinian struggle and building support and mobilising for our longer term campaigning. We will keep the regularity and shape of these marches under regular review in consultation with our coalition partners and via the regular weekly online meetings with representatives from PSC branches. Alongside these national marches we will continue to organise national days of action with protests happening in towns and cities across Britain. A national march in London in May will be a centrepiece of our work to raise awareness of the ongoing Nakba, and its foundations in the mass ethnic cleansings of 1947–1949, and the centrality of the right of return as a core Palestinian demand.

We will relaunch the series of online solidarity sessions with PIPD, our Palestinian partner in this project, and continue to create our own video content to inform of the dynamics of Israel's oppression of Palestinians, bring Palestinian voices to an online audience and generate support for our campaigns.

Nationally, we will again provide promotional and logistical support to the Big Ride as required and encourage the support of branches, PSC members and supporters. We are about to start detailed discussions with the Big Ride on the plans for 2025.

Holding cultural events is still a strategic objective to promote Palestinian culture as a way of humanising Palestinian story and engage wider audiences who may then be open to political engagement. A key factor in our ability to do this in the current landscape will be forging partnerships with organisations whose focus is cultural work such as MARS, and White Kite Collective.

PSC recognises the specific impact on Palestinian women due to the violent, misogynist nature of settler-colonial apartheid. We resolve to counter normalisation narratives circulating in some women's groups in the UK and to strengthen our solidarity with Palestinian women/organisations in the UK, in Palestine and internationally.

International Women's Day, March 8th, will be part of our calendar of major events from now on, locally and nationally. In 2025, PSC women will join a Palestine bloc on the Annual Million Women Rise March in co-operation with MWR and other women's organisations, highlighting the links between domestic, sexual, military, colonial and state violence against women.

We will also encourage branches to hold actions on November 25th, United Nations Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

Objective 2: Strengthen our campaigning

This objective covers the core campaigns PSC will undertake in 2025.

Broadening civil society space: defend the right to protest, protecting academic and cultural spaces

Context

Rather than respect and act in line with the overwhelming public support for an end to Israel's genocidal violence and calls for universal human rights and international law to be upheld, governments across the western world have turned to repression. From Germany to the USA, peaceful protests have been criminalised and subjected to police violence. In Britain, there have been sustained attempts to smear the solidarity movement, and we have experienced the unprecedented use of police orders and repressive powers to curtail our right to march and protest. Individuals – including journalists and academics – have been targeted for their support for Palestinian rights including through the outrageous use of anti-terror legislation. We have also witnessed a growing repression and exclusion in cultural, academic, and other public spaces, of the free discussion of historical and contemporary life in Palestine, and the inalienable rights of Palestinian people, amounting to an increasingly widespread pattern of racism against Palestinians.

Our victory over the anti-boycott bill shows that repression can be defeated. We

must build on the experience and the alliances formed during that campaign to overcome these threats. In 2025, we will continue our partnership with ELSC and others to support those who are targeted and challenge instances of repression.

Goals

- Broadened organising space, especially in public institutions, for us to build our work without the restrictions and chilling effect created by the IHRA definition and other forms of repression.
- Effective systems in place to monitor and respond to attacks on civil society space and continue to defend those targeted for their solidarity with Palestine.
- Freedom to protest, campaign and express our support for Palestinian rights.

Objectives

- Oppose any attempt to stigmatise protests in support of Palestinian rights or to curtail our right to protest and campaign, working in conjunction with civil society partners and affiliates. Defend the use of legitimate chants and slogans such as 'From the river to the sea.'
- Continue to work with ELSC to monitor and provide support in instances where Palestine solidarity is subject to suppression in academic and cultural spaces.
- Work with appropriate partners in academic and cultural arenas to challenge attempts to restrict public debate and artistic expression on the nature of the Israeli state and its system of oppression against Palestinians.
- Develop and deliver a workshop for students on challenging repression on campus including the damaging impact of the promotion of the IHRA definition and repressive use of anti-terror legislation.
- Resist (and where possible seek to overturn) the adoption of the IHRA definition by universities and other institutions and challenge its use to silence criticism of Israel.

Stop Arming Israel

Context

This campaign has gained significant energy across two distinct fronts: the ongoing boycott campaign to pressure Barclays to divest from companies producing the weapons used by Israel to massacre Palestinians, and the growing demand for meaningful sanctions on arms exports to Israel. In 2025, we will continue to build momentum behind both strands of this campaign which will also remain a focus of our divestment work on university campuses, and we will continue to oppose arms companies and arms fairs linked to Israel.

Goals

- Two-way arms embargo on Israel.
- British companies, including financial institutions, to end involvement in the arms trade with Israel, including collaborations between British-based companies and Israeli military/policing industries.

Objectives

- Pressure Barclays Bank to cut its ties with arms companies engaged in the two-way arms trade between Britain and Israel, and to cease acting as a primary dealer in Israeli government bonds.
- Provide branches with an accessible high street target with locations across the country that will enable them to develop branches as local hubs for activity in support of Palestinian rights.

