

COUNCIL MEETING – 12 DECEMBER 2024

PETITION DEBATE

Motion to debate the petition: Islington Council – Divest Now!

Motion to be moved by: Cllr Diarmaid Ward
Executive Member for Finance and Performance

This Council notes that:

- A petition was received at the Council meeting on 19 September 2024 which had over 2,000 signatures.
- Procedure Rule 19.1 of the Council’s Constitution provides that, where a petition has received at least 2,000 signatures, then a debate on the petition shall be held, for up to 15 minutes, at the following ordinary Council meeting. The Lead Petitioner will be invited to re-introduce the petition at the meeting. Councillors will then be invited to consider the petition and debate the points raised.

This Council resolves to:

- Continue to encourage residents to participate in local democracy by carefully considering the points raised in the petition and to undertake the debate in a spirit of openness and transparency.
- Be mindful that the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the relevant Acts
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Note the petition.

The text of the petition is set out overleaf.

Petition received at the 19 September 2024 meeting of the Council

Islington Council – Divest Now!

Demands to Islington Council

Pension fund: Divest for Palestinian rights!

1. Disclose the pension fund's investments in companies that enable, facilitate and profit from human rights violations or violations of international law as part of prolonged military occupations, apartheid and genocide* and in bonds issued by countries involved in prolonged military occupations.
2. Divest from all the companies and bonds disclosed.
3. Provide a timescale for divestment and quarterly progress reports.
4. Update the Investment Strategy Statement to include a commitment to divest from companies that enable, facilitate and profit from human rights violations or violations of international law and schedule regular reviews of fund holdings to identify further exclusions.
5. Publish statements regarding changes to the pension fund strategy and disinvestment programme.

Procurement: Boycott Barclays and other complicit suppliers!

1. Companies that enable, facilitate and profit from human rights violations or violations of international law to be excluded from tendering for contracts with the council.
2. Set up a working group to strengthen the ethical criteria of the council's procurement procedure.
3. Publish regular statements regarding the progress of the group and report on its findings.

*As listed in (i) the updated OHCHR database of business enterprises enabling, facilitating and profiting from the construction and growth of settlements in the West Bank; <https://www.ohchr.org> and (ii) the American Friends Service Committee's list of companies that "consistently, knowingly, and directly enable or facilitate human rights violations or violations of international law as part of prolonged military occupations, apartheid and genocide": <https://afsc.org/divest> which includes the following companies implicated in Israel's current assault on Gaza:

BAE Systems plc, UK	Northrop Grumman Corp USA
Boeing Co, USA	Palantir Technologies, USA
Caterpillar Inc, USSA	Paz Oil Co Ltd, Israel
Colt CZ Group SE, Czech Republic	RENK Group AG, Germany
Elbit Systems, Israel	Rolls Royce Holdings plc, UK
General Dynamics Corp, USA	RTZ Corp, USA
General Electric Co, USA	Textron Inc, USA
L3Harris Technologies, SA	thyssenhrupp AG, Germany
Leonardo SpA, Italy	Valero Energy Corp, USA
Lockheed Martin Corp, USA	

2,263 signatures received.