

Motion 1 – passed by UCU QUB Emergency General Meeting on 1 November 2023

Motion on the war in Gaza/Israel

The UCU Branch at Queens University Belfast has condemned the perpetration of the horrific violent acts in Palestine and Israel. As members of a Trades Union, we stand for principles of justice, equality and respect. We have called on the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland to use their influence to call for:

- 1 An immediate cease fire and. In doing so we record our deep regret about Queen’s Chancellor Hilary Clinton’s recent rejection of this humanitarian demand;
- 2 The opening of inbound humanitarian corridors that can carry sufficient aid rather than the meagre supplies currently crossing into Gaza;
- 3 The release of all hostages;
- 4 Respect for international law and basic human rights, that have been flagrantly disregarded. In the immediate term, this means safe access to land, shelter, food and water to Palestinian people.

The Branch is aware of the limited influence that it has on these events and proposes the following measures to enable some pragmatic contributions to alleviate the suffering of all those impacted by the heinous violence. This Branch resolves to:

1. Organise fund raising events to raise money for charities and NGOs working to bring relief to Gaza. The branch will investigate the most effective organisation via which to convert cash raised in Belfast to food, medicine and other items needed in Gaza in the weeks ahead.
2. Set aside a sum from Branch funds to meet the cost of specialist counselling for our members (both staff and students) from Israeli and Palestinian backgrounds impacted by the conflict. This will be a sum of up to £5,000.