

MOTION ON NOTICE - Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement

Proposer: Cllr Jack O'Dwyer-Henry

Seconders: Cllr Gina Dowding and Cllr Kevin Frea

Lancaster City Council notes:

- That Palestinians have endured the longest ongoing refugee crisis in the world, and respects the right of return as enshrined in international law;
- That the recent escalation of violence was instigated by the attempt to evict 28 Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah area of Jerusalem as part of an ongoing and systematic campaign of illegal Israeli settlements and forced displacement of Palestinians from their land;
- That during the violence in May 2021, 256 Palestinians were killed, 66 of whom were children, whilst 13 people were killed in Israel;
- That Israel's military operation in Gaza amounts to the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and illegal settlement expansion represents flagrant breaches of international law;
- That a growing list of human rights organisations have determined that Israel's actions amount to apartheid, including the latest report by Human Rights Watch.

This Council resolves to:

- Express its support for the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement;
- Condemn Israel's breaches of international law and killing of Palestinian civilians;
- Write to the Lancashire County Pension Fund (part of the Local Government Pension Scheme) and the Local Pensions Partnership urging that they adopt policies requiring them to divest from all companies active in illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine and all arms companies which supply weapons to Israel.

Officer briefing note:

The motion if agreed places no significant operational or financial implications on the Council to implement.

The Section 151 and Monitoring Officer have been consulted and have no further comment.