

Motion for the CEPU Vic Branch to be in solidarity with, and to take Trade Union Action to End Complicity in Israeli Attacks.

November 2023

1. Whereas since 7 October 2023, Israel has significantly intensified its attacks on the Palestinian people – subjecting 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza to unprecedented bombardment, unleashing settler violence on Palestinians in the West Bank and a mass arrest campaign targeting 48 Palestinians (Arab citizens of Israel).
2. Whereas Israel has levelled entire whole neighbourhoods in Gaza killing more than 10s of thousands of people – including thousands of children – and injuring 100s of thousands more.
3. Whereas, Israel demanded that 1.1 million Palestinians evacuate the northern half of Gaza and cut off the little fuel, electricity, water, food, and medical supplies from entering Gaza.
4. Whereas, Israel has distributed more than 10,000 rifles to extremist settlers in '48 Palestine and the occupied West Bank to facilitate their escalating attacks and pogroms against Palestinians.
5. Whereas, Israel's actions, massacres, and rhetoric point to its intention to implement its long promised second Nakba, expelling as many Palestinians as possible and creating a 'New Middle East' in which Palestinians live in perpetual subjugation.
6. Whereas, Palestinian trade unions have issued an appeal and call to action asking their brothers and sisters in the international trade union movement to take immediate action to end all forms of complicity with Israel's crimes.

The CEPU Vic Branch believes that:

These latest attacks are a continuation of more than 73 years of Israeli crimes committed against the Palestinian people, including belligerent occupation, settler colonialism and Apartheid.

- Israel's actions and escalation are enabled and facilitated by the impunity afforded it by the international community, who provide it with the weapons, machinery, and technology to maintain its illegal occupation and to undertake its attacks.
- As trade unionists we must always stand on the side of justice, both in word and in deed.
- Lobbying our governments and issuing statements must be coupled with trade unions action, ensuring that we are practically contributing to Palestinian liberation.

This CEPU Vic Branch resolves:

- To respond to the call by Palestinian trade unions by:
Taking immediate and concrete steps to ensure that, as unions, we ourselves are not complicit in supporting and sustaining Israeli oppression, and to:
- Encourage workers to refuse to build and handle weapons destined to Israel and/or support members refusing to transport weapons to Israel.
- To examine our institutions' contractual agreements to ensure we are not doing business with companies involved in implementing Israel's brutal and illegal siege on Gaza, particularly military companies.
- To examine our institutions' investments to ensure we are not financing complicit companies involved in implementing Israel's brutal and illegal siege on Gaza, particularly military companies.
- Issuing a public statement of solidarity with the Palestinian people, and expressing support for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel to bring it in line with its obligations under international law.

Moved by David Binotto

Seconded by Anthony Veal