

up front

autumn / winter 2015 waronwant.org

**FIGHTING FOR
JUSTICE**
STRATEGY 2015-2020

PALESTINE
10 years of
the BDS movement

TTIP latest news

WELCOME



Welcome to the autumn/winter edition of War on Want's supporter magazine. You've told us how much you value our

radical vision and actions. In our newly published strategy, summarised here, you can see how we have embedded those values. You can also read more about how we're putting them into action with our hard-hitting TTIP and Palestine campaigns. We are building our support for movements around the world, expanding partnerships in places like Peru and South Africa, which you can read about on pages 8-9. In the News section, find out about how we're extending the reach of our messages, as well as creating more opportunities to support our work through a new website, the Radio 4 appeal and a new shop catalogue.

Please read on to discover more about the exciting times ahead for War on Want, and thank you for your support.

John Hilary


John Hilary
Executive Director



FIGHTING GLOBAL POVERTY

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FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE, MOBILISING FOR CHANGE



War on Want has published a dynamic new five-year strategic framework to drive forward our work up to the year 2020. It is a statement of our vision for a world free from poverty and oppression, a declaration of our values and a record of the amazing victories that we have secured with our partners in the struggle for social justice around the world.

More than this, the framework sets the direction for War on Want's work over the next five years – and calls for all people of conscience to join us in the fight! Here are some of the highlights.

In order to prepare the new strategic framework, we asked ourselves and our allies what needs to change and what needs to stay the same for us to maximise our impact. The feedback we received was encouraging. First and foremost, people value War on Want for being prepared to speak out without fear or favour, and to say the things that others refuse to say.

Secondly, we received a clear message that War on Want should continue with our unique combination of overseas programmes and hard-hitting campaigns. People value the hands-on work we do with social movements, trade unions and other progressive forces seeking to challenge the root causes of injustice in their own contexts around the world.



© Rainbow Collective

War on Want is secure in its mission and in its politics. Yet we need to ensure that our message remains fresh for each new generation, and we must always strive to increase the impact of our work. So what do we need to do to build our programmes and our influence over the next five years?

1. New programmes

War on Want's overseas programmes provide us with the foundation for our politics and our campaigns. We will launch a series of new partnerships over the coming five years, deepening our engagement with social movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as supporting our existing partners in their fight for a better future. War on Want has been singled out as a trusted channel of support for radical groups around the world. New partnerships of active solidarity will enable us to build on that trust.

2. Cutting-edge communications

The information revolution offers huge potential for War on Want. Our radical voice cuts through the media blizzard with a clarity that people value, but we need to ensure that we are constantly updating our outputs to take advantage of the new opportunities on offer. We have brought in dedicated communications specialists and invested in new technology to ensure that we can speak across all today's communications channels, and we have big plans for the future. **Watch this space – and our new website: waronwant.org.**

3. Local activism

War on Want is a membership organisation, and our strength comes from all the individual members, donors and affiliates that support our work. We have increased our membership by over 25% in the past two years, and we now have over 100,000 supporters who regularly receive our news and our calls for action. We now want to build on that momentum by setting up a network of local activists and community organisers to take the work of War on Want out to new audiences; get in touch if you'd like to play an active part.

4. Political engagement

War on Want believes that even the most complex issues of social justice must be made real to ordinary people, to empower them in mobilising for change. This means linking up the struggles of our partners from around the world with local campaigns nearer to home, as well as engaging actively in the political debate in the UK. We will continue to challenge the politics of austerity and neoliberalism wherever they destroy the livelihoods and aspirations of ordinary people. That has been the guiding principle for War on Want over the past 65 years, and it will carry us through the next five as well.

Our 2015-2020 strategic framework is a public document, available on the War on Want website waronwant.org/fightingforjustice. If you'd like a hard copy please contact us.



© Rich Miles

Activists block
Elbit Systems
arms factory
in Shenstone

Solidarity, people power and **10 years of BDS**

Ryvka Barnard, War on Want's Senior Militarism and Security Campaigner, reflects on 10 years of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) and the fight to end Israeli Apartheid.

The images streamed through our TV sets: Israeli soldiers, armed to the teeth with the latest military equipment, facing off against groups of Palestinian protesters defending themselves only with stones, flags and anger born from decades of harsh military occupation. I was a university student when the second Palestinian intifada (uprising) against Israeli occupation began in 2000. Far from the turmoil, my fellow students and I were moved to action. We wanted to make a real, lasting difference. But how could we know what Palestinians needed? What mattered most to a political prisoner in Israeli detention?

