



FIRE BRIGADES UNION

CONFERENCE 2024

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POLICY
STATEMENT**

THE WAR ON GAZA

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) condemns the attacks in Israel by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and calls for the immediate, safe and unconditional release of hostages held in Gaza.

The FBU condemns the onslaught against Gaza by the Israeli forces since the Hamas attacks. During the first five months of conflict, nearly 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza were killed and almost 70,000 Palestinians injured, according to United Nations figures.

The FBU condemns the appalling loss of civilian life, the destruction of large areas of Gaza, including residential buildings, schools, refugee camps and healthcare facilities, and the withholding of water, food and fuel from Palestinian civilians. Some 1.7 million people have been displaced across Gaza, many multiple times, according to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). These actions amount to the collective punishment of the Palestinian people by the Israeli forces, illegal under international law including the Geneva Convention.

The FBU opposes the actions of settlers and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) in the West Bank. Since 7 October 2023, almost 400 Palestinians have been killed and more than 4,000 Palestinians injured in the West Bank.

The FBU sends its support and solidarity to the people of Gaza and the occupied West Bank. The FBU sends solidarity to firefighters and other emergency service workers as well as medical personnel who are delivering humanitarian service in the most appalling conditions. We condemn the killing of UNRWA personnel in Israeli attacks. We condemn the killing of significant numbers of journalists attempting to carry out their work inside Gaza.

The FBU stands with millions across the world who are opposed to the relentless onslaught on Gaza and applauds our members who have attended demonstrations calling for peace.

The FBU supports the small but growing movement in Israel, opposing the war and calling for a just, peaceful and democratic solution addressing the rights of the Palestinian people. The union pays tribute to those in Israel such as Standing Together, who fight against racism and discrimination and seek to build dialogue and unity between Palestinians and Jews. Despite the current isolation of such initiatives, they offer a source of hope for the future.

The FBU has no trust or confidence in the ability of great power politics, including those of the British Government, to bring any solution for the Palestinian people or for Jewish people in Israel. Instead, we support the building of a mass workers' movement across the world to oppose Israel's war and to fight for justice, an end to the occupation and for a genuine democratic solution.

The FBU condemns any manifestation of anti-Semitism, anti-Palestinian racism or Islamophobia. The labour and trade union movement has a responsibility to intervene to oppose any such racist attacks, including those which may appear to be linked to the war in Gaza.

The FBU calls for:

- an immediate ceasefire and the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and from the occupied West Bank
- the immediate, safe and unconditional release of all hostages held in Gaza
- the immediate release of all Palestinians held without charge by Israel
- an end of sales or export of arms by the UK (and other states) to Israel
- international workers action to enforce this policy, for workers' direct action to block arms deliveries

- support for the anti-war movement in Israel and for the building of a movement of unity between Palestinian and Jewish workers and youth
- the Westminster government, to increase the UK's international development funding for the reconstruction of Gaza and to significantly increase immediate practical humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.

AMENDMENT

1st page, 5th bullet point, **delete** 'for workers' direct action to block arms deliveries' and **insert** with 'by all means available'

Scotland