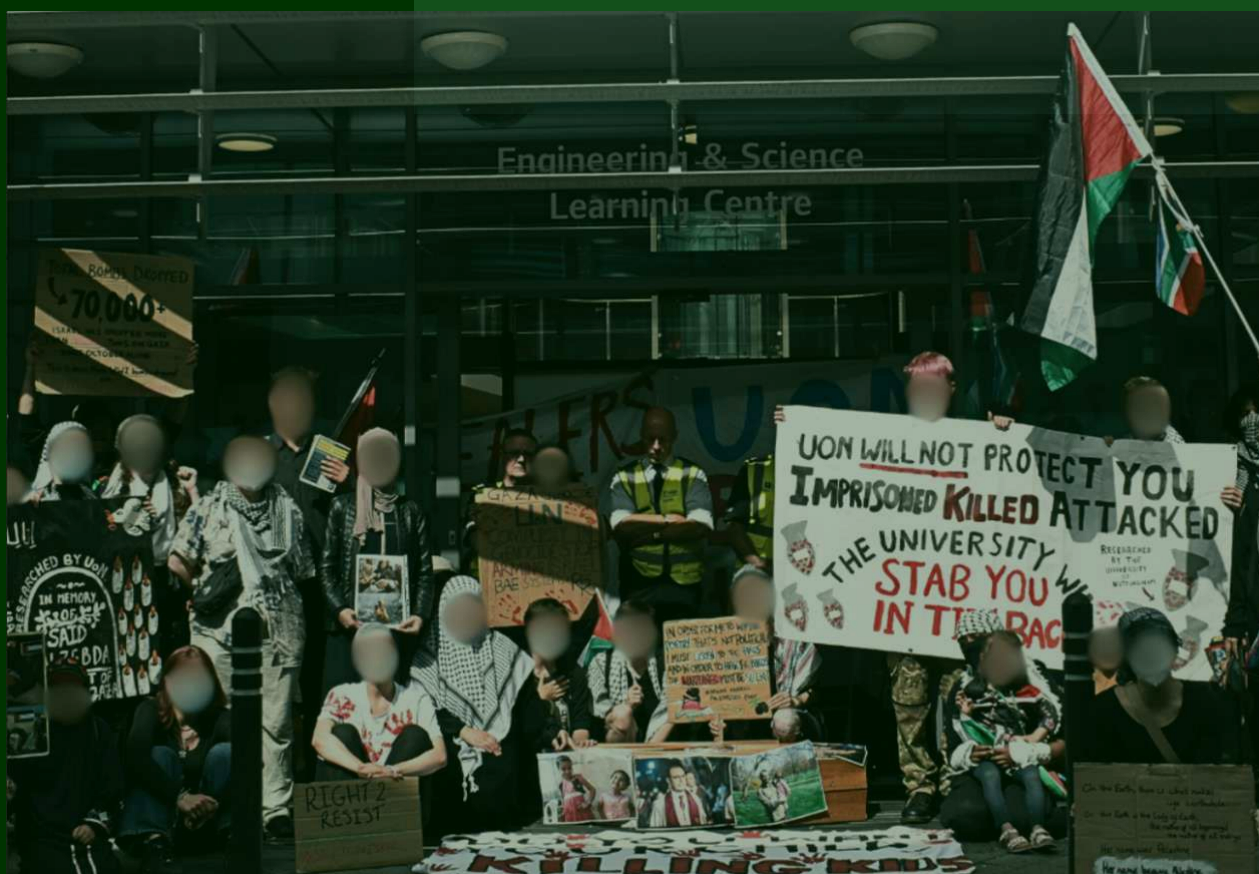




The University of Nottingham's Complicity In The Illegal Occupation and Genocide of The Palestinian People

Research Report



Nottingham Camp for the Liberation of Palestine (NCLP)
@nottspalestinecamp

November
2024

This report is endorsed by the following organisations, which support its research aims and recommendations but were not involved in verifying its findings.