- Strengthen our cross-movement relationships by developing a shared campaign focus with other progressive movements.
- Raise public awareness of Israel's use of weapons and military technology to sustain its system of settler-colonialism, occupation, and apartheid, and Palestinian resistance to it, as well as the use of British-made weapons by Israel to carry out war crimes.
- Make use of legal and parliamentary avenues to challenge the government's continued export of arms to Israel.
- Mobilise against arms fairs, including those with a focus on policing and surveillance, using these events as opportunities to raise awareness of the nefarious role of the Israeli surveillance tech industry.

LGPS Divest

Context

LGPS Divest has re-emerged as a major campaign priority following the defeat of the anti-boycott bill and will be a key focus in 2025. PSC branches are at the heart of campaigns across the country that are bringing together scheme members and local residents and putting renewed pressure on councillors and LGPS funds. PSC will continue to support the development of these campaigns including with national resources and facilitate collaboration and the sharing of arguments and experiences to strengthen their effectiveness.

Goals

- Local Government Pension Scheme to divest from all companies complicit in Israel's violations of Palestinian rights. As a first step, immediate divestment from companies complicit in Israel's genocide, and its unlawful military occupation – such as arms companies supplying Israel with weapons and military technology.
- All LGPS funds should implement effective positive and negative screens that exclude all companies complicit in Israeli apartheid going forward.

Objectives

- Provide infrastructure to support branches to build local campaigns – guidance, motions, petitions and materials.
- Create opportunities to share experiences and best practice through in-person and online workshops.
- Work with partners to bring national pressure to bear on LGPS funds.
- Develop the legal arguments in support of divestment including responsibilities under the Genocide Convention, and in response to actions and rulings of the ICJ and ICC.
- Strengthen work with existing trade union partners and develop new partnerships with groups such as Amnesty and others.
- Build support for the goals of the campaign among scheme members, in their trade unions, and among elected local councillors, especially those on pension committees.

No way to treat a child

Context

Palestinian children have borne the brunt of Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza and the escalation of its violence against Palestinians in the West Bank. Through

the No Way to Treat a Child campaign we have continued to develop a model of partnering with a leading Palestinian organisation (DCI-P) that increases our accountability to Palestinian demands and priorities, platforms them as the authority in their struggle and establishes familiarity and links for them with British politicians that can support them when they inevitably come under attack by the Israeli government.

Goals

- An end to British complicity in Israel's violations of Palestinian children's rights, including the arrest and detention of children and the destruction of homes and schools.

Objectives

- Raise awareness amongst parliamentarians of the impact of Israel's violence and system of oppression on Palestinian children, with a demand that Britain acts by ending the British arms trade with Israel.
- Amplify the work of our Palestinian partner organisation (DCI-P) and provide opportunities for them to engage with British parliamentarians.
- Strengthen PSC's relationship with partner organisations in Britain, including trade unions.
- Develop pathways for new people to become involved with PSC's work.

Other BDS campaigns including a new consumer boycott target

Following on from the rapid success of the short-lived Boycott Pret campaign in 2024, we are in dialogue with the BNC about identifying a new high-street target that can provide an additional focus for branch campaigning. It is hoped that a new campaign focused on consumer goods will be in place in early 2025 and the full campaign plan can be launched at the in-person branch forum following the AGM. All PSC members are welcome to attend branch forums.

We will run the 'don't break your fast with an Israeli date' campaign again during Ramadan in 2025, and continue to work with PACBI and other partners towards mainstreaming the cultural and sporting boycotts of Israel, and in opposition to Israel's participation in the Eurovision Song Contest and other international events including FIFA and UEFA.

Stop the JNF

Although it is not possible to prioritise this campaign centrally right now due to already stretched resources, we remain aware of the key role of the JNF in building and sustaining Zionism. Grassroots activists in Stop the JNF will continue their work on this campaign. Currently, they have three areas of work: continuing to liaise with the ICJP as they prepare their case to remove charitable status from the JNF UK; supporting the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee and Faza'a in their work promoting Plant a Tree in Palestine and defending farmers under threat from settlers; reviving the planned Stop the JNF Delegation which was postponed because of the situation in the West Bank. The national office will promote and support these initiatives where possible.

Objective 3: Build political alliances

This objective looks at the core arenas of activism and the alliances we will look to build in 2025.

Parliamentary lobbying and political party influence

In 2025, we will continue to lobby MPs to oppose the British government's complicity in Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people. Our parliamentary work will aim to maintain pressure on the government over arms sales and to take other immediate steps such as a ban on settlement goods. We will also press the government to support the rulings of the International Court of Justice and the work of the International Criminal Court, and to support all moves at the UN towards the suspension of Israel from the General Assembly as called for by the BNC.

We will maximise the pressure on MPs and hold them accountable through e-actions and in-person lobbies, as well as a range of actions driven by local circumstances such as mass local leafleting and protests at MPs constituency offices.

We will continue to organise regular briefings and 'drop-in sessions' in parliament to make sure MPs and their staff have regular and easy access to us, and to work with supportive MPs to shape Early Day Motions, questions to ministers and other timely parliamentary interventions. It will be important for us to strengthen our links with the new cohorts of Green Party and independent MPs as well as with the Liberal Democrats, in addition to the SNP and supportive Labour MPs, including through our presence at party conferences.

