

Draft Composite P
Solidarity with Palestine
(Covering Motions 96. 97. 98)

“That this Congress notes, in November 2022, Dundee TUC sent the first ever delegation from a UK Trades Union Council to Palestine, meeting comrades from the PGFTU in Nablus and Ramallah and signing a Solidarity and Co-operation agreement.

“The five delegates, members of GMB, Unite, FBU and CWU, saw at first hand the struggles of workers and their organisations trying to live under occupation and apartheid, arriving in Nablus just days after a number of the city’s young people were executed on its streets by the Israeli military.

“FBU comrades were able to announce to their counterparts in Nablus, the arrival next Spring of a donated fire engine and equipment, organised with assistance from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Scottish Government.

“Congress notes with concern and deep regret that the plight of the Palestinian people has deteriorated significantly over the last year.

“2022 saw the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank rise to 150, double that killed in 2021.

“In East Jerusalem settler housing units increased from 900 in 2021 to 3100 in 2022.

“The Israeli Government has continued to close the Gaza strip borders reducing it to no more than a desolate prison state.

“The occupation has been made potentially even more brutal by the election of virulent anti-arab racist politicians who are now part of the Israeli Government. Itamar ben Gvir, has instructed police to remove Palestinian flags from public spaces, calling the displaying of the Palestinian national symbol an act of terrorism.

Congress:

- denounces the continuing Israeli Government's occupation of Palestine;
- defines its operation as Apartheid;
- sends solidarity to the Palestinian people and to the PGFTU;
- calls on the General Council to explore a formal Solidarity and Co-operation agreement with the PGFTU and investigate further practical expressions of support;
- reaffirms its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for justice;
- ask all affiliates to join with the Palestine Solidarity Campaigns and to assist with the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign;
- fully supports practical solidarity projects such as the training of Palestinian firefighters and donations of fire and rescue appliances and encourages affiliates to follow suit."

Mover: Dundee Trades Union Council

Seconder: Fire Brigades Union

Support: Midlothian Trades Council