***The branch notes:***

That Palestinians, whether living under occupation in the West Bank, East Jersualem and Gaza, as citizens of the Israeli state, and as refugees and exiles, continue to be denied their fundamental human rights.

That Israel has held Gaza under a tight land, sea and air blockade since 2007, cutting off 1.8 million Palestinians from the outside world.

That nearly four million Palestinians in the West Bank live under Israeli occupation. Israel continues to build illegal settlements, while destroying Palestinian property and segregating the Palestinian population behind a wall, and that East Jerusalem is occupied, annexed and separated from the rest of the West Bank by a ring of settlements and the wall.

The rights of people living under occupation are guaranteed under article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention to which Israel is a signatory, and which states that “the occupying power shall not deport or transfer part of its own civilian population into the territories it occupies”.

The government’s business advice for the occupied Palestinian territory recognises there are “clear risks related to economic and financial activities in the settlements, and we do not encourage or offer support to such activity.” Investment in companies active in business activities in the areas therefore carriers a clear financial risk.

The research by Palestine Solidarity Campaign that has uncovered LGPS funds hold investments worth over £3bn in companies complicit in Israel’s grave violations of international law and human rights.

This includes investments in companies that appear on the United Nations Human Rights Office’s list of enterprises undertaking specified activities in Israel’s illegal settlements.

***This branch welcomes:***

Campaigning on this issue by scheme members, their representative trade unions, and human rights supporters.

***This branch resolves:***

To campaign for [the pension fund] to not invest in any companies that are complicit in the denial of Palestinian human rights, including those listed by the UN.