There will also be significant local elections in 2025, and we will once again seek to make Palestine a major issue in the campaign with a particular focus on local government divestment. We plan to increase resources in this area to expand our engagement with local councillors and members of devolved assemblies such as the Senedd – to support the existing work of PSC branches in Wales – as well as our work with grassroots political party activists.

Trade unions

In 2025, we will continue working with our affiliated trade unions to develop their policy towards full support for BDS, as well as recognising and incorporating the analysis of Israel's system of apartheid. We will put in place a plan specific to each nationally affiliated trade union to increase affiliations to PSC from branches and regions and individual membership of PSC from union members. We will work towards increased engagement of affiliated unions in specific PSC campaigns – including through more active involvement in our divestment work – and better links between PSC branches and union branches and local Trades Councils.

We will explore sectoral issues with trade union partners, including those implicated in negotiations towards a trade deal with Israel as envisioned in the 2030 UK-Israel Roadmap. We will build on our successful TU online seminars and continue to seek ways to facilitate links and dialogue between Palestinian trade unionists and their counterparts in Britain.

It is essential to be alert to efforts to promote normalisation initiatives within the TU movement by those who seek to undermine solidarity by reducing Israel's system of apartheid to a problem of mutual animosity between Israelis and Palestinians. As the situation permits, we will seek to resume trade union delegations to Palestine, and work on a strategy for political education within the trade union movement.

Achieving all of this will require additional capacity and we are looking to boost staff resources in this area.

Youth and students

This year we will step up our divestment work on university campuses and equip students with the knowledge and resources they need to run effective, strategic campaigns that achieve real progress, and feel confident challenging any forms of repression they face. We will encourage a wide range of student actions demanding divestment, and will continue to provide support, including visiting universities and running workshops. We will continue to expand avenues of student organising including reassessing the opportunities for engagement with the NUS, ensuring that our student campaigns take place on a national scale, are empowering for students to make real change, and contribute to the wider movement for Palestinian liberation.

The past year has seen a major influx of young people into PSC and the wider solidarity movement. We now need to ensure this mobilisation of young people through our marches and other actions is leading to sustained engagement in our branch structure. To this end, we have produced a workshop for branches on engaging young people in their work and will continue to work with branches to support them in this. We will also continue to support young people organising with PSC through the Youth and Student Committee.

Objective 4: Organise for growth

This objective looks at the actions we will take to build and support branches and membership and sustain income growth.

Membership

In 2025 we want to build on the unprecedented growth that we have seen in membership in 2024 by more proactively recruiting new members from the large pool of hundreds of thousands of supporters who attend our demonstrations and interact with our online content. We will roll out always-on member recruitment social media advertising to ensure that those who have already shown an interest in our work will be consistently encouraged to sign up as members. We will look to completely remodel new member journeys, meaning that those joining are introduced to the full range of ways that they can get involved in our campaigns.

Branches form a crucial arena for new member recruitment so we will support branches to recruit new members locally by developing recruitment materials which include QR codes and by providing training and guidance on how branches can develop their own strategies for converting their supporters into members.

We also want to expand our offer for existing members to increase retention and engagement in our campaigns. We will implement a new system for members to more easily alter direct debits, increasing income and also releasing staff capacity. We will examine the effectiveness of the existing membership newsletter format and roll out a new newsletter by the end of the year. We will also undertake a cost-benefit analysis of and trial direct mail marketing campaign to members. We will also implement a new journey for members who are lapsing to increase retention.

To supplement this expanded member support and engagement plan we will look to expand our member support capacity into a permanent role.

Branch support and development

Given the unprecedented increase in the number of branches and the deeper level of branch engagement across the board, combined with the demands of a rapidly expanding membership, it is clear that we must expand our staff capacity in these areas. In 2025 we will be appointing two permanent full-time Branch Development and Support Officers. This will free up capacity to proactively set up new branches in geographical regions where we have lots of members but no branch, while continuing to service day-to-day branch needs and have a single point of contact for branches with the national office.

Upon completion of our CRM upgrade project, we will be better able to support branches with the tracking and updating of their local membership lists. We will be rolling out a new branch resources web page where branches will be able to download their membership data, and access key branch-only forms and resources.

Income generation

We expect income to decrease in 2025 from the unprecedented rate that we saw it rise to this year, but we are putting plans in place to ensure that we secure long-term sustainable income which will put PSC on a strong footing for years to come.

We will implement a new digital engagement and fundraising strategy, informed by input from an external agency with expertise in this area to ensure consistent and recurring individual donations. As part of this strategy we will roll out always-on social media advertising to grow our email list and ensure a steady stream of donations, alongside our regular fundraising drives. We will also remodel PSC's website, with a key focus on income generation, including better promotion of our web shop.

We will remodel our trade union affiliation and donation strategy, including rolling out a new affiliation web form, making it easier for branches and regions to affiliate.

We will explore a new legacies offer, including working with legal partners to offer a free will-writing service and update our big donor engagement journey.

