dED demilitarise education

Annual Report 2024



Iona (student), Jinsella & Carmen & Jinsella a workshop hosted at the University of Edinburgh.

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Introduction

Over the last year, following the 7th of October, the world has seen a surge of campaigns focused on university divestment and demilitarisation. This has meant that our team has been considerably busy and I am delighted to share with you the progress we have made, spearheading the movement to see universities champion peace not war.

To refresh your memory, at dED we have built the world's first Universities and Arms Database which has uncovered nearly £2BN worth of UK-University partnerships with the military and defence sector to date. We use this data to advocate for the adoption of The Demilitarise Education (dED) Treaty, a commitment and road map to transparency, policy change, divestment and reinvestment. Right now we are positioned as a central pillar of the movement, supporting student and staff demilitarisation campaigns, tracking their progress, and building much-needed consistency between campus campaign demands.

Throughout 2024, dED's Treaty has supported 11 campaigns and contributed to major wins, including York University's policy change for divestment and £80 million of staff pensions divested from Israeli assets. This has been supported by considerable research publications alongside an extensive university tour, which since our last impact report, saw us visit 9 campuses, with many more in the pipeline.

The important thing to mention is that Universities increasingly desire recognition for their ethical changes thanks to public pressure. While we have discovered that many of these changes are all glitter, no gold, the leadership's acts in alignment with our mission statement, are a huge tell of how public precedent is changing surrounding University partnerships with the arms trade. It is now our job to make sure these commitments are more than empty promises.

The dED team has achieved considerable things this year and Carmen and I are beyond proud of our community's hard work and accomplishments, day by day to maximise what minimal resources we have to uphold our challenging but important mission.

Our work wouldn't be possible without the strength of the peace network. We are grateful for our partners, friends, and supportive community—your research, campaigns, mentorship, contributions, donations, collaborations, and engagement are fundamental to our success.

Thank you for supporting our mission.

Kind regards,

Jinsella
Demilitarise Education Co-Founder & Executive Director



Jinsella with The Shadow World Investigations Team, and Palestinian academic and dED supporter Samer Abdelnour before a panel discussion at SOAS, University of London.

Nation Overview

Our goal is to have every UK-based, degree-accredited university commit to the demands outlined in The dED Treaty (latest version as of 31/01/2025). To achieve this, we are collecting data on university partnerships with the arms trade and military while tracking and supporting student campaigns that advocate for more focused policy reviews.

Here is an overview of the Top 10 Universities from the dED Database ranked in value of military/industrial partnerships University Value of Military/Industrial Partnerships and a highlight of campaign-related changes.

Universities	Value of Military/Industrial Partnerships	Campaign Related Changes	Analysis
University of Edinburgh	£240,225,84	Reviewed the definition of armaments and controversial weapons, as applied to the University's investments.	Working groups have been bypassed and student campaigners feel that the Uni is not fulfilling their promises.
University of Bristol	£92,212,855	Uni begins legal action to disperse pro-Palestine encampment	A very militarised area meaning leadership level cooperation is currently low, while the student and staff organisation is strong.
University of Birmingham	£53,268,544	Birmingham Uni has secured a High Court order against pro Palestinian protests on camp	Leadership level cooperation is currently low, while the student and staff organisation is strong.
City University	£49,199,615	SU demonstrates support for divestment, as per their ethical investment policy.	No policy commitments to arms exclusion.
Imperial College London	£48,609,473	Students did not set up an encampment asn pursed with direct negotiations. No changes has been made as of yet.	Imperial has parietal investment policy commitment to exclude armament. However seemingly see's no current breach of law

Universities	Value of Military/Industrial Partnerships	Campaign Related Changes	Analysis
			that would trigger divestment. The College's research relationships are governed by its Ethics Code and its Relationship Review Policy. The latter forbids relationships that violate 'international conventions on human rights'.
King's College London	£47,496,651	King's College London (KCL) is set to revise its policy on investment in arms companies following student protests in solidarity with Gaza.	Ban on 'controversial weapons' means that companies such as BAE System who claim to only make 'conventional weapons' can still be invested in. Further explanation.
University of Sheffield	£44,098,769	Uni took legal action to evict camp in August, but the campaign is back with a new camp.	Sheffield has a partial commitment to exclude armament from investment however has no research or academic commitments continuing partners with arms companies.
University of Nottingham	£43,431,803	University of Nottingham secures High Court order against pro-Palestinian protest camp	Leadership level cooperation is currently low, while the student and staff organisation is strong.

