

Composite Motion One

PALESTINE

Conference notes:

- The recent illegal hijacking of the *Madleen* on 9 June 2025 while attempting to deliver much needed aid to Gaza, in yet another act of aggression by Israel as part of their war against all those who take a stand against genocide.
- The UK Government's authoritarian proscription of Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation, due to come into effect on 5 July 2025, curtailing human rights.
- The growing anger among people across the island of Ireland at Israel's continuing genocide, illegal occupation, ethnic cleansing, apartheid, the blocking of humanitarian aid, the use of starvation to advance genocide, the holding of Palestinians as hostages and the use of torture in defiance of international Law and rulings of the UN, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

Conference pays tribute to the people of Gaza and the West Bank for their courage in the face of unrelenting terror, the extraordinary contribution of Palestinian workers including health workers, education workers, journalists, front line responders and aid workers, many of whom have been deliberately targeted and assassinated

Conference stands in solidarity with the courageous human rights NGOs in Gaza - the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, in the West Bank - Al Haq and in Israel - B'Tselem, that have documented, reported and presented evidence to the key international bodies. Yet still the attempted eradication of the Palestinian people continues unabated.

Conference calls on ICTU to:

1. Demand that the Irish and UK Governments:

- exercise their legal and moral responsibility to impose sanctions and a military embargo on Israel.
- ensure that all trade unionists and civil society activists campaigning for justice for Palestine be protected by law from intimidation, discrimination and victimisation for their solidarity work.

2. Demand that the Irish Government:

- end all trading links in goods and services with Israel, including the cessation of dual-use goods and any technology linked to military or surveillance use.
- end the facilitation of "genocide bonds" by the Irish Central Bank through the European securities settlement system, enabling the Israeli state to raise capital on international markets.
- immediately ban the use of Irish airspace for any flights transporting weapons and/or munitions to Israel.
- end the use of Shannon Airport by the U.S. military while it continues to arm, fund and give support to and diplomatic cover for Israeli war crimes.
- replace the IHRA definition on antisemitism with the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism.
- hold accountable those who have infringed the rights of Palestinian solidarity activists, including Mothers Against Genocide in their protests against the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people.
- through its membership of the EU, challenge other member states to exercise their legal and moral duty to impose sanctions and to call for the expulsion of Israel from the UN.

3. Demand that the EU:

- ends all trade with Israel under the EU-Israel Association Agreement and UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement.
- imposes a full arms embargo on Israel and introduces other sanctions.
- halts diplomatic and economic support for the Israeli state while it continues to commit war crimes and its illegal occupation in Gaza and The West Bank, including all illegal "settlements".

The conference recognises that this is a defining moment for humanity and a very challenging time for our movement.

Conference salutes our courageous colleagues in the Palestinian BDS National Committee who have laid out the actions they wish us to take.

In response, and to give real effect to the actions set out in the BDS guidance, Conference pledges to intensify our efforts through ICTU to:

- lead the solidarity campaign, including co-ordinated workplace and community action, across Ireland, aimed at ending Irish, UK and EU complicity in the genocide in Gaza.
- coordinate workplace-based and community actions up to and including widespread work stoppages and protests in solidarity with Palestine and all Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and beyond, demanding an immediate end to Irish, UK and EU complicity in the genocide.
- declare that the Irish Congress of Trade Unions is an Apartheid Free Zone.
- call on all affiliates, where they have not yet done so, to declare themselves Apartheid Free Zones and to enact the BDS guidance.
- call on the incoming Executive Council to reflect our strong policy on Palestine in motions to the international trade union bodies to which we are affiliated and to call for the exclusion of the Histadrut for its complicity.
- call on affiliates, through their respective collective bargaining mechanisms to secure ethical procurement and to challenge public procurement contracts with companies complicit in genocide, illegal occupation and other breaches of international law, including through the supply chain.

Congress further recognises that in Ireland it was Dunnes Stores workers in the 80's standing against apartheid South Africa. More recently it is Swedish dockers standing against Israel's genocide. In both instances, decades apart, the courage of the workers has been met with dismissal and criminalisation. In December 2024 SDU union members voted to boycott military cargo for six days in protest at Israel's war crimes in Gaza. The action was upheld as legal in a ruling from Sweden's employment courts, but Erik Helgeson was fired by his employer Gothenburg RoRo Terminal. Its major majority owner, DFDS's, operates in Irish and British terminals in Rosslare, Newcastle, Newhaven, Dover. It has Logistics offices in Belfast and Dublin.

We also call on ICTU to reach out to his union in solidarity and demand the reinstatement of Erik Helgeson and vows to act in his support in line with the action called for by his union and our own solidarity organisations and to coordinate workplace-based and community actions up to and including co-ordinated widespread work stoppages and protests in solidarity with Palestine and all Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and beyond, demanding an immediate end to Irish, British and EU complicity in the genocide. This demand includes a complete cessation of all military attacks on Palestinian civilians, including the West Bank, the removal of all Israeli armed forces from Gaza and the opening up of all crossing points for humanitarian aid, to be delivered by UN and UN supported aid agencies.

Conference commends TUPF for its tireless campaigning activity over the past 20 years. In particular, we applaud its new BDS training package which has been delivered to hundreds of trade unionists to enable a deeper understanding of the BDS campaign and to support workers taking action.

Congress acknowledges those affiliates that provide resources to sustain this work, and calls on the Executive Council to provide a fixed term staffing resource to help coordinate the work of both sections and to explore a potential resource model similar to that established through the TUC for Justice for Colombia.

Congress Executive Council , Derry Trades Council and UNISON