We will explore expanding staff capacity to support the growth of work in these areas and we will also deepen our engagement with collections team volunteers for other fundraising opportunities.

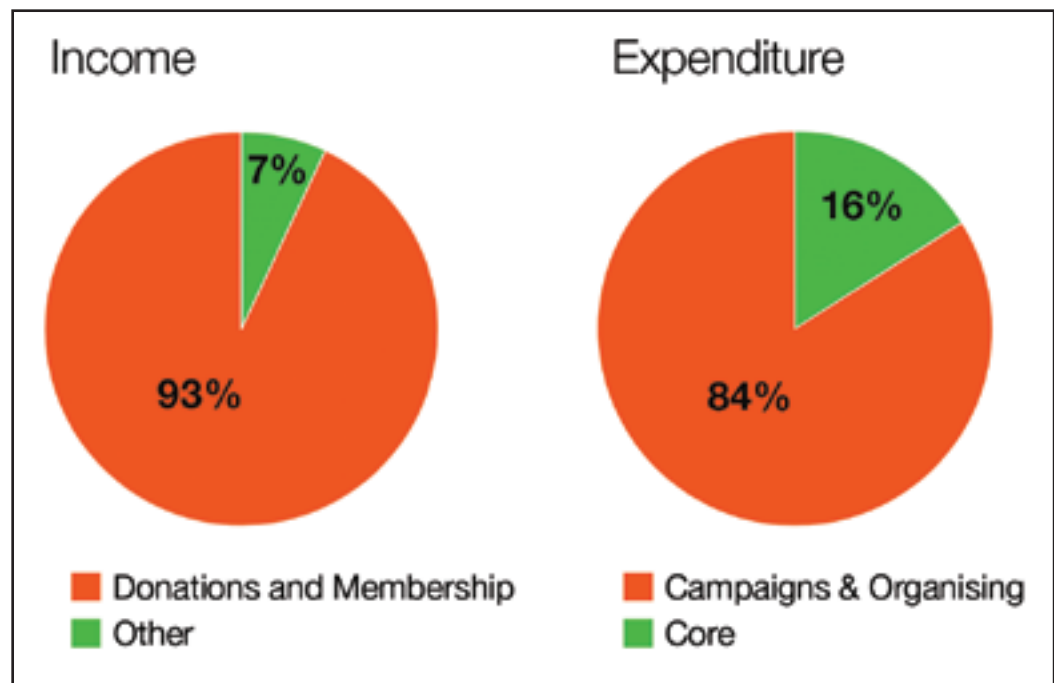
John Ellis, Treasurer

As PSC led the response in the UK to Israel’s genocide against the Palestinian people, the public increased their support considerably. The Campaign had a surplus of £1,555,000 compared with a deficit of £157,000 in the previous year.

Income increased by almost 350% to £3,319,000 from £746,000. PSC’s level of activity also increased dramatically with national demonstrations monthly and increased support for branches. This saw expenditure increasing to £1,764,000 from £903,000. The surplus on the sale of merchandise rose to £168,000 from £20,000 in 2022/23.

Staffing increased to a full-time equivalent of 18.5 by the year end from 15 the previous year. A further 5 are being recruited in 2024/25.

We are anticipating and budgeting for a decline in income and the accumulated surplus will be used to maintain staffing and activity levels. Advice is being sought on improving our fundraising in order to ensure the level of staffing and activity can be sustained in what will be a very difficult period for Palestinians.



Funds

PSC manages funds allocated for specific purposes. These are:

Emergency Campaign Fund: The Emergency Campaign Fund is designed to ensure sufficient funds are available to respond to any emergency in Palestine or for the Campaign. In October 2023 this fund enabled PSC to immediately launch a campaign in response to the attack on Gaza and the ongoing repression in the West Bank. There was no budget for this campaign in the original 2023/24 annual budget. As of 31 August 2024 this fund has been replaced and increased to £455,000.

Campaign Development Fund: The Campaign Development Fund is utilised for the ongoing development of PSC. It commenced the current financial year with a balance of £nil. It has now been re-instated to £400,000. The fund was used for additional staffing, equipment and IT costs.

Working Capital Contingency Fund: The Working Capital Contingency Fund is vital for addressing fluctuations in income, unexpected expenses, and providing working capital. PSC aims to maintain a fund equivalent to three months' expenditure, aligning with recommended practices in the Voluntary Sector. Plans are in place to achieve this target over the coming years, it currently stands at £450,000.

Premises Fund: The Premises Fund is earmarked to facilitate the office relocation without impacting campaigning.

Accounts and independent examination

The accounts information on this and the next page has been taken from PSC's annual accounts which were approved by the Executive on 9 December 2024. Members can obtain a copy by emailing the office.

The accounts were prepared by independent accountants, Knox Cropper Chartered Accountants, from the records maintained by PSC staff.

