

# TRADE UNIONISTS FOR PALESTINE BULLETIN



## CPSU for Palestine

*Open letter from  
Public Servants*

Public Servants at all levels of government have been signing an open letter condemning Australian Governments' complicity in the Palestinian genocide. Since it was first released on 31 May 2024, it has attracted over 2300 signatories from local, state and federal government employees across Australia.

Many signatories have since experienced workplace repression because of our signing on to this open letter on the spurious grounds that we may be in violation of the Public Servants' Code of Conduct. As there are different codes for the different levels of government, the reasons workers have been given for adverse action are varied and inconsistent. Some of us have been told that our support for Palestine constitutes a breach of our obligation to remain apolitical or operate without bias; others of us have been told that our "conduct" – whatever that is – causes disunity in the workplace.

What is clear though, is that the response to public servants showing support for Palestine has been markedly different from Australian Labor Party Governments' endorsement for social justice issues like the Same-Sex Marriage Plebiscite or the Referendum on a Voice to Parliament, where we were all encouraged to wear badges and lanyards promoting those issues.

In response to this repression on Monday 24 June, pro-Palestine public servants across three different unions held a joint public meeting at Victoria Trades Hall, and that meeting endorsed the following resolution:

This public meeting applauds the more than 2,300 public servants who signed the open letter to the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and all members of this government. This letter

condemns Australian government complicity in the Palestinian genocide. These workers have asserted that as public servants whose work is to serve the community, that they are obliged to voice their deep concern and to back the important and concrete demands raised in the letter.

We welcome the 31 May statement from the Community and Public Sector Union (PSU Group) that the CPSU affirms the rights of all members to participate in political activities and protests but believe that this does not go far enough. We call on the CPSU (PSU group), CPSU (SPSF) and the ASU to take action to ensure that signing the open letter is recognised as an act in line with the role of public sector workers and that these unions resolve that they will actively defend any member who faces disciplinary action for signing the letter or exercising their right to speak out in support of a free Palestine.

Further, attendees at this public meeting resolve that as unionists and/or participants in the mass movement campaigning for a free Palestine that we will mobilise grass roots solidarity to defend anyone who is targeted for adding their name to the open letter.

This motion:

1. will be communicated to the National Executive of the Community and Public Sector (PSU group) and the leadership of the CPSU (SPSF) and ASU;
2. will be publicised in the movement, including via social media.

We have committed ourselves to defending all of our public servant comrades who experience workplace repression for our support of Palestinians against this most abhorrent

genocide, taking place right before our eyes on social media. Of our various obligations under our different Codes of Conducts, we are most committed to upholding Human Rights and the dignity of all peoples. For us, this includes people in Palestine.

We will continue to organise for a Free Palestine. And we will do so without fear or favour for the Government of the Day. Our best defence against being singled out and called into the offices of our Directors is for more people to sign the letter. They can't have one on ones with all of us! So if you haven't signed the letter yet, please do.

<https://tinyurl.com/Public-Servant-open-letter>

***Touch one, touch all!***



## Get involved with Trades Unionists for Palestine!



Unionists for Palestine  
[unionistsforpalestine.com.au](http://unionistsforpalestine.com.au)



Take action with U4P  
[unionistsforpalestine.com.au/take-action-with-u4p](http://unionistsforpalestine.com.au/take-action-with-u4p)



Union Groups directory  
[unionistsforpalestine.com.au/groups-directory](http://unionistsforpalestine.com.au/groups-directory)



U4P Instagram  
[instagram.com/unionistsforpalestine](https://instagram.com/unionistsforpalestine)



# TRADE UNIONISTS FOR PALESTINE IN SOLIDARITY

## *with striking AWU members at Air Liquide*

On the 26th of June a delegation of Trade Unionists for Palestine activists, from the AWU, ASU, UWU and MEAA attended a rally called by Australian Workers Union workers who were on strike at Air Liquide. U4P activists met and interacted with the workers on strike, spoke about Palestine and even ended up leading chants of “Union, Power!”

Air Liquide workers provide the bottled gas that keeps many essential industries running. Despite the essential role these workers play, their management wasn't offering them anything fair or decent in the pay deal.

Workers were striking for backpay, enhanced leave provisions, improved overtime conditions, voluntary residency options and a wage increase that would fairly take into account the soaring cost of living pressures.

Initially management wouldn't budge, and the strike continued into a second day, as did TU4P's solidarity. The next morning TU4P members headed out to Sunshine North, the base of Air Liquide operations to stand with the workers on strike.

During the strike, a TU4P activist and AWU delegate was able to address the striking workers about the situation in Gaza, the fight to free Palestine, and its connection to fighting for justice at work in Australia. We spoke about the symbolic importance of the Keffiyeh as a symbol of Palestinian resistance and as a show of solidarity. After the address, every striking worker took a Keffiyeh badge and posed for photos with TU4P with the badges on.

Around midday management buckled and conceded to the workers' demands. Workers had been determined to continue the strike until victory, fortified by the support shown by TU4P. The AWU and the workers at Air Liquide demonstrated that it takes a fighting union and industrial activity to win.

Furthermore, workers demonstrated an openness and willingness to engage in discussion and solidarity with Palestine and were open to the arguments that our struggles are interconnected.

We'll finish with a quote from an AWU delegate from the energy industry in Altona who attended to support the strike:

*“You guys showing solidarity taught them they were part of something big and powerful.”*

This is exactly what we need more of – demonstrating solidarity with workers on strike and that working class struggles are interconnected with international struggle. We won't stop fighting until Palestine is free, from the river to the sea. Dare to struggle, dare to win!

*Mick Clune, AWU delegate and member of TU4P*



**WHEN**  
**August 21st:**  
**6pm - 8pm**



**MORE INFO**