University of Nottingham Student Societies

Brown Girl Link Up Society
Friends of Medics San Frontiers
Islamic Society
Jordanian Society
LGBT Society
Malaysian Society

POC in Engineering
Punk Society
Revolutionary Communist Party (Nottingham branch)
Sudanese Society
Young Socialist Students

External Groups and Organisations

Association of Student Activism for Palestine (ASAP)

Cage International

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)

Demilitarise Education (dED)

Friends of Al-Aqsa (FOA)

People for Palestine (PFP)

War on Want

Aberdeen University Palestine Solidarity Society
Aston for Palestine
Birmingham Liberated Zone
Edinburgh University Justice for Palestine Society
Estudantes do Porto em Defesa da Palestina
Exeter Liberation Encampment for Palestine
Friends of Palestine Society University of Bristol
Glasgow University Justice for Palestine
KCL Stands 4 Justice
Lancaster University Free Palestine Student Organisation

Lincoln Students for a Free Palestine
Leeds Students Against Apartheid Coalition
Loughborough Action for Palestine
LSE Liberated Zone
Newcastle Apartheid Off Campus
Portsmouth Gaza Encampment
SOAS Liberated Zone for Gaza
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Texas for Palestine
University of the Arts London Students for Justice in Palestine
UCL Action for Palestine
Universitat de València
University of Leicester Palestine Society
Young Musicians for Palestine
York Palestine Encampment



We would like to express our gratitude to the academics who have supported this report with their feedback and endorsement. Their commitment to the critical issues explored within this work have been invaluable.

We are particularly grateful to:

- Professor Noemí Sánchez Nàcher - Associate professor at Universitat de València
- Professor Rafael Xambó - Professor of Sociology at Universitat de València
- Guillermo Muñoz Matutano - Research Fellow at Universitat de València
- Professor Louise Mallinder - Professor of Law at the School of Law, Queen's University Belfast.
- Professor Christine Schwöbel-Patel - Professor of International Law, Warwick Law School

We would also like to thank **The Right Honourable Lord Hendy**, Member of the House of Lords, for his support and endorsement. His commitment to justice highlights the importance of this report's findings.

*Due to time constraints, we were unable to reach everyone who might be interested in endorsing this report. If you would like to add your support after reading it, please contact us at:
nottspalestinecamp@gmail.com*

Authorship

This report was authored by student members of the Nottingham Camp for the Liberation of Palestine (NCLP) at the University of Nottingham.

Acknowledgements

The authors of this report thank the staff, students and individuals from external organisations who reviewed and commented on initial drafts of this report. The authors would also like to extend their special gratitude to the authors of the 'Assets in Apartheid' report from LSESU Palestine Society, who have supported the NCLP team prior to the publication of this work.

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This report is dedicated to,

Dr. Said Al-Zebda and Mrs. Ikram Ghanem, distinguished alumni of the University of Nottingham. The Palestinian couple lovingly raised their three children—Izzedine, Intisar, and Summuyah—in the heart of Nottingham before returning to Gaza to rebuild their lives and contribute to their homeland. On New Year's Eve 2023, their lives were tragically cut short when an Israeli airstrike targeted their home, killing Dr. Al-Zebda, Mrs. Ghanem, and their three young children.

Their memory endures as a powerful testament to the resilience of the Palestinian people and their unyielding fight for freedom, justice, and dignity.

May Peace be Upon Them,

عليهم السلام

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2008, the student movement for Palestine in Nottingham has been actively campaigning against various issues relating to the illegality of Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestine, as well as the stakes that the University of Nottingham (University of Nottingham, UoN, or the University hereafter) hold in this apartheid regime.

In recent years, there has been a considerable focus on divestment from companies and termination of partnerships with arms manufacturers and distributors which are complicit in this apartheid regime. Protest activity has intensified since the start of the ongoing Genocide in Gaza, which has spread to other parts of Palestine and more recently Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Yemen. This intensification is a response to the countless war crimes committed by the settler colony of Israel. By the time that the Nottingham Camp for the Liberation of Palestine (NCLP) first assembled and set up its encampment on 10 May 2024, seven months after Israel's offensive began, approximately 35,000 Palestinians had been killed in Gaza by the IOF (the majority being women and children), tens of thousands more had been maimed and injured, and over 9,000 were detained, in many cases arbitrarily.

