

Union council Motion: Campaign against the Arms Trade:

This Union believes:

- In 2006 the British government through the office of the DESO (Defence export service organisation) sold £24 million of military aid to Israel in the form of cluster bombs, surface to air missiles, tank parts and landrovers. These weapons were then used in the invasion of Lebanon in August 2006 against civilians in actions, which the United Nations deemed as war crimes.
- That British companies such as Caterpillar which are not directly in the arms trade profit directly from the Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. Caterpillar continues to sell D-9 Bulldozers to the Israeli defence force with the knowledge that they are being used to destroy the houses of Palestinians and the construction of the West-Bank partition wall.
- That the British government uses the offices of the DESO to send military aid to support despotic regimes around the world. This includes the continued sale of Land rovers and tank parts to Turkmenistan and Burma.
- That since 2003 the British government have indirectly armed paramilitary death squads in Columbia by selling weaponry to the Columbian government. These paramilitaries continue to carry out acts of intimidation, kidnap and murder against trade union members as is the case of the murdered Coca-Cola workers in 2003.
- That at this moment Portsmouth University is the only university not to invest directly in the Arms trade. This situation however is due to circumstance not intention.

The Union resolves:

- To join the Campaign against the Arms trade (CAAT) initiative to "*clean up our universities*" by making it official policy not to invest in the arms trade or companies which profit directly from the oppression of people. I.E BAE Systems or Caterpillar. Money from students should not be invested in companies who profit from the military oppression of innocent people.