

## **New Model Motion: *Defend the Right to Boycott***

### **This CLP Notes:**

- The government's Foreign Affairs (Economic Activities of Public Bodies) bill, or anti-boycott bill, will limit the ability of public bodies to make ethical choices about spending and investment that reflect widespread public support for human rights, climate goals and international law.
- The bill will shield companies engaged in human rights abuse or environmental destruction by preventing public bodies from cutting financial ties with them over abusive or illegal actions committed in a foreign state, unless expressly permitted to do so by the government.
- Many companies who are involved in the abuse of human and workers' rights, the destruction of our planet, and other illegal and harmful acts are not subject to government sanctions.
- The Tories have indicated that a major reason for proposing this law is specifically to prevent public bodies from deciding not to invest in companies operating in Israel and occupied Palestine – even if they are complicit in the violation of international law and the human rights of the Palestinian people.
- A wide range of civil society organisations such as trade unions, charities, NGOs, faith, climate justice, human rights, cultural, campaigning, solidarity organisations and others are opposing this bill.

### **This CLP Believes:**

- Labour must oppose this. Public bodies and democratic institutions should be able to spend, invest and trade ethically in line with international law and human rights.
- From bus boycotts against racial segregation to divestment from fossil fuel companies to arms embargoes against apartheid, boycott, divestment, and sanctions are non-violent campaigns that have been applied throughout history to put economic, cultural, or political pressure on a regime, institution or company to force it to change abusive, discriminatory, or illegal policies.
- Labour Party Conference motions have repeatedly called for real and effective action in support of Palestinian rights.

### **This CLP Resolves:**

- To send this motion to the Labour NEC and relevant front bench members.
- To support those in civil society mobilising in support of the right to boycott and divest.
- Invite a speaker from the Right to Boycott campaign to our next meeting.