



Motion on Palestine

The UNI Graphical & Packaging World Conference welcomes the recent delegation to Palestine undertaken by a number of its affiliates and members of the UNI secretariat that took place in June 2019.

The delegation visited East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Palestinian areas in Israel, and met with a very wide range of individuals and organisations.

A report was produced that gave very clear and precise details of the current situation and made a series of conclusions and recommendations given here:

Concerning the current situation the delegation concluded that:

- The Israeli state is actively working to destroy the possibility of a viable two state solution by encouraging and supporting a huge programme of illegal settlement building in the occupied West Bank;
- The building of illegal settlements is being undertaken in a thought out and strategic manner aimed at fragmenting the West Bank and taking control of the most important resources, including land and water;
- Palestinians in East Jerusalem live under massive political and legal pressures all of which are ultimately aimed at driving the Palestinian population out of Jerusalem and turning it into a Jewish city that is the capital of Israel only;
- Refugees continue to live in extremely difficult conditions that are actually getting worse not better. The Trump administration has now unilaterally terminated the main source of funding to UNWRA and is openly working on changing the definition of refugees in order to finally terminate their right to return;
- The huge gulf in rights that exists between Jewish Israelis and Palestinian citizens of Israel (including those in East Jerusalem who were never given Israeli citizenship) is such that the current structure of Israeli society and the occupied territories can only be described as an Apartheid state;

- The Israeli state's treatment of Palestinian child prisoners is barbaric and designed to intimidate and terrify the children, their families and the communities they come from, it is disgrace for any civilised society to behave in such a manner towards children;
- The complete absence of any basic human rights inevitably means workers' and trade union rights are in a dismal condition. Despite valiant efforts from numerous organisations – both Palestinian and Israeli – the ability to truly organise and represent workers is virtually non-existent for Palestinians;

Based on these conclusions of the current situation the delegation recommends the following courses of action be adopted:

- All trade unions should immediately step up their efforts to stand and act in solidarity with the Palestinian people, including educating their members and fully engaging in the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign;
- UNI global and UNI-Europa should write to all their affiliates advising them of current UNI policy and encouraging them to implement it and take actions themselves, in particular in relation to pressurising their respective governments to take action and to build the BDS campaign with their memberships;
- UNI-Europa should write to the European Commission and MEPs calling for more urgent actions to address the current situation, UNI-Europa should call for the EU-Israel trade agreement to be suspended indefinitely until the human rights situation of the Palestinians is properly and comprehensively addressed;
- UNI Global and UNI-Europa should write to other international and European federations, as well as the ITUC and ETUC, explaining what actions they are taking and why, and also calling on them to follow suit and actively engage in the campaign;
- UNI Global and UNI-Europa should organise their own official delegations to Palestine. As trade unions our history is to stand with the oppressed and these delegations should therefore be unashamedly aimed at building solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and furthering the international campaign for their rights;

UNI Graphical & Packaging Global fully endorses and supports these recommendations and notes that going forwards the focus of union solidarity efforts should be much more centred on defending and supporting the rights of the Palestinians and less on diplomatic missions that can serve to mask the reality of the conflict.

UNI Graphical & Packaging calls on the UNI World Executive Board to also adopt the findings and recommendations of the report.

Toledo, October 22, 2019