NCLP forms part of a global student movement, calling on universities across the world to support Palestinian students and professors whose educational infrastructure has been decimated by indiscriminate Israeli bombardments, and cut their ties with Israel and complicit arms companies responsible for this destruction, as well as any institutions complicit in the apartheid regime. NCLP has demanded four actions by the University, namely, to disclose its financial and industrial relationships, to divest from and terminate partnerships with companies that have upheld the apartheid system and spurred on the ongoing genocide, to support Palestinian students through grants and scholarships, and finally to invest in the rebuilding of Gaza's educational infrastructure once these massacres cease.



Recent legal actions, including those initiated by the Republic of South Africa, underscore the urgent need for international accountability regarding Israel's conduct. The living conditions for the Palestinians in Gaza have deteriorated significantly, with the IOF cutting off essential resources, destroying essential infrastructure and exacerbating humanitarian crises. Historically, violent acts against Palestinians, described by Israeli historian Ilan Pappé as "incremental genocide," have persisted with little international backlash. Environmental degradation further compounds these issues, with military actions severely damaging Gaza's water supply and agricultural lands. The lack of accountability for these actions highlights a failure of legal mechanisms, and a need for institutions like the University of Nottingham to be proactive in adhering to international law of their own accord and preventing injustice.

The ongoing genocide in Palestine, being perpetuated by both military and civilians of the settler colony of Israel, includes systematic killing, inflicting serious harm, and creating conditions that threaten the physical existence of the Palestinian people. There is a long history of violence against Palestinians, starting with attacks by Zionist militias in the late 1930s and culminating in the 1948 Nakba, which resulted in the death and ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. Recent escalations, particularly since October 2023, have included severe restrictions on access to basic necessities in Gaza, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and violating international law.

Israel has intensified its attacks, conducting extensive airstrikes and endorsing settler-violence despite international calls for a ceasefire. This ongoing assault is part of a broader strategy of settler colonialism, which seeks to establish control over Palestinian territories through illegal settlements and violent displacement. Israel's military actions have been bolstered by a lack of accountability from the international community, allowing for unchecked expansion of military aggression into neighbouring regions like Lebanon and Syria. There have been serious concerns raised by international bodies about Israel's lack of respect for international law, as well as concern about companies and institutions who are continuing to support Israel's actions.

The UK government has acknowledged a "clear risk" that UK-supplied weapons and components may be involved in serious violations of international law, prompting Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, to announce the suspension of around 30 out of 350 export licences to Israel. Several companies have also faced scrutiny for their involvement in arms sales to conflict zones. For instance, BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon have been criticised for supplying weapons to Saudi Arabia, which have been used in the Yemen conflict, resulting in significant civilian casualties and alleged war crimes. The UN has also recently issued a statement warning arms companies to stop arms sales to Israel as this could lead to them being complicit in human rights violations.



The UoN has demonstrated its ability to swiftly take action in response to global crises through divestment. A notable example is UoN's decision to sever formal links with Russia following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Within three months, the University introduced the Ukrainian Scholars at Risk programme, providing comprehensive support for Ukrainian students, allowing them to continue their studies at UoN. Despite these decisive actions, no equivalent steps have been taken to divest from Israeli institutions or companies involved in activities related to the ongoing genocide against Palestinians.

UoN's ethical investment framework is governed by its *Policy on Investment, Acquisitions and Disposals*, introduced in 2013. This document outlines the University's commitment to incorporating ethical and social responsibilities into its investment decisions. The policy specifically states that UoN will avoid investments in companies where the core of their business involves activities such as the "manufacture and sale of armaments to military regimes" or participation in "institutional violations of human rights." These ethical considerations guide how the University makes financial decisions, although this commitment has not led to divestment from entities involved in human rights abuses in certain regions, such as Israel.

