
Foodworkers and Allied Trades Support Palestine Oct 2025

Ceasefire and Continuing Support

We're all hoping that support for the Palestinian people and the demonstrations doesn't dwindle following the announcement of the ceasefire.

There remains a widespread lack of trust that the ceasefire terms will hold in the long term, and we must stay alert and ready to continue showing solidarity.

Union and Branch Involvement

Excellent turnout from Cornwall, around 250 at the demos, with BFAWU branches proudly displaying Palestine/BFAWU flags.

The General Secretary will be attending the PSC AGM, speaking about the work we've been doing:

- Our regular Palestine solidarity meetings.
- The "Myth Busters" resource and resources document, both excellent tools for members and reps to use in conversations and campaigning.

Building International Links

We should look to develop direct ties with Palestinian foodworkers and unions within the sector to strengthen international solidarity and practical connections.

Kernow region continues to lead by example with a number of international solidarity links already established around the world, their work deserves recognition and could be a model for other regions.

Regional Concerns

Some concerns raised in Regions 7 and 4, where membership losses are being linked to the union's stance on Palestine.

Important to stress that:

- The BFAWU has a long-standing policy on Palestine, democratically agreed at Annual Conference.
- We must understand and respect regional histories and contexts when engaging members or being approached about participation in wider actions such as general strikes for Palestine.
- The union has not made any extreme or radical statements it's disappointing that some feel they need to leave over our support for people living through genocide.

Members exist within their own spheres of influence and media exposure we need to break through misinformation with education and facts.

We should also highlight other international solidarity work the union and wider movement are involved in, to broaden awareness of our values and consistency.

Communications and Resources

A dedicated page on the BFAWU website should be created to host:

- Notes and outcomes from our Palestine solidarity meetings.
- Educational and resource materials, including the Myth Busters document.

Ethical Procurement and Insurance

The union must ensure we are not complicit in using insurance companies or other financial providers that:

- Invest in or support the genocide.
- Are involved in fossil fuels or other unethical industries.

Our brokers are instructed to follow our ethical policies and red lines—sometimes this means paying more, but it ensures we stay true to our principles.

We need to check Union Insurance Services, as part of our due diligence, to ensure their investments align with our policies.

Reports from Demos

Cornwall: strong, passionate turnout; real anger from ordinary people – particularly parents who don't want their children growing up witnessing genocide.

There's deep frustration with the Labour Party – many feel disconnected and disillusioned, as if the leadership is "in a bubble."



Police approach has been measured, not hostile.

Leeds: different experience – a group of university students held a peaceful demo on 7th October, but police were hostile and kettled them for hours.

At the Leeds Unity demo, around 3,000 people attended.

One arrest – a person holding a Palestine Action sign – with six officers pouncing, extremely aggressive policing.

Clear regional contrasts in police response to Palestine solidarity events.

Political Context and Forward Look

Important to monitor how the PA proscription will be implemented and whether the ceasefire changes anything in practice.

Concerns raised about Tony Blair's involvement in the ceasefire process – likely to provoke continued mobilisation rather than calm things down.

Praise for Italy and the Italian Prime Minister for taking a strong stance.

Deep disappointment in Keir Starmer's silence regarding the Flotilla capture and solidarity with Ewa, from Starmer's own constituency, who was captured and thankfully has now been released.