

BREAKING: FOURTEEN OXFORDSHIRE TRADE UNIONS ENDORSE OXFORD GAZA ENCAMPMENT

Fourteen trade unions and union councils wholeheartedly back the OA4P solidarity encampment and all six of the group's demands

OXFORD, UK, 17 May 2024 -- Over the past ten days of tremendous momentum for the Oxford Action for Palestine (OA4P) Gaza solidarity encampment, the base of support for the OA4P's demands has grown exponentially. On Friday evening, the coalition marked a major milestone: **fourteen trade unions released a statement in unequivocal support and solidarity for the encampment and its demands of the University**. Trade unions form the backbone of the University and the broader Oxfordshire community – and their support of OA4P's action has now built a major axis of pressure on the University Administration.

Last week, the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians has notified the University of Oxford - among over 80 British institutions - of possible complicity through its investments, in israel's genocide of the Palestinian people. The endorsing unions called on Oxford to immediately halt its bankrolling of genocide.

The statement reads, "The OA4P's demands align with repeated calls from Palestinian trade unions to end all complicity and stop arming Israel...we extend our solidarity to OA4P, and call on our members to visit the encampment and support it in any way they can."

The statement has been signed by the University of Oxford UCU, Oxford and District Trades Union Council, Reading Trades Union Council, Oxford Brookes University UCU, Oxford Brookes University UNISON, Oxfordshire NEU, Unite the Union, Oxford County Health Branch, Oxfordshire UNISON Health, TSSA North London (Network Rail), Reading RMT, Oxford City Council UNISON, CWU South Central Postal, Unite South East SE/605, and PCS Bucks and Oxon.

The support of the University of Oxford's UCU branch, in particular, offers yet another indication of the strong faculty and staff support for OA4P. The union's endorsement comes days after over 500 faculty and staff issued a statement in support of OA4P and its demands.

OA4P has called for disclosure of the University's direct and indirect investments, divestment from all arms corporations and companies complicit in the israeli war machine; a systematic overhaul of the University's ethical investment policies; a boycott of institutional relationships with israeli universities and companies; and a commitment to rebuilding and reinvesting in Palestinian education, following the destruction of all twelve of Gaza's universities and the deaths of thousands of students and educators.

TO READ THE FULL UNIONS' STATEMENT and view other resources, see our press kit at OxAct4Pal.com. **For live updates**, visit our social media @OxAct4Pal on X,

Instagram, and TikTok. **For interviews and other enquiries, contact:** m: 07341377729; e: oxpalpress@proton.me.

Oxford Action for Palestine (OA4P) is a coalition of students, faculty, staff, and other members of the University of Oxford community who are dedicated to the liberation of Palestine. On May 6, OA4P established a Liberated Zone encampment in solidarity with Gaza, calling on the University to cut financial and institutional ties with Israeli genocide, occupation, and apartheid. For updates, visit OxAct4Pal.com and find us on Instagram, X, and TikTok on @OxAct4Pal.

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