UoN's investment portfolio has been managed by Cazenove Capital, a subsidiary of Schroders, since 2021. The portfolio is split between a Permanent Endowment Fund and a Medium-Term Fund. Cazenove Capital is required to implement the University's responsible investment policy and uphold ESG standards. The Cazenove Capital Report, which provides a high-level summary of how UoN's investments are managed and allocated, should be published annually, offering transparency into the University's financial practices. The UoN draws on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to both guide its investments, as well as to measure the ESG impact of its investments. The University's commitment to promote and contribute to the UN SDGs is also part of its wider strategy, which theoretically applies to its partnerships and research areas, as well as its investments.

One of the methods by which the University purports to maintain these standards is through the implementation of their own Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics. Under this Code, the University's core key principles for ethical research are "maximising benefit"; "minimising harm"; "respecting autonomy"; "fairness and accountability"; and "integrity and transparency". On a broader scale, another structure that the University has developed to hold itself to the "highest standards" is its Ethical Framework. This Framework was developed in 2012 *"in part as a response to the findings of Lord Woolf's investigation into the LSE's links with Libya"*. In this inquiry, Lord Woolf identified "shortcomings in the governance, structure and management at the LSE".



This “comprehensive set of principles, structures, policies and procedures” forms an integral part of the University’s wider governance strategy. By its own declaration, this Framework gives “the assurance that the UoN behaves ethically across its activities”. The University has established a Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee, tasked with implementing the University’s strategies for research and knowledge exchange, ensuring alignment with institutional goals and managing related risks. This strategy centres around partnerships that include collaborations with the public and policymakers to enhance societal benefits

For this report, we have used a reduced form of the comprehensive criteria developed by the LSESU Palestine Society in their May 2024 *Assets in Apartheid: LSE’s Complicity in Genocide of the Palestinian People, Arms Trade, and Climate Breakdown* report, to assess the egregious activities, including illegal settlement activity, supported by the University’s investments, as well as its industry partnerships. The LSESU Palestine Society’s criteria highlighted four egregious activities, namely regarding crimes against Palestinian people, extraction and/or distribution of fossil fuels, proliferation and/or manufacture of arms, and the financing of fossil fuel companies and/or nuclear weapons producers. We have chosen to focus our examination on two of these activities, alongside an adapted version of LSESU Palestine Society’s fourth:

1. Crimes against the Palestinian people, including through supporting illegal Israeli settlements; and/or supporting the Israeli military; and/or sustaining apartheid.

2. Proliferation and/or manufacture of arms.

3. Financing crimes against the Palestinian people and/or financing the arms trade.



Summary of Key Findings

The key findings of this report indicate that the University's policies are insufficient and have failed to prevent investments in and partnerships with firms and institutions involved in the above activities.

1. Complicity Through Investments

The University's permanent endowment fund, as of July 31st, 2024, was worth £68,752,984.72, with a medium-term fund of £9,912,540.38. Through Freedom of Information requests and analysis of the University's financial statements, we have obtained details of the University's global equity holdings, which constitute £51,852,860.52 (65.28% of the University's portfolio).

Our research finds that, in FY23/24, £16,974,399.98 of the University's equities were held in 53 holdings in 28 companies that are either conducting or enabling crimes against the Palestinian people (including through supporting illegal Israeli settlements; and/or supporting the Israeli military; and/or sustaining apartheid); and/or financing crimes against the Palestinian people and/or financing the arms trade.

