



[Mohammed Shafiq](#)

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Protesting over Palestine and Israel - what are your rights?

Mohammed blogs about why Palestine is a trade union issue, your right to protest and how PCS will support that right.

The recent events unfolding in Israel and Palestine since October 7 are deeply distressing and a violation of human decency. Every human life, whether Israeli or Palestinian, is sacred, and it is crucial to treat all lives with equal respect. Urgently, the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza and the unjustly held Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons must be prioritised.

As a member of the national executive committee, I am proud that our union reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people, a commitment held since our establishment in 2002. [We issued a statement in October](#) condemning the massacres of civilians and the taking of hostages by Hamas, and the response by Israel. We believe there will not be peace until there is a political settlement that includes a free and independent Palestine and an end to the occupation.

The humanitarian cause in Palestine deserves our solidarity, especially considering the devastating toll of over 18,000 lives lost, including 9,000 children, due to actions by Israeli military forces.

Despite the geographical distance, the connection between global events and our trade union in the UK is evident. The trade union movement is rooted in principles of solidarity and internationalism. Our stance against the injustices in Gaza is a reflection of our commitment to justice and humanity. Disturbingly, members have faced threats of disciplinary action for supporting Palestine through protests, social media posts, and even wearing symbols of solidarity.

I assure you that as a union, we will vigorously defend our members' rights to support our policy of standing with Palestine. We will challenge disciplinary actions and encourage our members to advocate for Palestinian rights through protests and social media. If you are not already a member of PCS, joining immediately will provide an added layer of protection for engaging in activities supporting Palestine.

For those in need of support, please reach out to me at mohammeds@pcs.org.uk

Additionally, an online event is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 10, from 12 - 1:30 pm**. The PCS national black members' committee will host a meeting featuring insights from PCS and external speakers. Further details will be published on our [events page](#) in the new year.