

Lancaster PSC Meeting
Cornerhouse
Wednesday 24th September

In attendance

Sally Michelle Harry Lydia Suzanne Lynne (Heysham)
Stephen Deena Keith Gaz Andrew Anne Rachel Anna
Hannah L Imran David Panoush Chris Hannah S
Khaldoun Margaret Sue Pete

Opening around the circle thoughts...

Take responsibility
Image watching TV today of woman dying but baby saved
I want my children to live in a safe place – my generation need to step up
Watching the news knew I had to do something – best as part of a team
Finding it hard to be positive at the moment – need to look forward
Don't know how to say how I am feeling – been through hope – and now can't express how I
feel ... survivors guilt
Evil doesn't fit into our world – colonial power – as the record spins the needle touches in
Gaza
A thorn in the side – give what ever I can
So good to have my voice and feel a significance for change
I owe the world my privilege
I feel quite shit – believe we need to escalate
Advocating for students – feeling rage – a nuisance in the side of the Uni
Understanding the hopelessness – will do what I can
Interested in the environmental impacts of the genocide –
I want to encourage hope – things that help me are the activities I do..
Constantly think about what I can do – try and talk about things at work – never feel that is
enough – we don't have the luxury of losing hope

At the end of the meeting the following WORKING PARTIES were agreed. Can be open to
people who were not there (up to the groups to make this happen)

Rallies

Chris
Hanna
Anna
Gaz
David

Khaldoun

Harry
Sally

Comms Internal

Anne
Pete
Patrick
Sue

Comms External

Rachel
Hannah S
Billie
Patrick
Kathryn
Huda

Outreach

Lynn
Harry

BDS

Hannah S
Stephen
Deena
Michelle
Sue

NOTES FROM THE MEETING – these are not decisions – just discussions

Rallies

Silent rallies

A summary to open and close silent rallies – silence to be absolute in the plinth

Of the plinth people can talk and engage with the public

Create space for louder rallies

Must understand that we are **NOT** here to vent our anger

Can create space for venting anger in institutions and meetings

Need to create solidarity in community – it doesn't help to have vocal anger on the plinth

Make sure 1-2pm is focussed on Palestine and not any other activity – OK to have odd announcements about related activity

Have a march once a month ? Need discussion around the purpose of the marches – would they be better to focus on BDS and go to the particular stores that we want to boycott etc etc

Need to make some posters/banners that show the truth of the horror
Photographs of Palestinian children injured, dead, names.
Posters showing the cold truth, with strong statements
Images of bombed areas / devastation on placards.

Loud speaker - charged and in good working order.
Gaz to organise stewards / de escalation training - Gaz to contact Sue H.
Khaldoun to organise Saturday rallies with overall support from Rally group.
Hi viz with PSC logo on front and back for stewards / looks organised / focal point for members of public wishing to engage / de escalation- Gaz to contact Patrick for availability / funding.
Deena - support for people on the sidelines wishing to get involved / more engagement.

Outreach

Mass leafletting
Have an information table at rallies / demos.
Action points for what people can do to put pressure on local politicians / public authorities.

Internal Comms

People are split between WA and emails
Feedback from WA to email list every 2 weeks
Deconstruct the gravitas of some people having power and some not – raise up quieter voices
Don't be too strict about what people can/can't do – need tolerance in comms

External Comms

Work on getting news to pick up
Rachel has contacts
Broaden dynamism of social media
Suggestion to set up TikTok (BDS say not to do so because it is owned by a massive supporter of the IOF)

Outreach

Flyers at pub
Reaching Community groups
Information booth at rallies
Where are we directing our energy – where can we make a difference – who do we target

Possible focus next meeting on overall vision..

Message from Gaz

All of us would do well to read, understand and re- invigorate ourselves with the Palestine Solidarity Campaigns Aims & Objectives, and in due respect of our own personal ideologies on other pressing and equally important political and social movements that too require support and attention, of which there are many.

The Aim of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign is to support the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom justice and equality. We campaign in support of:

- the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people;
- the right of return of the Palestinian people;
- the Palestinian struggle to end the systems of settler colonialism, apartheid, and military occupations, motivated by Zionism, which deny the realisation of those rights.

Objectives

- To build a mass campaign in support of the rights of the Palestinian people.
- To expose and campaign against all actions by the Israeli state and those complicit in suppressing the rights of the Palestinian people.
- To foster political, cultural and social links with Palestinian organisations seeking to achieve self-determination for the Palestinian people.
- To expose, challenge and end the complicity of UK government public bodies, companies and corporations, and any other international entities complicit in supporting Israel's suppression of the rights of the Palestinian people.
- To build the maximum unity in action possible in support of these objectives.

Values

The values that inform the PSC's work and activities include:

- the promotion of positive cooperation and respect between all those seeking to campaign in support of the rights of the Palestinian people and who share the Aims, Objectives and Values of the PSC;
- a commitment to equality and seeking to ensure that discriminatory acts are not committed against anyone by the PSC, its members or its staff as outlined within the Code of Conduct;
- the opposition to all forms of racism, including Islamophobia and antisemitism;
- the promotion of the voices of Palestinian civil society, ensuring that this is inclusive of those who may face additional barriers in having their voices heard relating to aspects of their identity; and
- independence from any political party or government.