

LGPS DIVEST

For decades Israel has violated the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian people, in breach of international law. It can only maintain its system of oppression because of products, equipment and services it receives from a range of complicit companies. These companies supply the Israeli military with weapons and equipment, invest in the illegal settlement economy, and provide the infrastructure for Israel's military occupation.

The LGPS invests billions, made up of the deferred wages of scheme members. These funds should not be invested in companies that aid Israel's violations of human rights. LGPS funds must take urgent action to fulfil their ethical duty and ensure they are not complicit in breaches of international law by implementing adequate screening and due diligence procedures within their investment strategy.

FIND OUT MORE AND GET IN TOUCH!
VISIT [HTTP://LGPSDIVEST.ORG](http://LGPSDIVEST.ORG)



HOW DOES THE LGPS WORK

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) has more than five million members in England, Wales and Scotland. It has 100 administering authorities including 87 local authorities. Most administering authorities are geographically based on larger local authorities or groups of local authorities. Over 15,000 different employers pay into the LGPS. Collectively these funds hold around £291bn of investment assets.

It is this financial muscle that means LGPS funds are well placed to persuade companies engaged in violations of human rights to stop. And, if they don't, to remove their money from complicit companies.

Investment decisions are the responsibility of pension committees, run by elected councillors. They meet 4 times a year. Each fund has to produce an investment strategy, detailing how it will deal with environmental, social and governance issues, which includes issues of ethical investment and international law.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Learn how the LGPS works. Investment decisions will be made by a pension committee, made up of elected councillors. Your LGPS will also have a pension board, with union representatives. Find out who sits on each body, and who may be sympathetic. Through the LGPS website you can also find their annual accounts, investment strategy, and ethical investment policy.

GROW YOUR SUPPORT

It is crucial you build support among scheme members. Put it on the agenda at your next union branch meeting. After this, reach out to other union branches with members in the scheme. Ask supportive local politicians to come on board. Advertise your meetings openly to grow your body of support. Contact groups campaigning on fossil fuels and the arms trade, who may be able to provide support.

TAKE ACTION

Once you've got a campaign group consider how you can influence the decision makers. Request a meeting with the chair of the pension committee. Put together a research paper. Consider starting a petition or open letter to show support among scheme members. Start by focusing on companies included in the UN HROs list of business enterprises active in Israel's illegal settlements, where rigorous engagement has already been undertaken.

FIND OUT MORE

Palestine Solidarity Campaign is the largest organisation in the UK campaigning for freedom, justice and equality for the Palestinian people. It has tens of thousands of supporters and more than 60 local branches across the UK. PSC can provide you with resources and advice to start campaigning on LGPS investment.

E-mail: info@palestinecampaign.org

Telephone: 020 7700 6192

Website: <http://palestinecampaign.org>

UNISON – the public service union, UNITE The Union, and GMB all represent a large number of scheme members. Use their websites to get in touch with your local branches with members in the scheme.