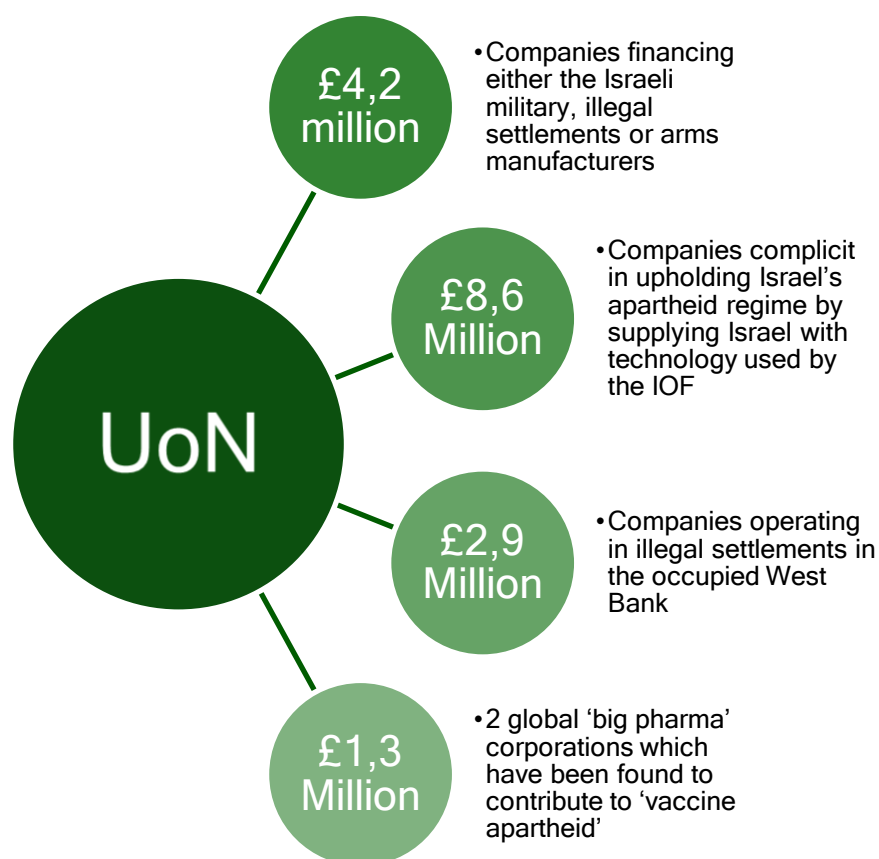


Figure 1 UoN Endowment funds

- The University of Nottingham has a total of **£4,208,849.14** in 16 holdings in 10 companies which are involved in financing either the Israeli military, illegal settlements or arms manufacturers complicit in the genocide against Palestinians. Seven of these are financial institutions that are investors and/or creditors in business enterprises listed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as involved in illegal settlement activities. These companies include **Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria Sa** (£1,051,562.99), **Standard Chartered Plc** (£237,684.97), **Natwest Group Plc** (£218,029.30), **Aviva Plc** (£179,540.87), **BNP Paribas Sa** (£127,448.56), and **Axa Sa** (£112,686.23).
- We found that the University has investments worth **£2,974,774.55** in 15 holdings in 8 companies operating in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank. These include **Booking Holdings Inc** (£1,006,806.73), **Carrefour S.A.** (£157,935.44), and **Adidas Ag** (£740.80).
- Furthermore, UoN invests **£113,419.10** in 4 companies involved in resource extraction and/or operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including **First Solar, Inc.** (£52,754.89), **Lg Chem Limited** (£30,681.23), **Sma Solar Technology Ag** (£15,170.75), and **Deme Group Nv** (£14,812.23).
- The University invests **£8,647,246.94** in 16 holdings in 8 companies complicit in upholding Israel's apartheid regime by supplying Israel with technology used by the IOF against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian Territory. These companies include **Microsoft** (£2,946,529.97), **Alphabet Inc** (£2,200,747.85), **International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)** (£188,308.39), **Hp Inc** (£158,429.20), and **Intel Corp** (£124,884.78).
- UoN invests a total of **£1,375,825.11** in two global 'big pharma' corporations which have been found to contribute to 'vaccine apartheid' in various countries, particularly supporting Israel in its regime of apartheid during the COVID-19 pandemic. These companies are **Astrazeneca Plc** (£1,209,691.89) and **Pfizer Inc** (£166,133.22).

We did not find that the University invests in any arms manufacturer, nor arms distributor.