And then in 2005 a collection of Palestinian grassroots groups spoke out, inspired by the victories of peoples' movements across the world. Over 170 Palestinian civil society organisations called upon people of conscience everywhere, to build a movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it ends its Apartheid policies. The BDS movement was born.

Israel's oppressive regime is only made possible through international support: from governments and from the many international corporations that profit from the occupation. BDS is our response. It is about internationalising the resistance to Israeli Apartheid.

The international BDS movement has grown from a small collection of individuals and activist groups to one which

includes support from trade unions, universities, artists, charities and faith groups around the world. Ten years on, the Palestinian BDS call has proven to be a fantastic tool for international solidarity, and has dealt a massive blow to Israel's belief that it can act with complete disregard for human rights.

Many BDS targets have been chosen through campaigners working together with Palestinians living directly under Israeli Occupation. After all, who is better placed to determine campaign priorities than the people most directly affected? Take the Stop G4S campaign, focusing on the British security company providing services and equipment to Israeli prisons. The call to target G4S came from Palestinian prisoner organisations on the eve of a massive hunger strike waged by Palestinian political prisoners. It was taken up by campaigners in countries around the world. The campaign has cost G4S billions of pounds in lost contracts, and even forced the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to divest its stake in G4S.



Outside G4S AGM at London's ExCel

Stop G4S

War on Want attended the G4S Annual General Meeting at ExCel London to demand an end to the company's complicity in Israel's illegal Occupation and the imprisonment and torture of Palestinians. While campaigners and activists made their voices heard outside the venue, the AGM was dominated by questions pressing the G4S executives on their connections with Apartheid Israel. Having banned their own shareholders from bringing mobile phones and other recording devices into the venue, a leaked video showed protestors being dragged out of the meeting by the dozens of security guards. War on Want is committed to keeping the pressure on G4S so long as G4S is involved in any aspect of the Israeli Apartheid regime. **To add your name to the thousands calling on G4S to end its complicity in Israeli Apartheid, please visit: waronwant.org/G4S**

Block the Factory: Stop Arming Israel

On 6 July 2015, to mark the one year anniversary of Israel's massacre in Gaza, War on Want joined a coalition of groups and campaigners to demand the UK Stop Arming Israel. The 'Block the Factory' national action shut down factories in Broadstairs, Tamworth and Shenstone. All three factories are owned by Israel's largest weapons company, Elbit Systems, a producer of drones and other military technology used in Israeli military assaults on Gaza.

Perhaps no situation better exemplifies the need for a BDS movement than the Israeli attacks on Gaza in the summer of 2014. While tens of thousands of people marched in the streets of London in protest at the attacks, Israeli arms company Elbit Systems, which also owns a factory in Staffordshire, was boasting about its 'combat proven' weapons at a British arms fair. Elbit is among Israel's largest arms companies and the producer of drones and other military technology used in Israeli military assaults on Gaza. It was 'business as usual' when it came to Britain and Israel trading weapons. That is why we are calling for a two-way arms embargo on Israel, as part of our BDS campaigning. You can take part in the campaign at: waronwant.org/stoparmingisrael

The BDS movement puts us on the offensive, targeting complicit corporations and governments. After 10 years, we know that BDS works. And we know that it takes persistence, creativity and ingenuity to make a lasting difference.

NEW REPORT

In the four months following Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza last summer, the UK licensed £4 million of arms exports to Israel – a shocking case of 'business as usual' following the deaths of over 2,200 Palestinians, 500 of them children. War on Want, Campaign Against Arms Trade and Palestine Solidarity Campaign have released a new report called 'Arming Apartheid' documenting the UK's complicity in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people, with a specific focus on the multi-million pound industry that is the UK-Israel arms trade. **To download the full report, please visit: waronwant.org/stop-arming-israel**





Power to the people!

The campaign against TTIP, the EU-US trade deal that will destroy our public services, create corporate courts and cost at least one million jobs, goes from strength to strength. The movement against the secretive deal grows weekly and in turn, politicians and bureaucrats in the UK and Europe are feeling the heat. An amazing 2.6 million people from across Europe – including more than 400,000 in the UK – have signed the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), saying no to TTIP. It is the biggest ever ECI. And as events at the European Parliament demonstrate, the petition has made a difference.

