**P22-23/021**

**Amended Motion, amendments are highlighted:**

**Solidarity with Palestine**

Cardiff UCU notes:

* Since 7th October, an estimated 10,022 Palestinians (including 4,104 children) and 1,400 Israelis have been [killed](https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/07/middleeast/palestinian-israeli-deaths-gaza-dg/index.html). A further 1,270 Palestinian children are reported [missing](https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/07/middleeast/palestinian-israeli-deaths-gaza-dg/index.html) and may be trapped under rubble. This follows 6,541 Palestinians and 309 Israelis being killed [since 2008](https://www.ochaopt.org/data/casualties) alone.
* Over two-thirds of the [UN](https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142847?reload12) General Assembly (120 countries) have voted for an “immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities.” The [Senedd](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-67357824) has also called for an immediate ceasefire.
* Both Israel and Hamas have broken international humanitarian law. This includes Hamas’ targeting of civilians. Hamas has kidnapped an estimated 240 Israeli civilians. For its part, the Israeli state was detaining an estimated 5,200 Palestinians without conviction or charge (effectively as hostages), including 170 children, prior to 7th October, and has arrested over 5,000 more Palestinians since the start of this campaign.
* The Israeli military’s response to the attacks by Hamas amounts to the genocide, ethnic cleansing and collective punishment of the Palestinian people.[[1]](#endnote-1)
* This follows over fifty years of Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territories and seventy-five years of settler-colonialism, in a situation of apartheid rule.[[2]](#endnote-2) The UK government is historically and currently complicit with this.[[3]](#endnote-3)
* Official Israeli state narratives systematically dehumanise Palestinians, e.g. as barbarians, animals and terrorists. These narratives are often reproduced in the UK.
* In the UK, academic freedom and the right to protest are being threatened for Palestinians and their supporters. This includes [UKRI](https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/14178/UKRILetter/pdf/UKRILetter.pdf) suspending its EDI advisory board at the government’s request, for a member’s support for Palestine.
* There are increases in racism, including Islamophobia and antisemitism, in the UK and beyond.

Cardiff UCU resolves:

* To defend Cardiff staff and students in their right to dissent and protest in solidarity with Palestinian people’s freedom from oppression, with appropriate [legal support](https://elsc.support/).
* To support campaigns in solidarity with Palestine, by:
  + Donating £100 to [Na’amod](https://naamod.org.uk/who-we-are/) (British Jews Against Occupation)
  + Donating £100 to [Palestine Action](https://www.palestineaction.org/) towards legal costs for those taking action against weapons manufacturing for the Israeli military.
  + Donating £100 to the [Palestine Solidarity Campaign](https://palestinecampaign.org/).
* To call on Cardiff University:
  + To implement the Palestinian call for a boycott of Israeli academic institutions and to divest from companies complicit in Israel’s oppression of Palestinians, in line with our existing [support](https://www.cardiffucu.org.uk/category/solidarity-and-wider-campaigns/) of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS).
  + To express solidarity with Palestine, calling for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the Israeli state’s decades-long violence against Palestinians.
  + To affirm its commitment to academic freedom for those supporting Palestinians’ freedom from oppression.
* To call on the UK government:
  + To support an immediate ceasefire in Palestine.
  + To stop all military trade with Israel.[[4]](#endnote-4)
  + To hold Israel accountable for breaches of international law.
* To join calls for an end to Israel’s military occupation of Palestinian territories.
* To join calls for a release of Israeli and Palestinian hostages and prisoners (under administrative detention and others), particularly children.

1. Reports that document this genocide come from [multiple UN special rapporteurs](https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-un-experts-decry-bombing-of-hospitals-and-schools-as-crimes-against-humanity-call-for-prevention-of-genocide/), [Palestinian human rights organisations](https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/21898.html), [Jewish civil society groups](https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/resource/urgent-tell-congress-to-stop-fueling-violence/), and hundreds of [Holocaust and genocide studies scholars](https://twailr.com/public-statement-scholars-warn-of-potential-genocide-in-gaza/). The International Criminal Court has been formally asked to [investigate the unfolding genocide](https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2023-10-18-dirco-israel-is-committing-genocide-against-palestinians/) in Gaza. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. That Israel operates as an apartheid state is affirmed by [nine UN special rapporteurs](https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/07/special-rapporteur-says-israels-unlawful-carceral-practices-occupied-palestinian), [Human Rights Watch](https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution), [Amnesty International](https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MDE1551412022ENGLISH.pdf), Israeli human rights organisations, including [Yesh Din](https://www.yesh-din.org/en/the-occupation-of-the-west-bank-and-the-crime-of-apartheid-legal-opinion/) and [B’Tselem](https://www.btselem.org/press_releases/20210112_this_is_apartheid), and Palestinian human rights organisations, including [Al-Haq and Addameer](https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/19415.html). This has been reaffirmed by the [Anglican Church of South Africa](https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/anglican-church-south-africa-classify-israel-apartheid-state) and the [South African government](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/26/south-africa-calls-for-israels-proscription-as-apartheid-state), who have cited their own bitter experience of apartheid as expertise. The situation of settler-colonialism is outlined by e.g. Rashid Khalidi (2020). [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. [The UK government played a central role](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=WemWDwAAQBAJ&dq=british+colonisation+of+palestine+and+creation+of+israel&lr=&source=gbs_navlinks_s) in the creation of [Israel as a settler colonial state](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/2201473X.2012.10648823), and has continued to provide [financial](https://www.dimse.info/uk/), [military](https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/israel-palestine-hamas-war-arms-exports-uk-government/) and [diplomatic](https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142507) support for its apartheid policies, in much the same way that it [supported apartheid South Africa](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/07075332.2023.2250804). [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. This follows a call issued by the Palestinian Trade Union coalition, [Workers for Palestine](https://workers-in-palestine.webflow.io/the-calls-languages/english). [↑](#endnote-ref-4)