A detailed summary of these investments and supporting evidence can be found in Appendix B.

2. Partnerships with Arms Manufacturers and Companies Complicit in Human Rights Violations

UoN's collaborations with arms manufacturers are seen as tacit support for industries linked to conflict and human rights abuses, conflicting with its commitment to social responsibility. UoN's Career Services promotes opportunities with companies complicit in human rights violations, particularly against the Palestinian people, including Caterpillar, Rolls-Royce and BAE systems. Many of these companies are key industrial partners to the University, and are featured at careers fairs, among other events.

By examining announcements, press releases, and projects conducted primarily within the University's Institute for Aerospace Technology and Power Electronics and Machines Centre, we found UoN collaborates with at least 13 of the largest global arms manufacturers, as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boeing • General Dynamics • BAE Systems • Leonardo • Airbus • Thales | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dassault • Rolls-Royce • Honeywell • General Electric • MBDA • Safran |
|---|--|

The University is also a key partner on the Clean Sky programme, funded by the European Commission, focusing on eco-friendly aviation technologies. It was the only European University to be an Associate Partner in the initial €1.6bn programme, and now it is a core research partner on the €4bn Clean Sky 2 programme, delivering 21 projects worth a total of €42m. The end users of UoN's research are Rolls-Royce, Airbus, Leonardo, Safran, Dassault, Liebherr and Thales, making 93% of UoN's €42m contribution to the Clean Sky initiative have directly benefited defence contractors. As such, UoN's 'climate action initiatives' are inconsistent with other SDGs, such as Peace and Justice, raising concerns about potential greenwashing resulting from partnerships with firms associated with human rights violations.

3. Partnerships with Israeli Academic Institutions

UoN maintains collaborations with over half of Israel's universities, reflecting a long-standing history of academic partnership with Israeli institutions

- Tel Aviv University: Collaborations involving former Pro-Vice Chancellor Saul Tendler and ongoing seminars.
- University of Haifa: Produced 40 joint research outputs.
- Weizmann Institute: Collaborative work in nuclear magnetic resonance research.
- Ben-Gurion University: Produced 66 shared research outputs, with Ben-Gurion academics invited to UoN campus events.

The University of Nottingham has also received funding from the Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange (BIRAX) for projects, including:

- A 2013 collaboration with Hebrew University Medical Centre on regenerative therapy for Parkinson's disease.
- A 2015 pacemaker research project with Technion, Israel Institute of Technology.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past year, the Israeli army has announced and enacted a campaign of ethnic cleansing across the Gaza Strip, through non-stop carpet bombing attacking “safe-zones”, psychological warfare, torture and sexual assault, alongside ground invasions, with snipers targeting children and tanks targeting civilian infrastructure. While coverage has focused on Gaza, the Israeli army and illegal settlers have intensified attacks against Palestinians across the illegally occupied West Bank and increased their aggression towards Palestinians who hold Israeli citizenship through surveillance and arrest.

Despite the recommendations of UN experts to cease the airstrikes to reduce civilian harm and allow access to humanitarian aid, Israel has made no meaningful efforts committed to a lasting ceasefire in Gaza nor de-escalation in the wider Middle East.¹ The impunity with which it has been allowed to behave has led Israel to expand its ever-escalating violence to surrounding countries, including Syria² and Lebanon.³

The Nottingham Camp for the Liberation of Palestine (NCLP) was created after countless protests to stop the University of Nottingham’s complicity in the apartheid, occupation and genocide of the Palestinian people by the colonial state of Israel. NCLP forms part of a global student movement, calling on universities across the world to boycott Israel and support Palestinian students, whose educational infrastructure has been decimated by indiscriminate Israeli attacks. Different student groups within the movement have different demands based on the context of their university’s contribution to the oppression of Palestinians. NCLP only has four demands, which are as follows:

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, “UN Experts Alarmed by Israel-Lebanon Conflict, Strongly Condemn Escalation and Urge Immediate Protection for Civilians,” September 30,

¹ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, “UN Experts Alarmed by Israel-Lebanon Conflict, Strongly Condemn Escalation and Urge Immediate Protection for Civilians,” September 30 2024

² Aljazeera, “*Israel’s attacks on Syria explained*” 12 October 2024. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/12/how-can-israel-attack-syria>

³ Acled, “Expanding Israeli Operations in Lebanon and the Escalation of the Middle East Crisis,” October 4, 2024, <https://acleddata.com/2024/10/04/middle-east-september-2024-special-issue-middle-east-crisis>.