Universities	Value of Military/Industrial Partnerships	Campaign Related Changes	Analysis
Brunel University	£36,150,365	Response to the destruction of the education system in Gaza	No policy commitments to exclude armament.
University of West London	£35,010,000	No sign or change and no contact with campaign.	Partial policy commitment to exclude fossil fuels and armament.

Achievements

Our **Petition** is now at 3,865 signatures and counting!

research

dED is establishing itself as a leading expert in the field. We are proud to have released the reports below and look forward to continuing to publish world-class data on university partnerships with the arms trade.

A massive congratulations to our Research Officer Okopi Ajonye for these report deliverables.

And thank you to Millie Sullivan for our database maintenance and verifications.

Report	Description
Arms Industry Student Opportunities	A preliminary survey of university STEM students.
Weaponising Universities	**Research Collaborations between UK Universities and the Military Industrial Complex** This report discusses the deepening ties between universities in the UK and the arms industry and military research, which include arms industry-funded research on campus, dedicated research centres sponsored by the arms industry and/or the MOD and other parts of the UK security establishment, and other ties.
Strathclyde	**Navigating the Murky Waters of the Military Industrial Academic Complex**. A follow-on case study to

Report	Description
	Weaponising Universities: Research collaborations between UK universities and the Military Industrial Complex. Published by CAAT and Demilitarise Education September 2024
Sheffield	**Sheffield University: Breaching the Moral No-Fly Zone in Military-Industrial Research & Development** Demilitarise Education's (dED) research uncovers apprenticeship programmes and research with arms companies such as Boeing and BAE Systems. ● Learn about the involvement of Sheffield University in the development of highly problematic aerospace technologies manufactured by arms companies such as Boeing and BAE Systems ● Discover how students and staff have resisted these projects, and what strategies they can adopt in the future.

university tour

dED has elevated our stakeholder relations by visiting campuses to host workshops, lead talks, and participate in meetings, training stakeholders on how to advocate for the dED Treaty and utilise the Universities and Arms Database. For example, by directly supporting University of Bristol staff-admin negotiations and the drafting of motions, open letters and policy proposals across several universities. As a result, we've even had official endorsements (via passed motions) by university UCU branches including at the University of Essex and Warwick[1].

This table outlines the universities we have already visited and are due to visit in the coming year.

A massive congratulations to our Campaign Manager Cindy Sasha for the exceptional coordination and organisation of our Uni Tour.

	University	Attendance	Date
1	Durham	25	2024-03-11
2	Warwick	100	2024-03-06
3	Goldsmiths	11	2024-03-07
4	Sussex	35	2024-04-15
5	Edinburgh	13	2024-05-09

[1] https://www.ucu.essex.ac.uk/2024/02/15/bae-systems-and-the-university-of-essex-motion & https://warwickucu.org.uk/demilitarisation

6	Essex	15	2024-05-09
7	Portsmouth	35	2024-05-09
8	Kings College London	40	2024-05-09
9	Oxford/Cambridge	16	2024-05-09
10	Glasgow UK/USA	16	2024-05-09
11	Essex UCU: For UK UCU members		In discussion
12	Lincoln UCU		2024-11-06
13	Cardiff		2024-11-06
14	Bristol	41	2024-10-30
15	Lancaster		2024-05-29
16	Southampton	35	2024-10-08
17	Loughborough	11	2024-11-06
18	Durham	32	2024-10-29
19	Sussex		2024-11-20
20	Oxford	20	2024-11-27

Community

dED is constantly refining our community management, leading to steady and continuous growth and engagement.

