

CUPE BC 2023 CONVENTION INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The CUPE BC International Solidarity Committee (ISC) has been working together since November 2021. There have been a lot of changes and challenges, and the Committee continues to focus on issues of global justice, community, CoDevelopment (CoDev) Canada, and building relationships with current partners.

Action Plan

- Maintain relationships with current partners (Indigenous Councils with TRC, Trade Unions)
- Expand partnerships with other international human rights organizations
- Promote international solidarity education amongst CUPE members.
- Submit resolutions pertaining to Iran, Migrant Workers, and Palestine
- Build an International Solidarity Committee workshop on “How to Build International Solidarity (OLS)” with CUPE BC (April 2023 – 2024 Term)

Ongoing Committee Work

The ISC recommends that the National Executive Board (NEB) lobby the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to call on the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to expedite refugee claims by Iranian asylum-seekers.

Further goals:

- Engage with Iranian solidarity organization “[Free Them Now](#)”
- CUPE BC to enter a partnership with “Free Them Now”
- Support the [Migrant Workers Centre](#)
- Support ongoing participation in partnerships through CoDev Canada

Summary of Resolutions

At this year's Convention, the ISC has crafted resolutions calling on CUPE to:

- Lobby the federal government to immediately ban the practice of incarcerating children and adults seeking immigration and refugee status, or asylum, in Canada
- Support the struggle of the workers and people of Iran for freedom, the right to organize and strike, and for welfare, equality, justice, and dignity
- Lobby the BC government to work with their federal counterparts to expand labour mobility, permanent residency access, qualification recognition and credentialing, and work permit access for migrant workers, permanent residents, new Canadians, refugees and others new to Canada, and to advocate that the BC government increase protection for these workers to ensure their workplace and labour rights are upheld
- Amend the Policy Manual to add the following under the International Solidarity section, in the subsection related to Middle East-Palestine:

We support the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign until Israel abides by international law and ends its illegal occupation of Palestinian land.

Reports from Collaborator Organizations

Please refer to the Appendix for a compilation of reports submitted by CUPE BC's partner organizations: Iranian human rights organization "Free Them Now"; CODEMUH (Honduran Women's Collective); MEC (Maria Elena Cuadra Movement of Employed and Unemployed Maquiladoras in Nicaragua); NOMADESC (Association for Research and Social Action in Colombia); SPTAPH (the Havana Province Division of the National Union of Public Administration Workers in Cuba).

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE REPORT

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