

# JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE

HAVE YOUR CANDIDATES TAKEN THE #PALESTINEPLEDGES? AND IF NOT, THEN WHY NOT?



Supporters of the Palestinian people are calling on candidates in the General Election to pledge to support justice for Palestine. We are asking TDs to make three pledges to support concrete actions to help secure freedom, justice and equality for the Palestinian people if elected to Dáil Éireann.

We are asking candidates to publicly commit to three promises, the **#PalestinePledges**. Responses will be published on this page so that all voters concerned with Palestine can have an informed opinion about where candidates stand on the issue of justice for the Palestinian people.

## 1. The Illegal Settlements Pledge

"I believe that no one should profit from Israel's occupation of Palestine, and, if elected to Dáil Éireann, I pledge to support and vote in favour of the 'Occupied Territories Bill' which will prohibit the import and sale of goods, services and natural resources originating in Israel's illegal settlements in Palestine. Further I pledge to support the call for an EU-wide ban on trade with the settlements."

## 2. The Arms Trade Pledge

"I believe that no one should profit from the deaths, maiming and continued subjugation of Palestinians, and, if elected to Dáil Éireann, I pledge to actively work to end the bilateral arms trade between Ireland and Israel, and to support the exclusion of Israeli arms manufacturers and other military companies from EU Research Programs and EU contracts."

## 3. The Free Speech Pledge

"I believe no one should be silenced for advocating for human, civil, national, political or economic rights, and, if elected to Dáil Éireann, I pledge to protect the right of people to free speech, including the right to engage in the non-violent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign. I pledge to act against any attempts to suppress or criminalise Palestine solidarity activism."

Produced by the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign  
For more information about Palestine or any of these topics, please see [www.ipsc.ie](http://www.ipsc.ie)



# JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE

## A QUICK QUESTION SHEET FOR ELECTION CANDIDATES

Keep it handy for when politicians come calling during the General Election



The Trump-Netanyahu Axis of Racism is an ongoing disaster for the Palestinian people, and things look set to only get worse. However, the Irish government can play a positive role and help to reverse the trajectory of apartheid, dispossession and war crimes. To do so, Ireland must meet its legal obligations not to provide assistance to Israeli violations of international law. It can begin to do this by banning all trade with illegal Israeli settlements and ending all arms trade with Israel. The government also has a duty to support the right to free speech and the right of civil society to engage in a campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) directed at Israel until it grants Palestinians their rights.

### Ask them to support the 'Occupied Territories Bill' to ban trade with illegal Israel settlements

The world has been watching the progress of Frances Black's 'Control of Economic Activities (Occupied Territories) Bill' through the Irish parliament. If made law the Bill will **ban all trade with Israel's illegal colonial settlements in occupied Palestine**. Supported by the vast majority of TDs and Senators in the last Oireachtas, though opposed by the previous government, its progress remains a live issue for the 33rd Dáil.

**All Israeli settlements in Palestine are illegal** and are considered to be **war crimes** under the Geneva Conventions. Therefore, the banning of such trade is not only an effective means of putting pressure on Israel to end the occupation and its anti-Palestinian policies and actions, it is a **legal necessity** to ensure Ireland fulfils its basic obligations not to provide assistance to, or recognition of, Israeli violations of international law. Of course, any Irish-only ban should only be the start of an EU-wide ban and TDs should **support a ban at European level too**.

In 1986, Ireland became the first country in Western Europe to ban imports of fruit and vegetables from Apartheid South Africa. The Irish government should again lead the way in this regard and **TDs should act to ban settlement goods**.

### Ask them to pledge to help end the Irish arms trade with Israel

Ireland has bought millions of euro worth of arms and military components from Israel over the last decade, while Irish-based companies have exported millions more worth of military and 'dual use' hardware to Israel. Military items exported from Israel will have been used on the Palestinian people so such weapons can then be marketed as 'battle-tested'. Any military components exported to Israel will be used to kill and maim yet more Palestinians and to entrench the decades-long military occupation.

Neither Israel nor arms manufacturers in Ireland should be allowed to profit from the killing of Palestinians; this trade in death must cease. It should be unconscionable for a state like Ireland that claims 'respect for and the promotion of human right' as a 'cornerstone of foreign policy' to allow such a trade to continue. Therefore the **Irish government must end the Irish arms trade** with Israel until it ends the occupation of Palestinian land and complies fully with its obligations under international law.

Shockingly, at the EU level, **taxpayers' money is being funnelled to Israeli arms manufacturers** and other military companies under the guise of research grants, and via EU contracts for items like drones. **TDs should oppose this rewarding of an industry that deals in the deaths of Palestinians and the destruction of their lands, properties, and livelihoods**.

### Ask them to support free speech & the right to Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions (BDS)

Across Europe and the Americas there are **huge efforts underway to suppress both criticism of Israel** and effective civil society actions that aim to compel the Israeli state into ending the occupation, ending violations of international law, and granting Palestinians their inalienable rights.

The Israeli state is **pumping countless millions of euro into demonizing, attacking and sabotaging the global, non-violent, Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement**, supported by millions of people around the world. Meanwhile, some Western **governments are moving to criminalise the BDS Movement and suppress criticism of the Israeli state**. Language is being turned on its head as people and groups with long records of anti-racist activity are being branded 'antisemitic' because they oppose the violent racism, apartheid and war crimes carried out by the Israeli state.

It is imperative that **TDs should resist any such efforts to criminalise free speech or ban legitimate political actions like BDS and Palestine solidarity in Ireland**, and that they oppose any attempts to do so elsewhere outside the state.