

Ceasefire now – justice for Palestine

This branch notes:

1. The horrific escalation of violence since 7 October in which 1400 Israelis and more than 10,000 Palestinians have been killed so far (as of 7 November). Over 4,000 of the Palestinians who have been killed were children.¹ The number of Palestinians killed is rising rapidly every day.
2. Israel has placed the Gaza Strip under a complete siege cutting off supplies of water, food, fuel, and medicine. Israeli airstrikes continue to target civilian infrastructure – including roads, hospitals, homes, and schools.
3. Palestinians in the occupied West Bank face a lockdown and a growing number have been imprisoned or killed. Whole Palestinian communities have been driven from their homes by armed settlers with support from the Israeli military.
4. Numerous scholars and legal experts have warned of the risk of genocide taking place.
5. This latest onslaught follows decades of violations of international law by Israel that Palestinian and international human rights groups have said meets the legal definition of apartheid.
6. The urgent call by more than thirty Palestinian trade unions for unions around the world to ensure their own industries are not complicit in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people and pass motions in their trade union to this effect, take action against companies involved in implementing Israel's illegal siege, and pressure governments to stop all military trade with Israel.
7. The uncritical support given by the British government and largest opposition party to Israel's attacks and siege on Gaza.

This branch believes:

1. International law makes clear that the deliberate killing of civilians, collective punishment and hostage-taking are war crimes. Apartheid, the forcible transfer of populations, and genocide are crimes against humanity. Such crimes are unacceptable no matter who perpetrates them.
2. An immediate ceasefire is the only way to stop further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. As charities including Christian Aid, Oxfam and Save the Children have said: a ceasefire 'remains our only option to avert further loss of civilian life and humanitarian catastrophe.'
3. While calling for an immediate end to all violence we recognise that for there to be lasting peace the root causes of conflict need to be addressed. Israel's longstanding violations of human rights and international law must end.

This branch resolves:

1. To encourage all members to urge the British government and members of parliament to call for an immediate ceasefire.
2. Support campaigns to end Britain's complicity by stopping all military trade with Israel and to cut ties with businesses complicit in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people, to pressure Israel to respect human rights and abide by international law.

¹ This motion can be amended as appropriate. If possible, these numbers should be revised so that they are accurate at the time when the motion is submitted.

3. Affiliate to PSC and participate in their campaigns, including through attendance and support for demonstrations organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC).