How good are your local election candidates on Palestine?
Some questions to ask them.
Prepared by:

The Irish Anti Apartheid Campaign - Palestine

The Irish Anti-Apartheid Campaign for Palestine was founded in 2022.

It was formed to build political support for effective measures by Ireland and the international community to condemn Israel's actions and to end the crime of apartheid against Palestinians.

Through shared actions, campaigns and advocacy initiatives the group has pledged to engage members of the Irish public and political representatives on the situation of Palestinians in Israel, in the Occupied Palestinian territories and East Jerusalem, in Gaza and those who form the diaspora in neighbouring or other lands.

There are currently 23 member organisations:

Academics for Palestine
Afri (Action from Ireland)
Action Aid Ireland
Amnesty International
Bloody Sunday Trust
Centre for Global Education
Comhlámh
Comhlámh Justice for Palestine
Cork Palestine Solidarity Campaign (CLG)
Frances Black Rise Foundation
Gaza Action Ireland
Global Legal Action Network (GLAN)
Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign
Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
Irish Council for Civil Liberties
Jews for Palestine
Kairos Ireland
Sadaka – The Ireland Palestine Alliance
SIPTU
TCD BDS
Trade Union Friends of Palestine
Trócaire
Union of Students in Ireland (USI)

Cork Palestine Solidarity Campaign *CLG*
Guaranteed *non-party political*

Cork Palestine Solidarity Campaign (CPSC), **the oldest Palestine solidarity group in Munster,** was founded in 2002 to campaign on the **single-issue** of Palestinian rights.

Always resolutely **non-party political and independent,** the CPSC was, for more than twenty years, the only Palestine group in Cork.

Party neutrality is vital for human rights groups. To give legal protection to the **non-party political integrity** of our group, the original founders of the Cork Palestine Solidarity Campaign have registered it a **C**ompany **L**imited by **G**uarantee.

Whenever you see the letters CLG after our name, you can trust that you are getting information from the original, widely-trusted, CPSC.
Cork Palestine Solidarity Campaign *CLG*
Guaranteed *to to be non-party political.*

2024 local elections - Cork City & County

An election guide for all those concerned about Palestinians and Gaza.

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www.facebook.com/corcaighpalaistin.link

Email: palestinecork@gmail.com

www.cpsc.ie

YES... BUT



It is also important that Palestine is an election issue.

We have all seen the horror happening in Gaza.
More than 35,000 people killed, mainly women and children; more than 80,000 injured; 1.5 million displaced – many of them several times. The genocidal intent is highlighted by Israel's targeted destruction of the hospitals in Gaza.

There is now famine. Acute shortage of food, water, medicines and fuel due to deliveries being hampered at restricted entry points. Aid trucks bombed and hundreds of aid workers killed - results in starvation for those underseige by Israeli forces.

Here in Ireland people have come out in their thousands to protest at what is happening, not just in Gaza, but also the West Bank and East Jerusalem. People from all walks of life are demanding that Ireland does more to put pressure on Israel to implement an immediate ceasefire. Irish people understand and empathise with people in Palestine who have lost their right to self-determination, who are subjected to apartheid laws and who have little access to redress when their land and property is confiscated.

People expect their public representatives to reflect this concern. As a result, we expect that all those running for positions of public office must express their opinion on what Ireland should be doing on behalf of the Palestinian people and what they, as a representatives of their constituents, would do if elected, to ensure that their actions truly reflect the wishes of their constituents.

The key Issues are:

- Genocide
- Apartheid
- BDS & Apartheid Free Zones
- The Occupied Territories Bill
- The Divestment Bill

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YES... BUT

There are many important local issues !



WHAT ABOUT GENOCIDE ?

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has issued Preliminary Measures as they have deemed that it is plausible that Israel's assault on the people of Gaza amounts to Genocide, and this must be investigated further.

At the same time, international law obliges all States to act to prevent genocide.

The moment that a State "learns of, or should normally have learned of, the existence of a serious risk that genocide will be committed", they must "employ all means reasonably available to them to prevent genocide so far as possible".

Ireland is therefore obliged to act in any way it can to reduce the risk of, or stop the implementation of, any act leading to genocide.

Trade links and Genocide

In 2022, Ireland imported €3.64 BILLION in goods from Israel, while trade with the EU that year amounted to €46 billion. 30% of Israel's imports are from European countries.

It follows from a previous Bosnian Genocide ruling that Ireland and the EU must use their trade links to put pressure on Israel to halt its assault on the people of Gaza.
Ireland is *obliged* to do all in its power to ensure that such measures are taken at European level.

Ireland's obligation to prevent genocide is a part of customary international law, which forms part of the EU legal order. The failure by the EU to do anything at all in response to Israel's assault on Gaza is a clear breach of both the duty to prevent genocide and (as a result) of EU law itself.

As a result, Ireland, in its duty to prevent genocide, is obliged to act unilaterally and is free from any legal challenge by the EU to this course of action.
It is therefore urgent that our government recognise their responsibilities in this regard and act without delay.

One question politicial candidates should answer about genocide

1. ***As a public representative, would you be prepared to call for Ireland to do its duty and act unilaterally to prevent or stop genocide ?***

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There are many important local issues !



WHAT ABOUT THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BILL (OTB) AND THE DIVESTMENT BILL?

The OTB is an important piece of legislation. It is ready and just waiting for any Irish government with the moral courage to enact it.

Senator Frances Black's OTB would close an overlooked loophole which is morally indefensible. It is currently possible to import products from any illegally occupied territories, anywhere in the world, for sale in Ireland. In other words 'Stolen Goods.' Addressing this injustice would send a strong signal to countries like Israel.

Israel has systematically colonised Palestinian territory – the West Bank and East Jerusalem – occupied since June, 1967. It has transferred its civilian population into settlements built on that territory. This has been done in flagrant violation of international law and to the severe detriment of the Palestinian people.

Israel's contempt for international law and international condemnation in relation to its settlement building requires that states take steps to compel it to comply with its obligations under international law.
To this end Ireland must introduce a ban on trade with Israeli settlements. Ireland is legally *entitled* to ban trade with Israeli Settlements under EU Law.

Decades of condemnation from the UN and countries across the world of Israeli settlement building, as well as a decision of the International Court of Justice confirming the illegality of this activity, has done absolutely nothing to deter Israel in its effort to colonise the West Bank.

It is now obvious to everyone that Israel will only comply with its obligations under international law if the international community compels it to do so.

A number of NGOs support a ban on settlement goods, including Amnesty International, Christian Aid and Trócaire in Ireland. So too does the European Council on Foreign Relations.

This current government is blocking this Bill using a technical mechanism.
There is no legal excuse for stalling it any longer. To quote Sen. Frances Black "*... it's not a legal issue, it's a question of political will. The weight of legal advice makes it clear that we can pursue this if we're willing to be brave about it – we need to stand up and show leadership".*

WE NEED TO SPEAK ABOUT THE DIVESTMENT BILL

The objective of this Bill is to impose certain prohibitions and restrictions on investments by the National Treasury Management Agencyand the assets of Ireland's Strategic Investment Fund. To prohibit involvment with companies identified on the UN Database that operatein illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land

Both these Bills would send a powerful moral signal to the world - and would encourage other countries to adopt similar legislation. It is important that voters concerned about human rights issues can be confident those values are shared by prospective candidates..

More questions that politicial candidates should answer:

1. *As a public representative, do you support the Occupied Territories Bill ?*
2. *If you do, how would you pressure your political party to enact it ?*
3. *As a public representative, do you support the Divestment Bill ?*
4. *If you do, how would you pressure your political party to enact it ?*

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YES... BUT

There are many important local issues !

Services
Housing
RATES
Social Housing
Mental health services
"High insurance costs"
Lack of rental PROPERTIES
CRIME
RURAL
Affordable Housing
Health Services
"young people emigrating to Australia or Canada"
"EU regulations around agriculture"
LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING
Law & Order
Disability Services
RENT INCREASES
Rural roads

IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO SPEAK ABOUT APARTHEID

The Cork Palestine Solidarity Campaign CLG is one of 23 organisations who have joined together to form the Irish Anti-Apartheid Campaign for Palestine.

The Campaign seeks to engage members of the Irish public and political representatives on the situation of Palestinians, and to build political support for effective measures by Ireland and the international community to condemn Israel's actions and to end the crime of apartheid against Palestinians.

While many consider that "Apartheid" only refers to racial discrimination which occurred in South Africa in the decades prior to 1990, it is the definition of Apartheid as a "policy that is founded on the idea of separating people based on racial or ethnic criteria" that indicates that what has been occurring in Israel and in occupied Palestine is clearly also Apartheid.

Apartheid is a crime against humanity punishable under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Apartheid is a system of legalised racial segregation in which one racial group is deprived of political and civil rights.

What is embedded in the Israeli state and in its occupation of Palestinian territories is a crushing system of Apartheid that limits individual freedom, compromises property rights, restricts travel, denies justice and creates a climate of fear and insecurity.

Both Cork City and Cork County Council have now passed key BDS motions !

It was noted that Palestinian civil society in 2005 made a call for a Boycott Divestment and Sanctions Campaign against Israel "until it complies with international law and universal principles of human rights".

Both motions declare support for the BDS campaign.

Both Cork City and Cork County are now Apartheid Free Zones.

Cork Apartheid Free Zone

The Apartheid Free Zone campaign can be implemented in all communities. We have prepared a kit to help make it successful.

We will be happy to work with individuals or groups who want to make their own communities, towns or villages into Apartheid Free Zones.

Contact:
CorkApartheidFreeZone@gmail.com

Leaflets, vinyl stickers... - just some of the material for the AFZ campaign. These can be supplied, customized for your town or community - together with a helpful pack of how to successfully implement this important campaign.

The questions politicial candidates should answer about BDS & AFZ

1. ***Do you support Boycott Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) ?***
2. ***How would you help encourage local business to support the Apartheid Free Zone (AFZ) campaign ?***

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TWINNING

Let's talk about Twinning

Cork, both city & county with Gaza

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One of the reasons why Israel hoped to act with impunity in its destruction of Gaza is its effective isolation of Gaza from the rest of the world.

Twinning has the potential to forge close human contact, as well as cultural and practical bonds, between communities.

Resurrection of Gaza: Gaza *will* rise from the ashes again. But its people face an enormous amount of work to rebuild their infrastructure, environment and civil institutions. Israel has deliberately made the task harder by killing many of those who had the necessary expertise.

Among the many in Cork who feel solidarity with Gaza are people with skills, knowledge and experience that could help in the resurrection of Gaza after its martyrdom. If you're one of them, please send a short note to the email address at the bottom of this page. And also sign this petition (https://my.uplift.ie/petitions/twin-cork-city-with-gaza-city-1) to let our political leaders know that you care about Gaza and its future.



Cork City destroyed in an act of vengeance by occupying forces. December 1920



UNICEF/Hassan Isiyeh

Gaza City destroyed in an act of vengeance by invading forces. December 2023

Our solidarity with Gaza can be given official expression by twinning our county's municipal districts, as well as our city, with the municipalities and city of Gaza.

Though strangled by Israel, Gaza was beautiful, its vibrant people conscious of their rich cultural history.



It will have to be rebuilt, its institutions recreated.

The signing of Twinning agreements will kickstart formal, long term, and fruitfully effective, relationships. Common interests will be strengthened. Key challenges will be identified, on which Cork can cooperate with the people of both Gaza's city and its municipalities.



All of Gaza's universities have been deliberately demolished by Israel. Before their destruction, they had developed partnerships with 142 higher education institutions around the world. Let's add UCC and MTU to those partners!



Bigger than CUH, Al-Shifa Hospital was the largest medical complex in the Gaza Strip.



Gazans emphasise education. Now, Israel has destroyed schools for 1 million children; these must be rebuilt

Expert groups are being planned, led by prominent individuals in various fields: hospitals, medical services, civil engineering, education, universities, environmental restoration etc. If you would like to receive updates about this evolving initiative, please write to:

AiseiriGaza@gmail.com





Wadi Gaza in 2023. Now devastated, Gaza's only wetland was slowly coming back to life after previous Israeli depredations.

Printer Friendly guide:

Print this out and have it ready if you find yourself in the presence of a political candidate
Jot down how they answer the questions and send us a phone camera shot of your notes.

email: palestinecork@gmail.com

The key Issues are:

Notes of Candidate's responses

? Genocide

As a public representative, would you be prepared to call for Ireland to do its duty and act unilaterally to prevent or stop genocide ?

? The Occupied Territories Bill

As a public representative, do you support the Occupied Territories Bill ?

If you do, how would you pressure your political party to enact it ?

? The Divestment Bill

The objective of this Bill is to impose certain prohibitions and restrictions on investments by the National Treasury Management Agency and the assets of Ireland's Strategic Investment Fund.
To prohibit involvment with companies identified on the UN Database that operatein illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.
Do you support this Bill ?

? BDS & Apartheid Free Zones

Do you support Boycott Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) ?

How would you help encourage local business to support the Apartheid Free Zone (AFZ) campaign ?

? Twinning Cork, both city & county, with Gaza

Will you support this proposal?

Are you prepared to sign the petition now?

https://my.uplift.ie/petitions/twin-cork-city-with-gaza-city-1

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