

Council notes:

A report released on 1st February 2022 by Amnesty International has analysed Israel's intent to create and maintain a system of oppression and domination over Palestinians and examined its key components: territorial fragmentation; segregation and control; dispossession of land and property; and denial of economic and social rights. It has concluded that this system amounts to apartheid.

Council further notes:

Institutions across the island of Ireland are still invested in the arms trade and have other links to Israel and as students we have a responsibility to support the Palestinian people and campaign against this.

Council recognizes:

The student movement has often been at the forefront of important societal change, both locally, and internationally, including standing together against apartheid in South Africa, fighting for civil rights in the USA in the 1960's and now organising collectively to tackle the growing climate crisis. USI was directly involved with Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, and engaged heavily with campaigns to release Nelson Mandela from prison. Student unions are also involved in supporting Ukrainian refugees and students remaining in Ukraine.

Council remarks:

USI's constitution, and Article 3, clause 3.9, which states that one of the primary objectives of the USI is the *"defense and promotion of all democratic and human rights as a core goal of the organisation"*.

Council believes:

It is unconscionable for any third-level education institution to continue to invest in the arms trade, have links with Israel and be complicit in the violent dispossession of the Palestinian people.

Council notes:

In 2005, Palestinian civil society called for a campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law, allowing the realisation of Palestinian rights.

Council appreciates:

The work of activists like Trinity BDS, supported by the TCDSU, in campaigning for third-level institutions to adopt the principles of BDS, in solidarity with Palestine.

Council further appreciates:

The stance of the global BDS movement which calls on Israel to end its human and civic rights abuses, and calls on Israel to respect the human and civic rights of all religions, races and nationalities

and ethnicities. BDS respects the civic rights of all religions, races and nationalities and ethnicities. This in line with USI's other work on anti-racism, anti-discrimination and anti-apartheid.

Council therefore mandates:

That the USI Coiste Gnó adopt a pro-BDS stance, in solidarity with Palestine, and denounce the apartheid that Israel is committing in Palestine.

Council further mandates:

That the USI (VP Dublin, VP BMW, VP South) support local BDS branches in third-level institutions, and establish a toolkit for MOs and their members who would like to set up local BDS branches. The toolkit is to be based on, but not limited to, Trinity BDS's SU toolkit.

That the USI Coiste Gnó call on the European Students Union (ESU) to re-evaluate the membership of Israel and support any Palestinian efforts to engage with ESU.

That the USI Coiste Gnó to boycott Israeli corporations, institutions and companies and their products that are currently used by, or have relations with, the USI.

*Proposed by: TCDSU*