

Motion

Affiliation of Sheffield Hallam UCU Branch to the *Sheffield Palestine Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid*

This Branch, in reaffirming its longstanding and consistent commitment to freedom and social justice for the Palestinian people, accepts

- that the Israeli state, in its treatment of Palestinians within Israel, within the Occupied Territories and the Gaza Strip, is guilty of the crimes of apartheid and persecution as understood under international law and documented systematically and in detail by four independent human rights organisations (for details and links see Notes below);
- that effective opposition to Israeli apartheid depends on the united action and voices of all supporters and campaigners for human rights and social justice;

and in that context therefore **welcomes**

- the establishment in Sheffield of *the Sheffield Palestine Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid*, a project initiated and launched by 4 Sheffield organisations devoted to Palestinian rights and justice (Sheffield Trade Union Council, Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Kairos Sheffield, Sheffield Labour Friends of Palestine) in order to create a powerful united voice and platform to champion the Palestinian cause and expose and oppose Israeli Apartheid (Full statement of Aims below);

and **agrees**

- (i) to support *the Sheffield Anti-Israeli Apartheid Pledge* and
- (ii) to affiliate to the Coalition and send representatives to its future meetings and actions in pursuit of its Aims.

The Aims of the Sheffield Palestine Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid

The Coalition is committed to supporting the Palestinian people's struggle against Israeli apartheid, and the injustice and oppression they experience. It will coordinate the work of organisations in Sheffield committed to this objective and seek the support of citizens, trade unions, businesses, political, community, environmental, faith and student groups.

The Coalition pledges to:

- oppose all forms of racism e.g. racism against Black and minority ethnic groups, antisemitism and Islamophobia
- raise Sheffield citizens' awareness of the Palestinian people's struggle against injustice imposed by Israeli apartheid, settler colonialism and occupation
- make Sheffield into an Israeli Apartheid-Free Zone by campaigning for businesses, local governmental, educational, sporting and cultural institutions to renounce all ties that support the Israeli apartheid system in line with the Palestinian led BDS campaign

- oppose the arms trade and all forms of military collaboration with Israel and call for the end of Israeli occupation and the siege of the Gaza Strip
- call for sanctions against Israel until it abides by all international laws and UN resolutions affecting the rights of Palestinians, including the refugees' right of return
- support Palestinian grassroots organizations which promote equality for women, workers' rights and the improvement of conditions for children
- encourage Palestinian cultural activity in Sheffield
- oppose measures aimed at shutting down public criticism of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians

The Sheffield Anti-Israeli Apartheid Pledge

I/We, the undersigned, pledge our support to:

- the Palestinian people in their struggle against Israeli Apartheid, and**
- the campaign to make Sheffield an Israeli Apartheid-Free Zone.**

Name:

Signature:.....

Email:

Organisation:.....

Notes

Reports on Israeli Apartheid

Four human rights organisations:

Al-Haq (2022) 'Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism'.

<https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/20931.html>

B'Tselem (2021) 'A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid'.

https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid

Human Rights Watch (2021) 'A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution.'

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

Amnesty International (2022) 'Israel's apartheid against Palestinians: a cruel system of domination and a crime against humanity.'

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/5141/2022/en/>

A critical response to Amnesty's Report from *Reconstructing Judaism*

Reconstructing Judaism (2022) 'Responding to Amnesty International's report on Israel and the charge of apartheid'.

<https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/news/responding-amnesty-internationals-report-israel-and-charge-apartheid/>

National UCU:

Longstanding commitment to the Palestinian cause, including support for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions. Jo Grady on her recent trip to Palestine and support for the National Day of Action for Palestine

<https://www.facebook.com/ucu.campaigns/videos/jo-grady-on-national-day-of-action-for-palestine/1137574320007820/>