

CONSTITUTION OF THE SCOTTISH PALESTINE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

1. Name

1. The official name of the organisation will be "Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign" hereinafter known as 'SPSC'.

2. Statement: Building effective solidarity with the Palestinian people

1. Scottish PSC is an extension to the Palestinian struggle for freedom against Israel's programme of ethnic cleansing and genocide in Palestine. Scottish PSC exists to channel public opposition to the Zionist settler colonial project into an effective and dynamic Scottish component of the global campaign that sends a powerful message of solidarity to the Palestinian people and a warning to Israel that its crimes must end.

3. Aims

1. A complete withdrawal of all Israeli military and paramilitary forces from the areas occupied by Israel in 1967
2. The right of all Palestinian refugees ethnically cleansed from their homes and their descendants to return to their homes or the areas from which they were driven, in line with UN Resolution 194.
3. An end to the Zionist project of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians
4. Self-determination for Palestinians.
5. Equal rights for Palestinians living in Israel.

4. Membership

1. An individual member of the SPSC is someone who accepts the Aims, agrees to abide by the constitution and pays annual membership fees. Members are encouraged to get involved with branches and national activities of the campaign.
2. Membership will run on an annual 12 month rolling basis.
3. The national Membership Secretary of SPSC shall maintain the database of members of the campaign and the Secretaries of branches shall provide the national Membership Secretary with the contact details of members joining at branches to be added to the national member database.
4. All steps will be taken to ensure compliance with data protection requirements.
5. The national Membership Secretary will arrange a two-way sharing between national and local databases of details of members and e-mail subscribers living in area/region covered by branch.
6. A designated Branch officer, with the agreement of the national Membership Secretary, will have access to the section of the national database listing names for their Branch area for the purpose of sending communications related to Branch activities.
7. The only people allowed to vote shall be those who can prove membership.
8. Membership applications should be notified to the members of the National Committee and an application can be put on hold by any national officer pending a decision by the National Committee at its immediately following meeting.

5. Branches

1. The SPSC believes that healthy and active local branches are the building blocks of the Campaign and as such are recognised as vitally important.
2. Branches are organised by Local Authority Council Area. Members, together with the National Committee can create, or sub-divide, branches to form new branches. Branches must agree with the aims of SPSC and be officially recognised by the National Committee.
3. Branches should aim to meet fortnightly but meet at least monthly and aim to organise activities (e.g. further meetings, stalls, leafleting) at least on a fortnightly basis.
4. Branches will organise an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which a Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and any other positions agreed by the branch to be necessary shall be elected.
5. Members should be informed of all branch meetings and activities. Members should receive at least 28 days notice of the branch AGM.
6. Branches should not act contrary to decisions taken at national general meetings and should also be able to manage and make their own decisions unless these breach any national decisions made previously. Branches shall elect up to two members as representatives to the National Committee.
7. The contact details of all branch secretaries shall be posted on the SPSC website. Branches shall update the National Committee with a list of all branch officers and their contact details.

6. National Committee

1. The National Committee provides strategic leadership, reaches decisions on urgent matters and is responsible for the day to day running of the national campaign. The National Committee may, by a vote of a two thirds majority of its members, withdraw recognition from any branch or membership from any individual, deemed to have acted in a manner incompatible with the Aims of the SPSC, or otherwise to have acted in a way likely to bring the SPSC into disrepute. All meetings of the National Committee are open to all paid up SPSC members, only those elected under this article, including delegates from branches, will be entitled to vote. A quorum of at least six members of the Committee is required for any vote.
2. The National Committee can delegate decision-making responsibility between its monthly meetings to a sub-committee of several of its members who shall be clearly identified and will be accountable for their actions to the immediately following National Committee.
3. The National Committee consists of the National Chair, National Secretary, National Vice-Chair, National Treasurer and National Membership Secretary plus 5 additional Committee members which are voted for at the AGM. The committee shall include branch delegates defined as up to two members nominated by each branch. The National Committee shall be able to create roles as required, fill any unfilled posts or vacancies which arise during the course of the year and to invite members to fulfil these roles in the interim period until the next AGM.
4. The National Committee shall draft and keep up to date a specification for all roles represented on the committee.
5. Only the Executive Office Holders and the branch delegates have voting power. Branches may elect and change their delegates at any regular Branch Meeting.
6. Minutes of National Committee meetings should be available on request to all members and should be circulated to all branches.

7. The National Committee should meet face-to-face monthly.

7. Duties of the Committee

1. The Committee will manage the affairs of the Campaign between successive AGMs.
2. Delegates from each Branch will report its decisions to their Branch at the immediately following Branch Meeting, which can at that time query any decision of the Committee.
3. All members of the National Committee shall take collective responsibility for implementing national AGM decisions and for taking forward agreed SPSC campaign priorities and strategies, being accountable to members.
4. The Committee is tasked with ensuring SPSC communications, by email, the website, twitter and Facebook, are kept up to date and used effectively to further SPSC aims and campaign objectives.
5. The Committee shall support new and existing branches to develop and build SPSC aims and campaign priorities.
6. Committee members shall commit to attending and participating in conference calls and face-to-face meetings. A member who misses two consecutive scheduled meetings of the National Committee without offering their apologies and good reason for not attending, will be deemed to have withdrawn from the committee. SPSC is a volunteer organisation and so members will have family and work commitments that need attention. If such commitments prevent attendance at all meetings, participation shall be made by contribution to important decision-making discussions by email as well as the occasional meeting. If other commitments prevent a Committee member from participation at any time or by any means then the committee can invite another person to fulfil the required role for an interim period until the post holder can return to campaigning work or until the next AGM.

