

UNISON

SCOTLAND

news

Motion 53 on Palestine passed

Motion 53 on Palestine passed at National Delegate Conference this year stated – 'Conference believes that ending the occupation demands concerted and sustained pressure upon Israel including an economic, cultural, academic and sporting boycott.' For more information on the broader boycott campaign please see <http://www.palestinecampaign.org/pdf/>

coolers support the public sector in Scotland and reduce carbon emissions and health and safety hazards involved in moving bottled water, for more info see <http://www.wateratwork.org/> .

Most importantly Branches are reminded that UNISON Scotland is now a stockist of a wide range of fairtrade Palestinian soaps and delicious olive oil. These items



Karen Hall, Nasser Abufarha, John Barton and Heather Masoud along with UNISON staff mark UNISON Scotland becoming a stockist of Palestinian fair-trade goods.

[boycottarticle.pdf](#) .

Branches are reminded of the links between bottled water at work provider Eden Springs and Israel and are encouraged to ensure that your Branch and your employer do not use Eden Springs Water.

UNISON Scotland has removed it from all of its offices. Better still why not build a linkage to UNISON's Water@Work campaign and campaign for the removal of bottled water all together and call for the installation of mains fed water coolers. Mains water

lane@unison.co.uk or 0141 332 0006 or Karen Hall at k.hall2@unison.co.uk or 0870 7777 006.

For more information on the incredible struggle by Palestinians to get this oil to the UK see the importers website at <http://www.zaytoun.org/> . A wider range of Palestinian fairtrade products is available from Scotland's only Palestinian fairtrade shop – Hadeel, St. George's West, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RT; Tel: 0131 2251922, Email: info@hadeel.org

Scottish Committee agree to affiliate to the Burma Campaign

This has been the biggest issue on the international scene in recent months. UNISON Scotland has been working with an organisation called Burmalink which has built up good links with Burmese trade unions. A number of other Regions are building links with Burmalink. The organisation does not yet have a website though one is on the way and is not an affiliate based organisation, yet. Members of the International Committee have already met with Burmalink's Peter Sagar and another meeting will be taking place in the next couple of months.

If you or your branch would like more info on Burmalink or you would like to come to the meeting with Peter to discuss joint working please contact Simon Macfarlane.

On the 6th of November the Scottish Committee agreed to affiliate to the Burma Campaign (<http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/>).

UNISON submitted an emergency motion to the STUC's Women's Conference in Glasgow in November on Burma and one of our motions to the 2008 STUC Congress will be on Burma.



Dundee's International Peace Day

International peace day gave Dundee City Branch the perfect opportunity to get various campaign groups and organisations with a common interest together and to increase awareness in the local community.

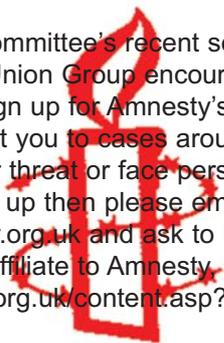


Although the time scale for organising this event was extremely tight, the event went fantastically well. There were 15 stall holders from organisations including Oxfam, ACTSA, Jubilee Scotland, Greenpeace, Scottish Cuba Solidarity Campaign, Amnesty International, Dundee Coalition for Justice Not War/DCND, WDM, Quakers and Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

The event was held in Dundee's main square and visitors to the stalls were entertained by speakers and singers. The International Committee at its meeting on 2nd November 2007 sent warm congratulations to the Branch and Karen Grogan the Branch's International officer.

Members and branches encouraged to support Amnesty International

At the International Committee's recent seminar Tom Hedley of the Amnesty Trade Union Group encouraged branches and individual members to sign up for Amnesty's regular Urgent Action emails, which alert you to cases around the world where trade unionists are under threat or face persecution. If you or your branch want to sign up then please email Shane.Enright@amnesty.org.uk and ask to be added to the list. Your branch could also affiliate to Amnesty - for more information see <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10455>.



Branch International Officers & Email Lists

If your branch does not have an International Officer or you are a new International Officer seeking some pointers, Alison Cosgrove of the International Committee has volunteered to work with Branches to help them increase their international activity. This may involve twinning you with another member of the Committee who can be an ongoing contact and reference point. Alison can be contacted at acosgrove@eastlothian.gov.uk or 01620 827246.

Simon Macfarlane, Secretary to the International Committee runs an email list for International Officers and interested members on which he circulates a variety of information concerning international issues, if you would like added to this list please email Simon on s.macfarlane@unison.co.uk

Debt & Public Services Briefing

UNISON has teamed up with Oxfam to produce a detailed briefing looking at the issues surrounding debt and the impact on public services as part of the Jubilee Debt Campaign.



In developing countries, the provision of decent, accessible public services can mean the difference between life and death, yet these services are threatened by huge debt burdens and the damaging policies demanded by creditors. For more information and to get the full briefing visit <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/?lid=3704>



Looking Ahead

- The next International Committee meeting is on 2nd February 2008 at 11am in West Campbell Street, this will be the last meeting before the new Committee is elected at the Scottish Council on 5th April 2008.
- 8th August 2008 marks the 20th anniversary the famous 8-8-88 mass uprising in Burma which started in Rangoon and spread to the entire country, drawing millions of people to protest against the regime. The following military crackdown killed thousands.
- Hogmanay next year marks the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, early contacts have been made with the Scottish Cuba Solidarity Campaign and Glasgow City Council, which is twinned with Havana, on marking the event.