



Statement on the situation in Israel and Palestine

Adopted at the EPSU Executive Committee 29-30 November 2023

The EPSU Executive Committee at its meeting on 30 November expressed its deep concern about what is happening in Israel and Palestine and the increasing instability in the European region and beyond. The Executive welcomed the temporary ceasefire and release of prisoners and hostages, but insisted that the ceasefire becomes permanent.

The PSI Congress (resolution n° 48) condemned Hamas' brutal terrorist attacks of October 7th that resulted in over one thousand people dead and over two hundred hostages taken as prisoners.

The reaction of the Israeli Government has provoked a humanitarian crisis of devastating impact for the population living in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank. In a few weeks, thousands of men, women and children have died, even more have had to flee their homes, and thousands of people have been injured. The conflict has made it impossible for medical services and hospitals to treat the injured and to effectively function as required by the Geneva Convention.

The conflict is a humanitarian crisis with huge implications for workers, particularly for those employed in public services such as health care, education, energy, water and firefighters, as well as all the key sectors that are committed to provide access to fundamental human rights.

EPSU unreservedly condemns all forms of violence targeting any segment of the civilian population and calls for an immediate and durable humanitarian ceasefire, as set out in the UN General Assembly Resolution approved on October 27th 2023. The bombing campaign which is devastating vital medical services must stop. Hospitals must never be targets. We call for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian corridors through the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank to facilitate the supply of essential goods and services.

We express our solidarity with all public services workers who continue under devastating conditions to take care of civilian population

It is time for diplomacy to work to stop the war, stop the bombing from all sides, and protect civilians. The European Union the UN and all actors must stop military actions, to ensure the release of hostages and to give protection to the people and to public services workers. The immediate ceasefire is essential to ensure the "Two people- two state" solution which will lead to viable, sovereign and independent states with all populations living in peace. This requires the implementation of the many UN resolutions already in place.

The trade union movement must condemn the escalation of antisemitism and islamophobia around the world and must be strongly opposed to war, violence and all forms of racism. We want peace and justice for all.

Enough.

The time for peace is now.