TTIP's Recipe for Ruin

Take some hormone-infused beef rinsed in acid, rub in a dash of genetically modified oil from pesticide-soaked crops, and if you like your steak extra-luxurious, a dab of butter laced with antibiotics. Sound appetising? All this and more could be on offer at your local eatery, courtesy of TTIP's agenda to trash our food safety, environmental and animal welfare standards.

TTIP's assault on food is directed at EU standards that safeguard our health and protect the environment. These include good hygiene practices in food production, animal welfare and the prevention of non-medicinal use of hormones and antibiotics, the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or meat from cloned animals, and banning dangerous pesticides and herbicides.

TTIP is a massive threat to food safety. In the EU, the 'farm-to-fork' approach ensures good hygiene at every stage of food production. US industry relies on cheaper methods, such as bathing meat in 'antimicrobial rinses' at the end of production, rather than good hygiene practices throughout.

The 'precautionary principle' is paramount to EU policy-making. It means business must prove to government that a product poses no threat to human health or the environment. In the USA, by contrast, a product is presumed safe and for it to be banned government must prove that there is a threat to human health or the environment.

The European Commission repeatedly states that our food standards are protected. But in 2008 it attempted to have chlorinated chicken permitted in the EU. In 2013, it succeeded in changing legislation on lactic acid-washed beef. And right now, it is once again trying to undermine 'farm-to-fork' by ensuring chicken bathed in acid can enter the EU. Added to this, a leaked TTIP chapter makes clear that boosting trade is taking precedence over food, animal and plant health regulations. It also states that port inspections will end.

It is clear that the beneficiaries of TTIP's food agenda are the corporations atop an industrial food system built to prioritise profit above all else.

Placing our food standards within this agenda is a recipe for ruin.

Labour MEPs bow to public pressure

Much controversy has centred on the issue of corporate courts in TTIP, the 'investor-state dispute settlement' (ISDS) mechanism which allows companies to sue states if a change in government policy affects their future profits. ISDS thus destroys the fundamental principle of equality before the law, and puts the interests of big business first.

Labour MEPs have come under intense pressure to say no to corporate courts, and at a recent debate at the European Parliament eventually agreed to vote against the whole TTIP package rather than accept its inclusion. This was a major victory for the UK campaign, which had previously been told that Labour MEPs would not vote against a pro-TTIP resolution. **It wouldn't have happened without the hard work of War on Want members and supporters across the country.**



Democracy for Sale: War on Want trade campaigner Mark Dearn outside the European Parliament in Strasbourg, ahead of its TTIP vote



Back row (from left): Carrie Cracknell, Nick Dearden, John Hilary, Mark Rylance, Vivienne Westwood. Front row (from left): Mike Leigh, Helen McCrory, Vicky Featherstone

JOINING THE FIGHT!

Artists Against TTIP

A group of leading British artists have joined the growing campaign against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The campaigning artists, 'Artists Against TTIP', include director Mike Leigh, fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, supermodel Lily Cole, musician Alison Goldfrapp, and actors Mark Rylance and Juliet Stevenson, among many others.

The official launch at London's Young Vic theatre saw War on Want Executive Director John Hilary, Nick Dearden of Global Justice Now and Green Party MP Caroline Lucas take part in a panel discussion. Watch the 'Artists Against TTIP' video: waronwant.org/media/artists-against-ttip.

To find out more about the campaign and to join the fight back, go to:

waronwant.org/ttip



A contaminated water supply in Cajamarca province, northern highlands, Peru.

© Milton Sanchez/Plataforma Intermunicipal de Celendin

“WATER YES, MINE NO”

Mining is destroying the lives of indigenous people in the northern highlands of Peru, but the people are fighting back.

“Water Yes, Mine No” has long been the call of indigenous people in Peru in their fight against Yanacocha, the world’s second largest gold mine. Part owned by the World Bank’s International Finance Corporation, the mine has operated in the Peruvian province of Cajamarca for more than 20 years. Its impact is stark.

“Five people have been killed and many more injured and imprisoned because of the struggle to defend our land and water,” says Milton Sanchez of grassroots movement and new War on Want partner, Plataforma Intermunicipal de Celendin.

When the trucks rolled in and the drilling began, Cajamarca province was the second poorest in Peru. The people were promised progress. Two decades on, Cajamarca remains one of the poorest provinces in the country. Years of gold digging have exploited communities and wrecked land and water sources. As Milton explains, “Reservoirs have been contaminated and people’s health is deteriorating.”

Meanwhile, the demands of local people have been violently crushed by Peruvian armed forces, defending the interest of the mine owners who continue to rake in the profits. Yanacocha is now looking to open three new mines around the town of Celendin. If given the go-ahead, the so called ‘Conga Project’ will destroy four lakes and further devastate the environment and water sources of the region.

