

Brighton and Hove Palestine Solidarity Campaign (BHPSC)

CONSTITUTION (Revised at AGM June 2025)

Status

BHPSC is an anti-Zionist Palestine Solidarity organisation with members drawn from many communities. We are opposed to all forms of racism, prejudice and discrimination. As an anti-Zionist organisation, we oppose Zionism, a racist supremacist ideology, in all its forms and in particular the settler-colonial nature of the Israeli state that has systematically dispossessed and ethnically cleansed Palestinians from their land.

Aims

We campaign:

- a) for full civil and democratic rights for all who live in Palestine/Israel;
- b) for full and equal access to resources for all who live in Palestine/Israel;
- c) for the right of return for the Palestinian people, as enshrined in international law (UN General Assembly Resolution 194, adopted 11 December 1948);
- d) for the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people;
- e) for the right of the Palestinian people to resist, as enshrined in international law (UN General Assembly Resolution 37/43, 3 December 1982), Israeli apartheid, oppression dispossession and genocide by all available means;
- f) for the rights of the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve those rights;
- g) for support for Palestinian civil society in its call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) and the upholding of international law;
- h) for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli state from the territories it illegally occupied in 1967, namely the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza;
- i) for an end to Israel's aggression against neighbouring states;
- j) for an end to Israel's repeated and continuing violations of international law;
- k) for an end to Zionism and settler colonialism;
- l) for an end to Israel impunity and the unquestioning support of the political and media class who enable this;
- m) for an end to all forms of racism, discrimination and prejudice.

In support of these aims BHPSC will

- educate and inform its members, the public, and others, about the situation in Palestine and the continuing struggle for justice, equality and human rights;
- organise activities to further its aims, including campaigns, public meetings, marches, demonstrations, art and cultural events, outreach, media contacts, publications, etc.;
- put into practice its anti-Zionist values, and its commitment to the BDS movement, by focusing campaigning on organisations and commercial entities whose activities serve to normalise Israel's reputation, or to enhance Israel's economic and military development, or to promote Zionism as a legitimate and acceptable ideology;
- affiliate to national PSC;
- link with, and support, other groups local, national and international, which support our aims and principles and work in solidarity with the Palestinian people, including the University Student Palestine Societies.

Membership

Membership will be open to all who indicate they accept the aims and purposes of the branch, as defined in the Constitution, and who pay the annual subscription as determined by the AGM. Anyone advocating ideas incompatible with the Constitution, or acting in contempt of it, may be expelled by a majority vote of the Committee.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will normally be held in the first half of the calendar year. Its business is:

To elect Committee members, to elect an auditor to approve the accounts, to decide policy, and to plan a broad outline of activities for the year.

The date will be notified to members, and an agenda will be circulated at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. Voting on elections and main business will be by simple majority. Constitutional amendments, or a decision to wind up the association, will require a 2/3 majority. In the case of a winding up, the assets of the association will be disposed of by the Committee in consultation with the Auditor.

The quorum for the AGM will be 10 members.

Emergency General Meeting

The committee and 5 ordinary members may call an EGM at any time of the year, provided 2 weeks notice is given to all members. An EGM will adopt the procedures of an AGM, except that the quorum for an EGM will be 6 members.

If an AGM has not been held for 18 months, an EGM may be called by 3 members, and those present will elect an ad hoc Chair for the meeting.

Officers and Committee

The committee will consist of up to 10 members, elected at the AGM. The committee will organise the activities of the branch on a collective basis.

Up to 5 additional members may be co-opted during the year, with the prior agreement of the committee.

The quorum for committee meetings will be 4 but where there is a need to take urgent decisions and the meeting is inquorate, these may be taken by consulting up to the required extra number of committee members by telephone or e-mail within twenty-four hours.

The committee will meet regularly, and normally at least 6 times per year. Between meetings, committee members may take urgent action. Generally, the committee will operate on a basis of shared responsibility and authority.

Committee members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings without good reason may be asked to resign.

Finances

The Treasurer will be responsible for collecting subscription income from members; for receiving income from sales, events, donations, etc.; for paying income into the BHPSC account; and for making payments as directed by the AGM, EGM and committee.

Small amounts of petty cash may be held by members as floats for events etc.

The Treasurer will submit the annual Accounts to the Auditor for inspection and approval in time for them to be presented to the AGM.

The committee will set the subscription for the year and report this to the AGM.

Brighton and Hove PSC will be responsible for its own debts.