

Fringe Meeting:

Palestine: Equal Rights, Solidarity and Free Speech

Tuesday 25th April, 12.30-2pm, Strathspey Four Seasons Restaurant, Strathspey Hotel

Organised by: **UNISON, Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign & War on Want**
Chair: **Sam Macartney**, Chair, UNISON Scotland International Committee
Speakers: **Fiona Napier**, Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign & recently returned from a trade union delegation to Palestine
Ryvka Barnard, War on Want Senior Campaigns Officer

- Since last year's conference the situation for Palestinians has worsened. Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and the siege on Gaza has continued unabated.
- Israel's Ma'ale Adumin settlement expansion in the Jerusalem area impacts on 18 Palestinian Bedouin communities, most of whom are refugees originally from what is now southern Israel. During Jan-Feb 2017 Israel demolished 24 homes and other structures in these communities, displacing 133 people, more than half of them children. *Read full UN report - <http://bit.do/dkw6X>*
- In southern Israel, the homes of 1,000 Palestinian Bedouin in the village of Umm al-Hiran were demolished in order to replace it with a town for Israeli Jews. Abu Al-Qi'an, a 50-year-old math teacher, was killed by Israeli police during the pre-dawn raid. *Read more here - <http://bit.do/dkxaQ>*
- Increase in Israel's targeting of Palestinian human rights defenders with attacks, arrest, detention, and threats to their lives and safety. *Read more here - <http://bit.do/dkxk7>*

We have also seen an escalation of Israeli government attempts to crush the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign (BDS) as they work with governments and pro-Israel organisations around the world to stifle free speech and right to protest. How is the Israeli government organising in Scotland? What is the best way to prioritise BDS campaigning, while we expose attempts to intimidate and support those being targeted in their workplace because they support Palestinian rights?



Further strengthening our principled intersectional alliances with movements for indigenous, racial, economic, social, gender, climate and other forms of justice is our loudest response to their xenophobic, far-right, fascist-leaning agenda and their draconian laws.

As they desperately attempt to sow fear and despair, to chill our free speech, to tarnish our records, and to bully us into silence, we nourish our well-founded hope with generous doses of effective, strategic, morally-consistent campaigns for justice and equality and insist on our right to freely express ourselves and to defend our rights.

Omar Barghouti: Message of gratitude and hope, 1 April 2017

Read full message - <http://bit.do/dkxdP>



www.unison-scotland.org/international/



www.waronwant.org



www.scottishpsc.org.uk