Income & Expenditure Account

Year to 31 August 2024

	Year to 31 Aug 2024 £	Year to 31 Aug 2023 £
Income		
Donations and membership	3,093,595	688,643
Other income	57,617	37,319
Merchandise sales surplus	168,118	19,926
Total income	3,319,330	745,888
Expenditure		
Campaigning & organising	739,775	109,360
Staffing	829,143	649,601
Office, administration & overheads	195,400	144,065
Total expenditure	1,764,318	903,026
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	£1,555,012	£(157,138)

Balance Sheet

As at 31 August 2024

	As at 31 Aug 2024 £	As at 31 Aug 2023 £
Fixed assets , net book value	2,560	1,706
Current assets		
Stocks	20,490	19,048
Debtors & prepayments	14,574	24,676
Cash at bank	1,929,644	246,840
	1,964,708	290,564
Current liabilities		
Creditors, taxation and social security	130,634	29,452
Income in advance	28,206	9,402
	158,840	38,854
Net current assets	1,805,868	251,710
Net assets	£1,808,428	£253,416
<i>Represented by</i>		
Designated funds		
Emergency campaign	455,000	55,000
Campaign development	400,000	0
Working capital contingency	450,000	150,000
Premises	120,000	20,000
Total designated funds	1,425,000	225,000
General funds brought forward		
Brought forward	28,416	28,554
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,555,012	(157,138)
Transfers (to)/from designated funds:		
Emergency campaign	(400,000)	
Campaign development	(400,000)	132,000
Working capital contingency	(300,000)	
Premises	(100,000)	25,000
Total general funds	383,428	28,416
Accumulated funds carried forward	£1,808,428	£253,416

Motion 1: Tackling anti-Palestinian racism

Proposed by Taalib Shamsuddin
Seconded by Suleman Sarwar

Anti-Palestinian Racism (APR) is pervasive and has a profound detrimental impact on the Palestinian peoples and their supporters.

According to UK or international laws, racism can manifest in several ways including but not limited to intent, harassment, hostility, stereotyping, disparate treatment, disparate impact, exclusion, segregation, defamation, victimisation, prejudice, bias, marginalisation, erasure, dehumanisation, vilification, systemic oppression, unconscious bias, microaggressions, and intersectionality.

To tackle APR, we must: define it; continuously improve the definition and examples; and systematically oppose it.

Thus the AGM resolves to:

1). Adopt, as a starting point, the 2022 Arab Canadian Lawyers' Association (ACLA) definition:

“APR is a form of anti-Arab racism that silences, excludes, erases, stereotypes, defames or dehumanises Palestinians or their narratives. APR takes various forms including: denying the Nakba and justifying violence against Palestinians; failing to acknowledge Palestinians as an indigenous people with a collective identity, belonging and rights in relation to occupied and historic Palestine; erasing the human rights and equal dignity and worth of Palestinians; excluding or pressuring others to exclude Palestinian perspectives, Palestinians and their allies; defaming Palestinians and their allies with slander such as being inherently antisemitic, a terrorist threat/sympathizer or opposed to democratic values.”

2) Adopt these as other examples of APR:

- a) The systems of apartheid imposed on Palestinians, supporting these racist systems, or denying or minimising apartheid's existence.
- b) Not unconditionally and immediately recognising Palestine as a state, while similarly recognising Israel.
- c) Not calling for safety and security for Palestinians or a Palestinian state while also calling for a safe and secure state of Israel.
- d) Recognising and accepting the right of return to Israel for Jewish populations worldwide while denying it to indigenous Palestinian populations, refugees, or their descendants.
- e) Politicians and officials failing to engage with Palestinian victims of war crimes and racism, while demonstrably engaging with other racial groups.
- f) Requiring Palestinians or their supporters to criticise unlawful acts more vociferously than others, or collectively holding them responsible or requiring them to apologise for the acts of others.
- g) Not applying and upholding the same principles of international law and humanitarian law for Palestinians while upholding them for other racial or national groups.
- h) Additional examples listed in the July 2024 ICJ Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences of Israeli Policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

- 3) Regularly review the definition and examples.
- 4) Collaboratively develop resources, training, and systems to help members, branches, and the movement as a whole to identify, challenge, report, document, and archive incidents of APR.
- 5) Collaboratively advocate for governments, public institutions, universities, trade unions, and political parties to adopt policies that recognise and combat APR.
- 6) Collaboratively conduct research to contextualise APR within governmental, institutional, and individual responsibilities as defined by anti-racism policies, the Equality Act, the Human Rights Act, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), or other legal frameworks.
- 7) Collaboratively make regular submissions to ICERD, Equalities and Human Rights Commission, and other bodies.

Motion 2: For Palestinian independence and unity

Proposed by UNISON North West Region Seconded by Logan Williams

The AGM of the PSC welcomes the Composite 17 Resolution of the 2024 Congress of the TUC and the solidarity expressed by the NEU in their Motion 77.

It notes in particular that 'Israel's offensive in Gaza follows decades of violations of Palestinian human rights and international law, ethnic cleansing, and the imposition of a system of oppression against all Palestinians, including those living under military occupation and Palestinians who are citizens of Israel, which is recognised internationally as meeting the legal definition of apartheid'.

