

Dear Comrades and Friends,

LAUNCH OF COALITION FOR A SHEFFIELD ISRAELI APARTHEID FREE ZONE (IAFZ)
Saturday 26 November 1.30 - 5pm, Victoria Hall, Sheffield

Four Sheffield organisations have formed a Coalition to launch a united movement of all supporters of Palestine in Sheffield in order to make Sheffield an Israeli Apartheid-Free Zone. The organisations are Sheffield Trade Union Council, Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Sheffield Labour Friends of Palestine, and Kairos Sheffield.

We consider the struggle against Israeli apartheid to be inseparable from the wider struggle against all forms of racism, a struggle to which we are fully committed.

To establish an Israeli Apartheid-Free Zone will require a determined campaign to persuade local government, educational and cultural institutions and businesses to sever their links with Israel. Only through such political pressure can we extend meaningful solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Our city has a proud record of such solidarity: in 1981, Sheffield was the first UK Local Authority to announce it would work to end all links with South African Apartheid. The time is ripe for Sheffield to take another lead, this time against Israel's settler colonial, apartheid regime.

We warmly invite you to join us on November 26th in the Victoria Hall to launch this initiative. As part of an organisation or group, or as an individual, you can help us build this movement.

We want Sheffield to be a city which stands with the oppressed, not the oppressor, championing justice for all people. We look forward to working with you and supporting the Palestinian people together.

Below, you will find a definition of apartheid and the aims of the Coalition. If you support these aims and are interested in joining the Coalition, we invite you to participate in the Launch Meeting from 1.30pm to 5pm on Saturday November 26th 2022, at the Victoria Hall in Sheffield.

At the Launch, speakers (details to follow) will give an overview of Israeli Apartheid and the importance of supporting the struggle against it here in Sheffield. Following this, we propose an open discussion of the Coalition initiative and the formation of an organising committee to begin the work of coordinating action amongst supporting groups and individuals. Please join us!

On behalf of the Coalition

Musheir El Farra

- ***If you would like to participate in the Launch Meeting, please [register here on Eventbrite](#).***
- ***Or contact the following representatives of our Interim Steering Group:***
 - ***Sheffield Trades Union Council: tucsheffield@gmail.com***
 - ***Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign: enquiries@sheffieldpssc.org.uk***
 - ***Sheffield Labour Friends of Palestine: chair@slfp.org.uk***
 - ***Kairos Sheffield: kairossheffield@gmail.com***

Sheffield Kairos



Sheffield PALESTINE
solidarity campaign



What is Apartheid? It's a crime against humanity!

The term "apartheid" was originally used to describe the system of white minority rule in South Africa, from 1948 until 1994. However, the crime of apartheid is not limited to that historic context. In international law, apartheid is defined as follows:

- *"...inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them"*
- *These acts are committed "in the context of an institutionalised regime... with the intention of maintaining that regime."*

The crime of apartheid is a crime against humanity, a crime of the highest order of magnitude. It is codified in the [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#).

The Aims of the Sheffield Palestine Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid

The Coalition is committed to supporting the Palestinian people's struggle against Israeli apartheid, and the injustice and oppression they experience. It will coordinate the work of organisations in Sheffield committed to this objective and seek the support of citizens, trade unions, businesses, political, community, environmental, faith and student groups.

The Coalition pledges to:

- oppose all forms of racism e.g. racism against Black and minority ethnic groups, antisemitism and Islamophobia.
- raise Sheffield citizens' awareness of the Palestinian people's struggle against injustice imposed by Israeli apartheid, settler colonialism and occupation
- make Sheffield into an Israeli Apartheid-Free Zone by campaigning for businesses, local governmental, educational, sporting and cultural institutions to renounce all ties that support the Israeli apartheid system in line with the Palestinian led BDS campaign
- oppose the arms trade and all forms of military collaboration with Israel and call for the end of Israeli occupation and the siege of the Gaza Strip
- call for sanctions against Israel until it abides by all international laws and UN resolutions affecting the rights of Palestinians, including the refugees' right of return
- support Palestinian grassroots organizations which promote equality for women, workers' rights and the improvement of conditions for children
- encourage Palestinian cultural activity in Sheffield
- oppose measures aimed at shutting down public criticism of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians

Sheffield Palestine Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid