

Resolution #14

Support of Peace and Justice in Palestine

WHEREAS:

Nelson Mandela said, “we know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians”; and

WHEREAS:

Some 400 women cross the border every day from Palestine into Israel to work in agriculture or domestic work. On average, they are paid around \$40 per day, although the minimum daily wage under Israeli labor law is \$56 per day. Because few decent work opportunities exist in the depressed Palestinian economy, many Palestinian women and men travel hours to access jobs in Israel, despite long lines at checkpoints, frequent harassment from soldiers and risk of injury or harassment inherent to informal employment environments; and

WHEREAS:

The Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions documents worsening conditions suffered by Palestinian workers and their families as a result of the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories including the indignities caused by Israeli checkpoints, unsafe working conditions and exploitation of workers; and

WHEREAS:

Israel has illegally occupied Palestinian lands since 1967 and the Israeli policy of building settlements, separation walls and by-pass roads on Palestinian lands undermine a viable two-state solution; and

WHEREAS:

The Palestinians living under Israeli occupation are subject to Israeli military law while the Israeli settlers living in the illegal settlements in the Palestinian territories are subject to Israeli civil law; and

WHEREAS:

Despite this ongoing tragedy, Israel remains the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign assistance since World War II to date having received 5124.3 billion in bilateral assistance that continues at the rate of 3.3 billion per year; and

WHEREAS:

There is growing awareness that the world must act to help end this ongoing human rights tragedy; and

WHEREAS:

A growing number of labor organizations have joined with global human rights groups to demand an end to the extreme oppression of Palestinians and sustained efforts to build a fair and lasting peace.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That UDW calls upon AFSCME, the AFL-CIO and state and local labor bodies:

1) to demand that our Government diligently apply all diplomatic and economic tools to bring an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and to support a fair and just peace in which the people of Israel and Palestine can live in peace and security in accordance with International law and the universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

2) to adopt the strategy of Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) in connection with companies and investments profiting from or complicit in human rights violations arising from the occupation of the Palestinian Territories by the state of Israel, and to urge its affiliates and related pension and annuity funds to adopt similar strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 work to oppose anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all acts of racism, human rights violations and the exploitation of workers.

SUBMITTED BY:

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 Executive Board