Israel's renewed assault upon Palestinians in the North of Gaza, has passed new thresholds of horror. Alongside its relentless and brutal military assault, Israel has again cut off aid supplies, continued to escalate its violence into Lebanon killing thousands, and launched attacks on UN bases.

And yet still, Israel is granted impunity by the British government. The reality, of course, is that no state has the right to use force to impose a military occupation, sustain a system of apartheid, and unleash a genocide. The UK government refuses to sanction Israel as it continues to commit grave violations of international law.

Our task is to channel the rage we all feel into escalated actions, as demanded by our core Palestinian partners within the BDS movement.

The TUC Resolution notes in addition that 'the International Court of Justice has found South Africa's case, that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, to be plausible' and the International Criminal Court has finally issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Minister of Defence, Yoav Gallant.

The TUC called upon the UK government to 'Immediately recognise the State of Palestine' and provided a rapturous reception to the Palestinian Ambassador Husam Zomlot in his address to Congress.

It called for a 'renewed strategy of boycotts, divestment and sanctions', and the banning of export licences for arms directly traded with Israel. It also called for the restoration of funding to UNRWA in the rebuilding of housing, hospitals, schools and universities.

Palestinian trade unions have called on their counterparts to end all complicity with Israel's crimes.

The PSC AGM calls for:

1. all UK institutions to cease any co-operation with sister institutions in Israel.
2. the UK government and all institutions to adhere to international law and the Human Rights Conventions of the UN and other international institutions
3. the British Government to recognise the State of Palestine in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions
4. the warmest welcome and widest dissemination of the Reconciliation Agreement agreed by all Palestinian factions within the framework of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and their determination to form a government
5. a permanent ceasefire on all fronts and the release of all hostages and political prisoners held without charge under administrative detention
6. an immediate two-way arms embargo with Israel
7. opposition to any attempt by the new United States administration to intervene in the situation in Palestine.

Motion 3: That PSC give a little support to a Consumer Boycott, as well as focusing on BDS targets

Proposed by PSC Southampton

Seconded by Glyn Oliver

We totally support BDS wish to focus on its identified targets. However, now PUMA are not a target, the remaining BDS Consumer boycott focused targets – ie Carrefour, RE/MAX, SIEMENS, AHAVA, Chevron, sodastream, Caltex, AXA, hp – these apart from Barclays, are not so well known and are not common consumer purchases.

And so, as well as totally supporting focusing on the boycott of these targets, including of course Barclays, we are proposing that PSC should also just publish a short list or leaflet of a dozen or so other common consumer companies and products, including what BDS itself has identified as “Organic boycott targets.” These are common consumer products that people see and buy every single day in their supermarkets, takeaways, coffee shops, etc. This would not detract from the focused campaigns at all.

While there are lots of lists already, it would be very useful and easy for PSC to produce a reliable and definitive list or leaflet identifying these and why we should boycott them. PSC just needs to make this available eg via its website, that is all it needs to do, it doesn't need to campaign on them. And so PSC could still spend 100% of its time and energy focusing on key BDS targets such as Barclays, Carrefour, RE/MAX, etc.

With the horrors that we see now every day we now have considerable public support. 70% of the public now support our ceasefire aims. And so we really should harness all this public support by providing a very simple and easy way for them to show their support, in a way that is easily sustainable, will have a massive financial impact, and be of long lasting benefit.

And so this simple list of consumer products to boycott would address this. It is very simple, quick and easy for PSC to do, and it would enable millions of ordinary people (who do not bank with Barclays or sign petitions) to also be able to show their support for Palestine by the simple act of choosing one product over another in their weekly shop.

Given all the horrific atrocities happening every day, supporting this proposed consumer boycott motion is the morally correct thing to do. It does not compete or take away from focusing on BDS key targets in anyway whatsoever. Indeed BDS has said of its list of organic targets. "The BDS movement did not initiate these grassroots boycott campaigns but supports them due to these brands' complicity in Israel's genocide and apartheid against Palestinians." And these consumer boycott campaigns such as in Malaysia and in the US, have been incredibly successful. It is very simple, extremely effective and would gain massive public support and take up, and so there is really no good reason for PSC not to support it. PSC has absolutely nothing to lose by doing this and the active support of millions of people to gain.

Motion 4: PSC and Stand Up To Racism (SUTR)

Proposed by: Helena Aksentijevic

Seconded by: Luca Salice

Camden PSC notes:

The Israeli Occupation force has carried out a year long slaughter of Palestinians in Gaza and carried out illegal Military activity in the West Bank and Lebanon. Over 40,000 have been killed, half of them women and children. 90,000 have been injured. These numbers are expected to increase when others are found and identified under the rubble.

This branch also notes:

Stand Up To Racism has not condemned the Israeli genocide and in the past has allowed Zionists to join its anti-racist marches, notably in Glasgow.

Therefore, this branch demands:

That National PSC enter talks with SUTR to convince them to:

1. Denounce Israel and confirm it is an apartheid state.
2. Denounce Israels' genocidal actions and denounce Zionism.
3. Agree and put our statement that Zionism is inherently racist and therefore Zionists have no place in any anti-racist movement.