Membership	2023	2024
Volunteers	7	8
Website Users	156	209
Discord Users	248	213

Membership	2023	2024
Social Media Following	11k	12.6k

media

2024 has been a fantastic year for our media output! We hired a media manager, G, on a 6-month contract, who helped us refine our YouTube strategy. We are also participating in the Arms Out film tour, enabling more in-person events and stakeholder trust-building. Take a look at some of our favourite releases below.

Thank you, G for your brilliant work on this.

Video	Description
Don't Buy a Bomb - Documentary	Don't Buy a Bomb" is a powerful documentary exposing the UK's complicity in the Yemen conflict through arms sales, following the legal battle for justice and the human toll of war.
How the Military Shaped Our Entertainment: Popular Culture and Militarism	Visually research by Dr Marius Kwint, this video explores the hidden ties between militarism and popular culture.
Universities and Arms Database: Exposing UK University Ties to the Arms Trade	A visual run-through of the Universities and Arms Database.

Also don't forget to watch and share our 7 Myths That Sustain the Global Arms Trade video series.

Website

Ian, our web developer, has dedicated significant time to fixing code in our database to ensure data protection and proper organisation of our partnership categories. You will also notice substantial improvements in accessibility and our donation process.

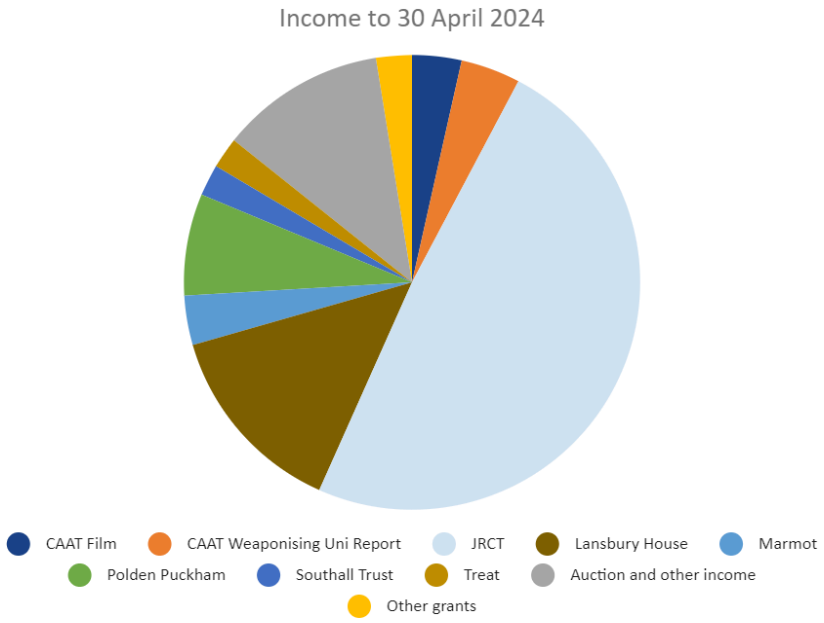
Huge congratulations to our Ian Mackinnon for these challenging but impactful developments.

