

Our Wages, Our Voices, Our Choices
Demo 5pm Tue 19th March
Birkenhead Town Hall CH41 5EU
Arms firms out of our Pension Fund!

**STOP THE
BOMBS!
CEASEFIRE
NOW!**

**WORKERS
DEMAND
PEACE AND
JUSTICE
FOR 
PALESTINE!**

For many years Trade Unionists, Anti War campaigners and environmentalists have expressed concerns regarding the ongoing investments of Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) in companies that profit from the suffering of working class people across the globe. Companies that trade in arms, companies whose working practices impose environmental damage and affect workers health and safety. The current genocide in Palestine has highlighted the need for a more coordinated, louder campaign asking the wider trade union community to take action. Currently our retirement is being funded by the blood of innocent Palestinians. As trade unionists our movement is rooted in battles for equality, fairness, and a better world for all. We stand in solidarity with all working class people across the globe, and that solidarity should extend in to the pension scheme that will enable us to live better in our retirement. That is clearly in contradiction to some of the investment decisions made by our Pension Committee, which administers the Merseyside Pension Fund, the LGPS for workers on Merseyside. Everyone who pays council tax contributes to the MPF, alongside those workers who pay in as members of the Scheme.

Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) Your Pension Fund: These are just a few examples of the companies that your pension is invested in: **Lockheed-Martin**: MPF investment £292,017. **RTX (Raytheon Technologies)**: MPF investment £628,508. **General Dynamics**: MPF investment £905,610. **BAE Systems**: MPF investment £8,880,605. **Honeywell Intl**: MPF investment £2,959,013, **Chemring Group**: MPF investment £2,004,166. **Boeing**: MPF investment £18,849. **Caterpillar**: MPF investment £122,598. **General Electric**: MPF investment £44,240. **Northrop Grumman**: MPF investment £159,061. **Teledyne**: MPF investment £206,876. **Textron**: MPF investment £757,459. **Some of the biggest arms companies in the world. Complicit in providing bombs, missiles, jets, drones and shells containing white phosphorus to rain down terror against people equipped with stones and flags.**

LFOP Rally: In December a rally was held before the last MPF committee, a motion was put forward to the committee calling for a working party to be established with a view to identifying those companies whose products and practices are at odds with the greater good of the world, specifically in terms of war and environmental issues, with a view to divesting from them and to identify greener and more ethical investment opportunities that better promote their ethics and asking for a report from the working party within six months.

This was watered down, there was an agreement to form a working party, without specifying clear aims or objectives, no time scale and therefore no accountability. This lack of transparency and accountability would not be acceptable in our workplaces so why should we accept it from those who are meant to be working on our behalf.

Workers on Merseyside have every right to insist that their money is not used to finance the slaughter of civilians or weapons of mass destruction. Workers on Merseyside have the right to insist that the people tasked with running our pension fund are held accountable for their decisions.

ACTIONS

Whilst we may watch the news and feel upset and powerless to make a difference, a few simple actions can make an impact. *Sign up to the mailing list (email wtucpensioncampaignfop@gmail.com), your details will not be passed on to any other party.* We will send out a list of the people you can contact to make your views known. We will provide model letters and will keep you updated on any further actions you can get involved in. We will issue updates regarding the Pension Scheme. In addition:

- Please write to the Pensions Committee (<https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/mgCommitteeMailingList.aspx?ID=159>), especially the Chair, Councillor Julie McManus (juliemcmanus@wirral.gov.uk), asking them specifically to divest from those companies which are contributing to the genocide in Palestine.
- Ask the Pensions Committee to provide clear aims and objectives for the working party in relation to divestment and ethical and greener investment. Demand a six month timeline for their work to be carried out and a report produced.
- Encourage other workers whose pensions are provided by the Merseyside Pension Fund to get involved in the campaign. Show solidarity with the Palestinian people by sharing their stories, attending Liverpool Friends of Palestine events etc.

Our Wages, Our Voices, Our Choices **Free Palestine**

This is a joint campaign by Wirral Trades Union Council and Liverpool Friends Of Palestine



Liverpool Friends Of Palestine

<https://www.facebook.com/liverpoolpalestine>

<https://lfop.co.uk/>



Wirral Trades Union Council

<https://www.facebook.com/WirralTuc>

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