When SUTR agrees to these points, PSC can mobilise to support SUTR.

We also demand:

1. That PSC clarifies its position with reference to SUTR to their members.

Motion 5: Football

Proposed by Geoff Lee

Seconded by Luca Salice

- To endorse the PACBI campaign to suspend Israel from international football associations FIFA and UEFA until Israeli racism is suppressed.
- To explore opportunities to build awareness, solidarity and pressure through football nationally and locally through PSC branches.

Why

Israel has killed 344 Palestinian footballers in the Gaza genocide (PACBI, 14 Nov 2024) and left many with life-changing injuries. It has also destroyed many Palestinian football grounds.

This is on top of the use of the Yarmouk Stadium as a detention/interrogation camp, the suspension of football across Palestine, the affiliation of settlement clubs to the Israeli Football Association and all the everyday obstacles Israel places in the way of Palestinian football.

The November 2024 violence by Israeli football fans from the Maccabi FC playing in Amsterdam exposed both Israeli racism and the bias of the mainstream media to protect Israel's image.

The anti-apartheid movement ran campaigns to boycott South African sports and expel South Africa from international sports federations.

The use of sports to protest apartheid helped raise awareness and support for the movement. It also highlighted South Africa's sportswashing, a tactic also used by Israel and its allies.

How

- PSC nationally to explore links with people and groups within the football world who are engaged on the issue of Palestine including high profile individuals and relevant fan groups. Such links especially with relevant fan groups attached to local football clubs can also be developed by PSC branches. Some PSC branches have already been running football campaigns, e.g. Kick Israel out of FIFA campaigning at Wembley Stadium matches in Brent.

Chair

Louise Regan

I am the current Chair of PSC and chair of the NEU international committee. I have been centrally involved in organising demonstrations, meetings, campaigns and fundraisers for Palestine in Nottingham. I have attended and spoken at national rallies and events across the country representing PSC. I have led a number of trade union delegations to Palestine. I have been active in the child prisoner's campaign speaking at meetings and organising trade union events. I am absolutely committed to campaigning for justice for the Palestinian people, particularly building the BDS campaign through the Trade Union movement and civil society.

Nominated by Iyas Al Qasem

Seconded by Bernard Regan

Vice Chair (two positions, where at least one of those elected must be a woman)

Neha Shah

I'm seeking election to the role of PSC's Vice Chair to continue strengthening PSC's reach and impact. I bring campaigning experience as a committed member of Oxford PSC, PSC's Youth committee and as an NEU activist. I am also a highly experienced anti-racist and migrant justice organiser. I host and speak regularly at PSC events and demonstrations locally and nationally, providing a youth voice and perspective. At this darkest moment for Palestinians, I have been closely involved in ensuring the success and vibrancy of PSC's 22 national demonstrations, organising speakers, liaising between groups and serving as MC. It would be an honour to continue this work to end genocide and Free Palestine.

Nominated by Samir Eskanda

Seconded by Louise Regan

Iyas Al Qasem

Our movement is at a critical juncture. Awareness of Israel's crimes is high, our activist numbers are surging, and our opponents are lashing out. Our responsibility is to organise effectively to harness our momentum and confront these challenges. As chair of Richmond & Kingston PSC, of the Branch Support Group, of multiple successful working groups, and founder and trustee of a charity supporting 10,000 people a month in Gaza, I support teams to make impact. I would work to strengthen our capability and diversify our leadership, ensuring it reflects our UK supporters and builds a more powerful movement for Palestine.

Nominated by Fiona Leach

Seconded by Louise Regan

Secretary

Ben Soffa

I'm seeking re-election as Secretary to further strengthen PSC's impact. Members, branches, staff and Executive have shown huge campaigning stamina over this past terrible year, doing much to expose the crimes of the Israeli state and offer solidarity to the Palestinian people. We must continue to scale PSC's work to best support our growing network of branches and affiliates, ensuring all members can engage in campaigns.

Beyond the bureaucratic responsibilities of this role, I hope to use my professional background in digital campaigning to further strengthen our online campaigns and fundraising efforts as well as developing new tools for branches.

Nominated by John Ellis
Seconded by Clare Williams

Treasurer

John Ellis

I am a chartered accountant who has worked primarily with the not-for-profit sector for over fifty years. I was Treasurer for Rock Against Racism and am currently director of a charity that uses photography to highlight identity, representation, human rights & social justice. Consequently I am aware of the difficulties experienced by voluntary organisations, particularly in the current financial situation. I have worked with PSC for many years and feel passionately about the injustice suffered by the Palestinian people for over 100 years and the genocide now taking place in Gaza. I would be honoured if re-elected Treasurer.

Nominated by Ben Soffa
Seconded by Louise Regan

Trade Union Liaison Officer

Simon Dubbins

I am the Director of International for Unite the Union and been an active member of PSC for many years. For the last twelve months I have served as PSC's Trade Union Officer and been a member of the PSC Executive. My union has a proud record of active solidarity work with the Palestinians and in my role as Trade Union Officer I have sought to further strengthen and develop real solidarity throughout the wider trade union movement. With your support I would like to continue working towards this goal in the coming year.