The people of Cajamarca don’t want another mine – they want to preserve their land and water resources. War on Want stands in solidarity with the people of Cajamarca, supporting their fight against the Yanacocha Mining Company.

Maxima Acuna, an indigenous woman referred to as the ‘the lake’s guardian’, refuses to leave her land. She has been assaulted, had her home destroyed and been taken to court countless times. In 2014 Maxima won in court – proving she owned her land before the mine owners started operations – although the Yanacocha Mining Company is appealing the decision.

Maxima’s courage and resolve, and that of so many others just like her, is clear. In the face of violence and intimidation the people of Cajamarca province are standing firm – organising, mobilising and defending their land. **They’re fighting back.**

South Africa's housing crisis:

Women and girls bear the brunt



Your home should be your sanctuary, where you feel safe and comfortable. Yet this basic right is being denied to so many South Africans. More than two decades since Apartheid ended, South Africa remains one of the most unequal countries in the world. And when it comes to people's homes this inequality couldn't be starker.

In the city of Cape Town, wealthy suburbs with well-serviced houses, landscaped gardens and swimming pools line the beautiful coastline and work their way up Table Mountain. Yet travel east of the city and you find people living in shacks, temporary relocation camps, badly built social housing and rental apartment blocks.

The number of households living in informal settlements has more than doubled since 2004. The government's housing development programme is not working – plagued by corruption, political patronage and poor quality construction. In the informal settlement of Siqalo, just nine taps found on the fringes of the settlement serve 6,000 families, while in Vygieskraal, sanitation services are nothing more than a string of portable toilets – one for every 40 people. In short, the housing situation in South Africa is in crisis.

Alongside the physical hardships of living in poor quality housing with limited services, the emotional strain is just as devastating. Women and girls bear the brunt. Living in cramped quarters, sometimes 10 to a room, the lack of privacy and access to toilets is a source of much anxiety.

Faeza Meyer, chair of the Housing Assembly, a grassroots social movement in Cape Town and War on Want partner, explains: "What rips apart my dignity, and I know other

women go through this living in a shack, is when I get my periods. I hate myself. I hate this shack. I hate this space. I hate being here. I want to be a man - I want to change my sex because now I have to use this bucket. My husband is right there and I apologise to him. He tells me, 'you don't have to apologise,' and I know he doesn't care, but I care."

Thankfully, the hard work of the Housing Assembly is bearing fruit. Door-to-door organising and community speak-out sessions encourage people to talk about the mental and emotional strain of living in informal housing. The Housing Assembly is working tirelessly to organise people living in shacks, informal settlements and social housing to campaign for their rights to decent shelter.

This summer we arranged for Faeza and her colleague Josephine Abrahams to visit the UK and join with inspirational housing activists from around the world to share experiences, exchange skills and build solidarity. We also launched a powerful film documenting the plight of ordinary South Africans and their struggle for decent housing.



To find out more and to watch the video go to: waronwant.org/housing-assembly-video
Please share with your friends!

Shop and support the fight against inequality and injustice



In collaboration with the New Internationalist and their Ethical Shop, we bring you our very first catalogue! For many years New Internationalist has brought ethical goods to people with a conscience and now War on Want is benefitting from their expertise. They will handle orders for our new NO TTIP t-shirts, mugs, bags, our ever popular seasonal cards and much more. **Visit our online shop today – every purchase made will help fund our fight for a better world: www.ethicalshop.org**

Radio 4 appeal **Two coups**

Vanessa Redgrave and BBC's Radio 4 appeal

We were thrilled to enlist the support of Vanessa Redgrave for War on Want's Radio 4 appeal. A long standing supporter, it is the second time Vanessa has voiced our appeal. She spoke again of the plight of garment workers in Bangladesh, where hundreds of thousands of women are making clothes for the British high street, surviving on poverty wages and working 80-hour weeks in appalling conditions.

Our previous appeal generated an amazing response and raised £25,000. This time around we're updating listeners on the incredible work done in recent years and how their donations are making a real difference in supporting the garment workers' fight for better conditions. War on Want's partner, the National Garment Workers' Federation (NGWF), has been fighting for the rights of garment workers in Bangladesh since 1984, recently winning an 80% increase in their minimum wage.

Thanks again Vanessa, and to everyone who dug deep and donated.



