

Ensure Washington State Workers' Pension Funds Align with International Law

WHEREAS, Guided by the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB), Washington State invests more than \$1 billion in more than 50 companies that are contributing to the Israeli genocide and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, apartheid, and the illegal occupation of Palestinian land, and are not responding to pressure to conform to international law; *and*,

WHEREAS, In 2024 the International Court of Justice found it "plausible" that Israel has committed acts that violate the Genocide Convention and ordered Israel to "take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian aid;" *and*,

WHEREAS, In July 2024, the International Court of Justice concluded that Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories is illegal and further found that states have an obligation "to take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;" *and*,

WHEREAS, On May 14, 2025, the United Nations (UN) Humanitarian Aid Coordinator called on world leaders to act immediately to prevent genocide in Gaza; *and*,

WHEREAS, In September 2025, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel determined that Israeli authorities and security forces committed four of the five genocidal acts defined by the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. By this definition, they concluded, Israel has committed genocide; *and*,

WHEREAS, The WSIB is in violation of International law by maintaining investments in companies complicit in genocide and illegal occupation. WSIB's fiduciary duty is to Washington state workers and residents. The WSIB hasn't fully considered or communicated the risks of investing in companies violating international humanitarian law; *and*,

WHEREAS, The Public Employee Retirement Systems (PERS), one of the options for PROTEC17 King County employee retirement funds, is under the management of the WSIB; *and*,

WHEREAS, Starting in 2011, Palestinian trade unions collectively appealed to trade unions around the world to join them in their support for the boycott, divest and sanction movement; *and*,

WHEREAS, In 2024, along with over 200 other labor unions, PROTEC17 signed on to the National Labor for Ceasefire petition for a ceasefire in Gaza; *therefore*,

BE IT RESOLVED, That PROTEC17 will express its support for Washington State Investment Board (WSIB) to divest completely from companies that consistently, knowingly, and directly enable or facilitate genocide, apartheid, or other war crimes and crimes against humanity; *and*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That PROTEC17 will endorse the Cut Ties with Genocide Campaign seeking to end WSIB's investments in companies that consistently, knowingly, and directly enable or facilitate genocide, apartheid, or other war crimes and crimes against humanity; *and*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That PROTEC17 will urge the Washington State Labor Council and the MLK Labor Council to adopt the following position: That the Washington State Investment Board must divest from companies that consistently, knowingly, and directly enable or facilitate genocide, apartheid, or other war crimes and crimes against humanity; *and*,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the King County Chapter shall forward this resolution to the Regional Executive Committee (REC) for consideration at the soonest possible REC meeting.

Agendized for 9/24/25 chapter meeting by vote of chapter officers.

Adopted by the King County Chapter at the 9/24/25 regular meeting.

Adopted by the PROTEC17 Regional Executive Committee on 10/25/25.