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Palestine solidarity - Britain

Palestine Action ban is an attack on fundamental freedoms

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A letter signed by 52 academics and writers, including Tariq Ali, Judith Butler, Angela Davis, Naomi Klein and Avi Shlaim.

As scholars dedicated to questions of justice and ethics, we believe that Yvette Cooper's recent proscription of Palestine Action represents an attack both on the entire pro-Palestine movement and on fundamental freedoms of expression, association, assembly and protest. We deplore the repressive consequences that this ban has already had, and are especially concerned about the likely impact of Cooper's ban on universities across the UK and beyond.

We therefore applaud the growing campaign of collective defiance that aims to overturn the ban. We commend the courageous stand taken by Defend Our Juries, and the exemplary recent motion adopted by Derry City and Strabane district council that "supports all those who have protested the ban on Palestine Action and calls for charges against them to be immediately dropped".

In alliance with thousands of trade unionists, teachers and students throughout the UK and abroad, we affirm our own solidarity with all those who are campaigning against the proscription. We fully share the aim of ending the flow of weapons from Britain to Israel and the belief that all participants in the pro-Palestine movement should be free to make our own decisions about how best to achieve that goal. We remind the UK government that its own most urgent priorities should already be determined by its binding obligation "to prevent and to punish" genocide.

As the organisers of massive national demonstrations face prosecution, as hundreds of people again risk arrest by joining street protests on 9 August, and as students and teachers prepare for the start of another turbulent academic year, we express our full solidarity with those mobilising on their campuses or in their workplaces and communities to put an immediate stop to the escalating genocide and to end all UK complicity with Israel's crimes.

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PS:

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