NCLP Demands



Disclose

Publish all details of financial relationships, partnerships and investments with external companies, in particular companies dealing in the manufacture and distribution of arms.



Divest

End partnerships with all arms companies and companies complicit in the Israeli occupation of Palestine, apartheid regime, and ongoing genocide of Palestinians, including removing these companies from careers fairs and committing to forming no new partnerships with companies complicit in warfare. Commit to transitioning to sustainable and ethical alternative partnerships. End any academic collaborations with Israeli institutions and commit to forming no new academic partnerships.



Support

Provide bursaries, scholarships and hardship funds for Palestinian students. Commit to protecting students' and staff's right to protest on campus and freedom of speech to express solidarity with Palestine. Put out a meaningful statement of solidarity with Palestine that is supported by effective action



Invest

Commit to contributing to the reconstruction of universities and educational infrastructure in Gaza, by sending funding and resources.

The UoN, established in 1881 as University College Nottingham, initially offered education to local residents before being granted its Royal Charter in 1948, officially becoming a university.⁴ It has grown into a globally recognised institution, known for its strong emphasis on research and international outreach.⁵ Today, the university is a member of the prestigious Russell Group, which includes leading research-intensive universities in the UK. It boasts a diverse community spanning across three campuses in the UK, as well as international campuses in Ningbo, China, and Semenyih, Malaysia⁶. The UoN consistently ranks among the top universities in the UK and has a strong reputation in areas such as medicine, engineering, and social sciences. It is also known for its innovative research centres, interdisciplinary projects, and partnerships with institutions worldwide.⁷

As a 'global University', UoN has been vocal about world issues and geopolitical conflict in the past. Most notably, it was incredibly quick to condemn Russia's unlawful invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and it pledged to grant support for Ukrainian students, as well as to effectively boycott Russia. In stark contrast to this, the University of Nottingham has given no meaningful statement of support for

⁴ University of Nottingham, "A Brief History of the University"

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/history/abriefhistoryoftheuniversity.aspx>

⁵ Times Higher Education, "University of Nottingham," <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/university-nottingham>.

⁶ University of Nottingham, "Campuses," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/campuses/campuses.aspx>.

⁷ University of Nottingham, "Key Facts and Accolades," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/facts/Key-facts-and-accolades.aspx>.



Palestinian students, no pledge to provide any scholarships or aid and no commitment to cutting ties with the Israeli settler-colonial state.

Due to the current and past context of the situation in Palestine, this report will discuss the 76 yearlong occupation of Palestine by the settler colonial state of Israel (hereafter referred to as Israel for conciseness), the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their land, the current genocide that is being perpetuated by Israel and how the Israeli military has been avoiding consequences for their human rights violations for decades. It will discuss the arms trade and how companies profit from war and conflict, the historical importance of boycott and divestment campaigns, and how universities have played a role in divestment campaigns in the past. It will draw on the University's own ethical frameworks and public commitments to Sustainable Development goals to highlight how their investments in and partnerships with companies that are at risk of complicity in human rights violations, apartheid and aiding the genocide being carried out by Israel makes them complicit in the ongoing assaults. We will also highlight the links between the University of Nottingham and Israeli universities and why these should be boycotted, drawing comparisons to how the University divested from institutions in Russia when they invaded Ukraine. Lastly, we will discuss the University's response to the current student movement and what they can do to avoid complicity in apartheid, illegal occupation and genocide. The report will also propose a way forward for the University of Nottingham to be in line with its ethical frameworks, commitment to student wellbeing and their advertised values. This report was created to publicly highlight The University of Nottingham's Complicity in the Illegal Occupation and Genocide of the Palestinian People and to urge them to divest from companies and institutions that uphold the settler-colony of Israel.

