

Motion: Defend the Right to Protest - Oppose the verdict against Palestine Movement leaders

This branch/group notes:

1. The guilty verdicts against Ben Jamal and Chris Nineham arising from the peaceful protest for Palestine on 18 January 2025.
2. The statement issued by Stop the War Coalition, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and others in the coalition, describing these verdicts as “extraordinary and shocking” and a serious setback for civil liberties.
3. Serious concerns raised about the conduct of the six-day hearing, including the refusal of District Judge Daniel Sternberg to provide reasons when dismissing key defence arguments.
4. Evidence highlighted by the coalition that the protest in question was peaceful, and that claims of disorder are not supported by the available evidence.
5. The coalition’s warning that these convictions reflect a wider pattern of repression enabled by expanding anti-protest laws.
6. That Alex Kenny and Sophie Bolt are also due to stand trial in relation to these events, and face similar politically motivated prosecution.

This branch/group believes:

1. That the conviction of Ben Jamal and Chris Nineham represents a serious escalation in the criminalisation of protest.
2. That these verdicts are an attack on the Palestine solidarity movement and on the fundamental right to protest.
3. That defending civil liberties and defending solidarity with Palestine are inseparable.

This branch/group resolves:

1. To endorse and publicise the coalition statement.
2. To condemn the convictions of Ben Jamal and Chris Nineham and support their appeals.
3. To donate £___ to Stop the War Coalition in support of its campaigns for justice for Chris Nineham and Ben Jamal, and for the defence of the right to protest and civil liberties.
4. To affiliate to and work with Stop the War.
5. To mobilise members for protests, workplace action, and public meetings.
6. To build the Nakba Day march for Palestine on 16 May.
7. To offer the same solidarity and support to Alex Kenny and Sophie Bolt.
8. To campaign against the erosion of civil liberties and the expansion of anti-protest laws.