South Yorkshire Pension Complicity in Genocide

How does the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority (SYPA) work

South Yorkshire collects and distributes pension contributions from local authority workers in the South Yorkshire area. About 25% of its money is invested in shares and bonds directly but the majority of its funding is invested through a pension pool called **Border to Coast**. This pension pool invests funds collectively for 11 pension funds including South Yorkshire Pensions and is based in Leeds.

Where does the money go?

It invests members' money that is taken from salaries or the deferred wages of local authority workers. Most people, whether they are scheme members or not, do not know where the money is invested. Many people would be horrified confronted with the information that there is considerable investment in arms companies, causing the death of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza and the sort of destruction pictured on the front of this leaflet.

Who makes the decisions?

Decisions about where to invest are made by South Yorkshire Pensions Authority and the Border to Coast board. The South Yorkshire Pension Authority is composed of councillors from Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster who oversee the investments. The Border to Coast board has representatives from all of the 11 local authorities who make up the pension pool. This is similar to other pension pools across the country. The chair of SYPA sits on the board of Border to Coast alongside representatives of the other 11 authorities to oversee the running and investment strategy of the scheme.

So what do Border to Coast and South Yorkshire Pensions invest in?

We estimate that Border to coast invests millions of pounds in arms companies or companies providing components and technologies used in arms and surveillance equipment.. Also financial institutions that service the arms industry. Additionally it invests hundreds of thousands in companies that continue to support Israeli apartheid.

Some examples of South Yorkshire Pension Authority and Border to Coast investments

- *BAE Systems, Britain's largest and the world's fourth largest arms producer. Its portfolio includes fighter aircraft, warships, tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery, missiles and small arms ammunition. With Lockheed Martin it producing the US F-35 stealth combat aircraft used extensively in the genocide in Gaza.*

- *HSBC who has a significant number of shares in the company Caterpillar, who supply the Israeli army with bulldozers which are weaponised and used to demolish Palestinian communities, build Israel's illegal settlements. Also Barclays which invests heavily in the arms companies.*

- *Rolls Royce, a British manufacturer and the world's 17th largest arms trader. It supplies engines for the US F35 fighter jets which have been used extensively in the bombing of Gaza*

- *Raytheon produces bunker buster bombs, which have been used by Israel to target civilian homes during its assault on Gaza. Israel's aerial bombardment and ground invasion of the Gaza Strip in the current genocide led to the deaths of over 44,000 Palestinian civilians, two thirds of them women and children.*

- *Israeli government bonds that are used to finance the attacks on Gaza and other Israeli companies. Also international companies that actively profit from the illegal settlements such as AirBnB*

What can you do?

- Write to your local pension authority, ask what investments they have in arms companies and tell them why they should not be making such investments.
- Write to your local council to tell them why they should not be investing in the arms trade.

- If you are interested in joining the **South Yorkshire Pension Divest for Palestine** please contact - **campaignsheffielddivestment@gmail.com**