8. Networks, teams and working groups

1. Members, together with the National Committee may create networks in order to build links within certain geographical areas or sectors, and to establish teams or working groups to work on specified SPSC aims and campaign objectives.

9. Finances

1. All the money raised by the Campaign will be used to achieve the aims in Article II. This does not exclude donations to other organisations/individuals with similar aims.
2. The financial year of the Campaign will be from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.
3. Individual and affiliate membership is of SPSC.
4. Individuals will receive a Scottish Membership Card and number and will be associated with a Branch where one exists or be a member at large.
5. The individual membership fee will be retained by the national SPSC account in order to support the work of SPSC in developing national campaigns, initiatives that includes the development and support of branch projects. Where membership fees are paid direct to branches, this money will be transferred to the national SPSC account.
6. All branches will raise and manage funds for branch activities. In addition, the National Committee will ensure branches are aware of the process by which they

can seek financial assistance for branch projects, including the purchase of merchandise.

7. On dissolution of a branch, branch funds will be transferred to the SPSC national account.

10. Complaints, Disciplinary and Appeals Procedure

1. Complaints made against members, branches or affiliated groups should be initially sent to the National Secretary.
2. The National Secretary will appoint an Investigating Officer to look into the circumstances of the complaint and report to a Disciplinary Committee consisting of three members of the National Committee. The Secretary will not be a member of the Disciplinary Committee.
3. The Disciplinary Committee will meet to deliberate on the issue and take action if required.
4. The member against whom the complaint has been made will be invited to attend the Disciplinary Committee meeting. The member may be accompanied by another if they wish.
5. In the case of a complaint against a branch or affiliated group, two members of the branch / group may attend the Disciplinary Committee meeting.
6. Any decision of the Disciplinary Committee can be appealed against. The Appeal would go to an Appeals Committee consisting of the Secretary and two members of the National Committee who are not members of the Disciplinary Committee. Members, Branches and Affiliated Groups would have the same attendance rights to the Appeals Committee as they have to the Disciplinary Committee.
7. A final appeal can be made to a General Meeting of SPSC.
8. Minutes of Disciplinary and Appeals Committee meetings will be kept and be made available to members on request.

11. General Meetings

1. The organisation shall hold an AGM once in each calendar year in either November or December. Not more than 15 months shall pass between the date of one AGM and the next.
2. The business of the AGM shall be;
 1. to determine the policy of the organisation;
 2. to receive the report of the National Committee for the previous year;
 3. to receive the accounts of the organisation for the previous financial year;
 4. to elect the National Committee for the ensuing year;
 5. to consider such other business which the Chair may determine can properly be conducted at a General Meeting and of which due notice has been given.
3. Extraordinary General Meetings
 1. The National Committee may call an extraordinary general meeting at any time. The National Committee shall call an extraordinary general meeting on receiving a requisition to that effect, signed by at least 30 Members (including the form of any proposed resolution).
4. Length of Notice
 1. 28 days notice of the Annual General Meeting will be given. 14 days notice will be given of any Extraordinary General Meeting called.
5. Contents of Notice

1. Every notice calling a general meeting shall specify the place, day and time of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted.
 2. In the case of an annual general meeting, the notice shall in addition specify the meeting as such.
 3. If a special resolution is to be proposed, the notice shall contain a statement to that effect.
6. Service of Notice
1. Notice of general meetings shall be given to every Member of the organisation.
7. AGM Chair
1. The AGM Chair shall be nominated by the National Committee and shall be agreed by majority vote at the AGM.
8. Business at the AGM
1. The order of business at the AGM or any Extraordinary General Meeting shall be decided upon by the National Committee together with AGM chair who shall have the right to amalgamate resolutions or amendments with the consent of the proposers.
 2. Constitutional amendments and motions to be proposed at the AGM shall either be proposed by the National Committee or by Members. All such proposals shall be sent in writing to the National Secretary not less than 28 days in advance of the meeting.
9. The National Committee shall present to the AGM:
1. a report from the National Committee for the previous year;
 2. accounts of the previous financial year;
 3. details of nominations of National Committee

12. Amendments to the Constitution

1. Amendments must be passed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a the AGM.
2. The Secretary must circulate a detailed agenda including the full text of all proposed constitutional amendments and motions in writing to all members no less than seven days in advance of the meeting'

13. Dissolution

1. Dissolution of the SPSC shall become effective only if notice of the intention to propose the dissolution has been given to the members at least 21 days before the meeting at which the alteration is to be proposed, and at least two-thirds of the votes cast by members in relation to the resolution at a General Meeting of the SPSC, whether annual or special, are in favour.
2. If, on the winding up or dissolution of the SPSC, there remain any assets, after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets shall be given or transferred to some other charitable organisation or organisations, with objects similar to that of the SPSC, to be determined by the SPSC by a resolution passed at the same meeting at which it was agreed to dissolve the SPSC.