Success! Milestone in Rana Plaza road to justice

The long road to justice for Bangladeshi garment workers reached a significant milestone this summer when the Rana Plaza Donors Trust Fund met its target. Over 1,100 garment workers died in 2013 when the factory they worked in collapsed. Two years on from the Rana Plaza disaster, the victims and their families will finally receive compensation.



War on Want, in solidarity with Bangladeshi trade unions, brought together hundreds of thousands of people to demand that the global fashion brands pay up. These brands wield enormous power over the Bangladeshi garment industry, and while some responded immediately to the call, others such as Benetton obfuscated for ages.

The compensation is great news and shows what can be achieved when people across the world come together to fight injustice. However, this is not the end. We will not rest until the exploitative global garment industry is held to account, and the people who make our clothes are paid a living wage, enjoy safe conditions and are free to join a trade union.

News from the North

We are looking forward to some great events in Manchester. Hot on the heels of our hugely energetic 'TTIP: Building the Fightback' conference and the Stop Arming Israel all day workshop, we just can't get enough of that North West vibe. We'll be joining in with anti-austerity demonstrations, as well as working with our union partners and Stop TTIP Manchester on other exciting public events.

Are you free on Saturday 17 October? We will be joining up with our partners in the Economic Justice Project to put on a free skill-share day at Bridge 5 Mill (aka the Merci Centre) in Manchester. If you would like to see particular workshops at this event or have any ideas for North West collaboration, we would love to hear from you.

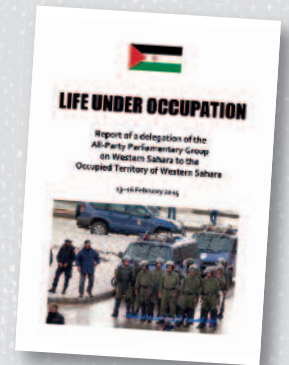
Get in touch via email:

TakeAction@waronwant.org. For latest events listings check out: waronwant.org/events



WESTERN SAHARA Africa's last colony

On 31 October 1975, Moroccan military forces invaded Western Sahara. Ever since, the indigenous Saharawi people have been denied their right to self-determination, while mass migration of Moroccan settlers has turned them into a minority in their own land. Morocco has been allowed to exploit the natural resources of the country with impunity. Western Sahara remains Africa's last colony.



War on Want continues to campaign for the Saharawis' right to self-determination and freedom in their own land. Together with other solidarity groups, we are using the 40th anniversary of the Moroccan invasion to highlight the continuing human rights crisis in Western Sahara.

To read our report of the first parliamentary delegation to the Occupied Territories of Western Sahara, 'Life Under Occupation', go to: waronwant.org/western-sahara-report. Keep an eye out for details of events to mark the anniversary at waronwant.org

As the mining elite get rich, the rest are ignored

As the world's mining elite met in London this summer to discuss how best to divide up a continent's resources, the voices of ordinary Africans were ignored. With the support of over 25 African civil society organisations, War on Want joined London Mining Network, the Gaia Foundation and Divest London in protest at the exclusion of civil society representatives from the annual 'Mining on Top – Africa Summit'.

It is local communities that are most affected by the extractive industry in Africa. Mining routinely disrupts and destroys lives and livelihoods, forcing people from their land and devastating the natural environment on which they depend. It is a scandal that the very people who should be at the heart of these discussions are shut out. Sadly, the exploitation of mineral resources has led to corruption, with a large proportion of mining income being siphoned off – benefitting local and foreign elites at the expense of ordinary Africans.

War on Want stands in solidarity with those fighting back against exploitative extractive industries, and is working with groups such as Social Action in Nigeria and Kalikasan in the Philippines. Here in the UK we will continue to take the concerns of those communities to the doorstep of UK-based mining companies.

Find out more on our website:
waronwant.org/profitting-conflict

Osborne's Orwellian Living Wage

Workers have long campaigned for a wage that meets their needs – challenging the notion that markets should decide the minimum return for a worker's labour. This demand is called a living wage.

This summer, George Osborne announced an increase in the UK Minimum Wage for over-25s and named this new rate a 'Living Wage'. It is anything but. Based on a relative measure of average income (60% of median earnings) it does nothing to ensure the rate set will be enough to cover basic needs.

The fight for an economy that prioritises need over profit goes on. Find out more at:
waronwant.org/workers-rights

New Website

Have you seen our snazzy new website? It's a good 'un! It's now mobile- and tablet- friendly. Keep up to date with our radical politics wherever you are! Take a look today and let us know what you think waronwant.org

