

MOTION TO UNIVERSITY OF BATH UCU BRANCH – STOP THE WAR, FOR EQUAL RIGHTS IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE

This branch:

1. condemns the collective punishment of Palestinians by the Israeli government which has created a humanitarian disaster in Gaza, with the deliberate blocking of water, fuel and healthcare, and continued bombing leading to more loss of life and displacing over a million citizens who have already been subject to years of blockade. The death toll in Gaza currently stands at over 20,000. Israel has now also invaded Gaza.
2. Calls for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the siege and blockade of Gaza, an end to the continued bombing and the withdrawal of Israeli troops. We call for the immediate provision of significantly increased levels of humanitarian aid, including essential goods, energy and medical supplies. Forcibly displaced citizens in Gaza must be allowed to return to their homes, with humanitarian aid used to rebuild homes and other infrastructure. This branch further condemns and opposes the spike in violence against Palestinians in the West Bank from armed settlers and Israeli security forces.
3. Condemns the attacks by Hamas. Hamas is a far-right movement aiming not for self-determination on an equal basis to Israeli Jews, but for a theocratic state, with Jews driven out. There is no justification for its attacks on civilians, and we call for the release of all hostages. Israel's right to defend its civilian population does not, however, give it the right to collectively punish the people of Gaza.
4. Believes both Palestinians and Israelis have a right to security and life. This branch believes the conflict can only have a just resolution through a framework based on equal rights for both peoples, including an equal right to self-determination. This must mean a genuinely independent Palestinian state, in contiguous territory, alongside and with equal rights to Israel.
5. Will support those voices on both sides who have shown tremendous courage in promoting peace and dialogue and a just settlement and a democratic solution. This branch particularly highlights the work of [Standing Together](#), a joint Palestinian-Israeli social movement, which is organising anti-racist, anti-war, and solidarity activity within Israeli society, and notes the establishment of the [UK Friends of Standing Together network](#).
6. Opposes the rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the UK and worldwide.
7. Will work with the wider anti-racist and trade union and labour movement to campaign for peace and a just settlement to the conflict.

This branch therefore resolves:

1. To invite a speaker from Standing Together to (remotely) address a future branch meeting.
2. To seek to make and renew direct links with workers' organisations in Palestine and Israel.
3. To seek to amplify other socialist, working-class and labour-movement voices in Israel/Palestine, promoting a politics of equal rights and coexistence.
4. To circulate information about Standing Together and the UK Friends of Standing Network to branch members.
5. To mobilise members for protests against the ongoing war, on the basis of the political approach outlined in this motion.

Proposer: Tyrone Falls

Secunder: Joel Lazarus