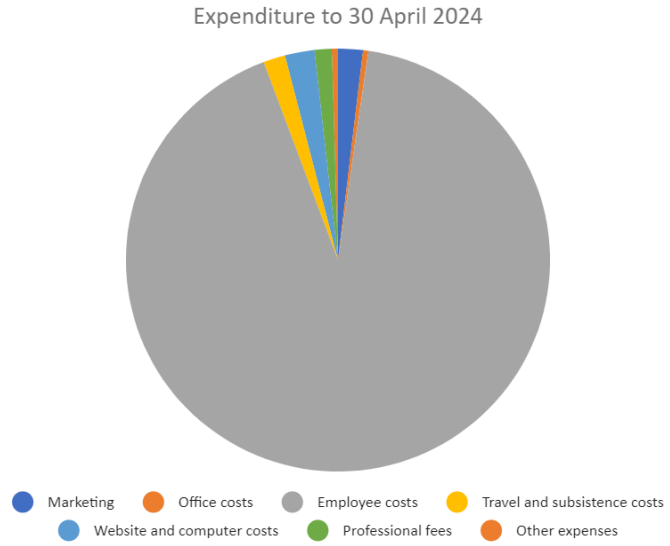


Carmen and Anna Stravianakis at Exeter student encampment.

Finances

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust is still our core funder covering our Executive salaries. Overheads are largely covered by grant pots (listed below) and we have a small income from alternative funding streams such as the exhibition and memberships.





Thank you to our funders

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Polden Puckham, Network for Social Change, Marmot Fund, Network for Social Change, Southall Trust, Edith Ellis and A.Wainwright ReformTrust, TREAT and the Maypole Fund.



UoM Student Occupation.

Future Plans

treaty campaign

This year, our primary focus is securing commitments and ensuring compliance with the dED Treaty at six target universities. This effort aligns with our university tour, where we will leverage resources to track campaign progress, build stakeholder support, and advocate for administrative alignment with the treaty.

Additionally, we are initiating research into the feasibility of developing a legal case to drive systemic change in higher education policy. Over the coming years, we aim to establish a robust legal network to support the dED Treaty and its objectives.

campaign tracking

Introducing the Campus Campaign Index, a resource highlighting and tracking key individuals, initiatives, and actions, helping to break university ties with the arms trade. We are preparing to launch this with student groups to more effectively track campaign progress towards treaty compliance and manage student campaign transitions. This will be used as a working document before data is uploaded to the Database. This is in response to the difficulties we found in keeping up with nationwide campaigns and those campaigns not yet being fully equipped to upload directly to the database autonomously. The trackers strengthen localised campaigning and campaign handovers while enabling the dED team to more easily keep up with progress.

research

dED is developing a report that will present a clear overview of the data from the Universities and Arms Database, accompanied by a detailed analysis of its implications. This is alongside further database refinement including the removal of third-party investments and exclusively dual-use research projects without an arms company as a funder/partner, which you can read more about here. We are also seeking researchers to complete a company complicity index on the top companies engaged in academic partnerships in universities to create resources promoting ethical alternatives.

scaling strategy

dED is at a pivotal moment. As the only organisation focused on addressing militarised higher education, we've built strong trust in our data and resources. Now, we must focus on meeting community needs to spark local actions that drive national change in the UK. Additionally, we have been contacted by campaigns globally demonstrating the demand for our model, with invitations to establish a presence in the USA, Germany, Australia, Norway and Canada. dED therefore needs to scale our operations and capacity which will enable us to disrupt the military-academic complex more effectively and drive systemic change in the UK creating a model that can be adopted internationally. Our scaling strategy includes:

- **Technology Development:** Enhancing the accessibility and useability of the Universities and Arms Database, enables a more efficient approach to seeing the adoption of the dED Treaty.
- **Monetising dEDs YouTube Channel:** dED uses investigative journalism to create engaging content that builds stakeholder trust, drives advocacy, and generates revenue by blending media services with precedent-setting actions.
- **Monetising Aspects of Our Database:** Selling reports and requested datasets.

- **Building a Profitable Online Shop:** Offering products that align with our mission will provide a sustainable income stream while contributing to our advocacy.
- **Leveraging Private and Corporate Donations:** dED is committed to improving our donor strategy and CRM, securing diverse funding sources to support our expansion.
- **Campaign Engagement & Promotion:** The strategies above require a thoughtful marketing campaign to drive traffic to our organisation. This will include social media marketing and PR to scale our impact through knowledge sharing and network building.

Thank you for your continued support!



Cake$ stencil in support of Demilitarise Education for Art the Arms Fair 2023