Nominated by Louise Regan
Seconded by Ben Soffa

Ordinary Members (eight places, of which at least four of those elected must be women)

Peter Cheng

I was the founding chair of the Worthing and Adur branch of PSC and formerly a co-clerk (co-chair) of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine-Israel (EAPPI) run in Britain by the Quakers. Careerwise I am a Professor of Cognitive Science at the University of Sussex with expertise on the drivers of complex human behaviours. I have given talks to local community groups on my cognitive analysis of the one-sided conflict in order to promote BDS. If elected, I hope to contribute to the strategic direction of PSC's campaigns with my understanding of human decision making and motivation.

Nominated by Barry Stierer
Seconded by Ros Meadows

Sybil Cock

I have served on the Exec for a while and am also chair of my branch in Tower Hamlets. It is essential that Exec members reflect the activists and activities on

the ground and strengthen links between local campaigners and the office. I am retired and have time to give to building our movement for Palestine. I am a socialist and trades unionist and have links with our twinning city of Jenin in the north of Palestine. I have worked with the Big Ride for Palestine, with Patrons, and in supporting PSC branches, as well as locally in East London.

Nominated by Guy Shennan
Seconded by Rupert George

Sheila Guhadasan

I'm seeking re-election to the EC for a second year. As a very active Chair of Brent and Harrow PSC, experienced campaigner and committed PSC member, I've led our branch to grow, with more actions, visibility, diversity and impact. I've provided support to other branches and joined the EC Branch Support group as I'm keen to help branches thrive at this critical time. I am also on PSC's Website Working Group where I hope my professional communications and project management skills are useful.

Nominated by Iyas Al Qasem
Seconded by Luca Salice

Myriam Kane

I have been a Palestine activist for over a decade. In this critical last year, and in previous years, I mobilised young Black activists to join the Palestine demonstrations. I co-ordinated youth activist events featuring PSC speakers, attracting national and international audiences. I was a student activist for Palestine and an NUS NEC Member. I was part of the 2019 Goldsmiths occupation, negotiating and winning scholarships for Palestinian students. I have good relations with African and Latin American activists in the international Palestine solidarity movement. I was StWC's student organiser. I'm an organiser with London Renters Union.

Nominated by Ben Soffa
Seconded by Denis Fernando

Ed McNally

I'm a trade union political officer and PhD student based in London. Having been involved in Palestine solidarity organising since I was a teenager, including chairing PalSoc as an undergraduate and previously serving on the EC, I would be honoured to help strengthen PSC nationally. In my day job and as a member of Unite, I work to strengthen our cause within the unions and push back against attempts to curtail it. PSC's labour movement links are a huge asset, but most unions could be doing much more, and I want to work with our TULO to ensure they do.

Nominated by Louise Regan
Seconded by Nathan Gayle

Sussan Rassoulie

I have been an advocate for Palestine for most of my life but formally from 2012 when I joined Hackney PSC. I have been secretary and main instigator for Hackney PSC since 2016. We are a very active group with local authority pension fund divestment and consumer boycott as big parts of our campaigns. My role as secretary has been to keep the group together through the upheavals of the last year and I think I have struck the right balance with bringing in new people and affording them the space they need to develop their ideas while not alienating the older cohort. I have seen my role as somewhat pastoral and not just strictly about exchange of information, doing what I can to make people feel seen, heard and cared for.

Nominated by Sybil Cock
Seconded by Alan McKay

Bernard Regan

Current PSC Executive Committee Member and Officer. Chair Enfield PSC Branch. Author book on 'Balfour Declaration' and 'Bernard's Book Club'. Working on Local Government Divestment Campaign. Written articles on Palestine for variety of publications. Spoken at more than 30 meetings over the year.

PSC must campaign to keep Palestine front and centre. Solidarity with the Palestinians comes first always turning mass support into concrete actions and engagement. Our second focus is to end Starmer's UK government complicity. President Trump will bring new challenges. We need a united and determined PSC to build a mass campaign to achieve our goals.

Nominated by Kamel Hawwash
Seconded by Sophie Salim

Julia Simpkins

I continue to keep in close contact with groups inside and outside Palestine.

I attend and speak at many functions across the country but particularly in the NW where I am based.

I think it is important that voices from people north of Watford are heard on the EC.

If elected I will continue to galvanise the support for Women in Palestine and speak up for those members outside of London.

Nominated by Louie Regan
Seconded by Eileen Murphy

Alex Snowdon

As an Executive Committee member since 2021, I am proud of PSC's central role in a mass protest movement against genocide and the growth in our membership, activist base and branch network. I was Chair of Newcastle PSC for 14 years – organising many demonstrations, conferences, fundraisers, campaigns and public meetings – and am passionate about building effective PSC branches. Currently Secretary (formerly International Solidarity Officer) for my National Education Union branch, I am committed to strengthening solidarity with Palestine in the union movement. I am the author of 'A short guide to Israeli apartheid'.

Nominated by Louise Regan
Seconded by Mick Bowman



Palestine Solidarity Campaign



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