Importance of Language

In this report, we will use specific language such as "Israeli Occupation Forces" (IOF) to accurately reflect the realities on the ground and to challenge the narratives that obscure the impact of military occupation. We will use IOF and Israeli military/army interchangeably throughout this report depending on the source information. We refer to Israel as an "apartheid regime" to highlight the systemic discrimination and violence faced by Palestinians, aligning with international definitions of apartheid. Additionally, we state and highlight Israel as a "settler colony" due to its colonial actions of displacement and dispossession against the Palestinian people. We will define the word "genocide" as based on the Geneva Convention definition and will be using this term to describe the ongoing attacks that Israel is perpetuating.

The focus of this report is to highlight the UoN's role in the ongoing ethnic cleansing, human rights violations and genocide being perpetuated by Israel and using appropriate and accurate language to describe what is happening is imperative for accurate chronicling of the events. We firmly reject the normalisation of Israel as a state without acknowledging these realities. Normalisation ignores the ongoing violations of human rights and legitimises a "state" that is a product of ethnic cleansing, colonialism and illegal occupation.



1. THE OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE

1.1 Settler Colonialism, Apartheid, & Ethnic Cleansing

The 76 years long occupation of Palestine by the settler-colonial state of Israel is a direct product of western colonialism, with the act of settler colonialism in the region finding its roots in the British Mandate over Palestine. Initially the Palestine population consisted of a variety of religions. They were predominantly Christianity, Judaism and Islam but featuring notable Sikh and Hindu populations as well – with all citizens, regardless of religion, categorised as Palestinian.⁸ However, as a result of widespread European antisemitism and racist British colonial views, British officials encouraged the migration of European Jews to British occupied Palestine in order to “transform the territory in line with contemporary notions of European modernity and progress”. This process began in the early 1920s under British Mandate and has continued into the Zionist occupation.⁹

This process of settler-colonialism – a form of colonialism in which an external power occupies and settles on indigenous land, displacing the native population¹⁰ – has been central to Israel's expansionist policies since its founding in 1948, marked by the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These settlements, considered illegal under international law, are part of a broader strategy to create “facts on the ground” that entrench Israeli control over Palestinian territories.^{11, 12, 13, 14, 15} Settler colonialism and the control that it offers is fostered off of destruction and replacement, accelerating the progression of the ten stages of genocide outlined by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.¹⁶ Two Israeli officials, Theodor Herzl and Meron Benvenisti – Herzl being the founder of Zionism – both blatantly admitted to using these methods.¹⁷ Herzl compared the process of settler-colonialism and ethnic cleansing to constructing buildings, stating he must ‘demolish’ in order

⁸ Gudrun Krämer, *A history of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton University Press, 2008).

⁹ Jacob Norris, “Transforming the Holy Land: The Ideology of Development and the British Mandate in Palestine,” *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*, 8m no, 2 (2017), 269-286.

¹⁰ Wikipedia Contributors, “Settler Colonialism,” last modified October 11, 2024, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Settler_colonialism.

¹¹ United Nations Security Council, “Resolution 338,” 1973, [https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=S/RES/338\(1973\)&i=S/RES/338\(1973\)_4438105](https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=S/RES/338(1973)&i=S/RES/338(1973)_4438105).

¹² United Nations Security Council, “Resolution 242,” 1967, [https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=S/RES/242\(1967\)&i=S/RES/242\(1967\)_5644897](https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=S/RES/242(1967)&i=S/RES/242(1967)_5644897).

¹³ United Nations General Assembly, “Resolution 194,” 1948, [https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=A/RES/194\(III\)&i=A/RES/194\(III\)_8075352](https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=A/RES/194(III)&i=A/RES/194(III)_8075352).

¹⁴ United Nations General Assembly, “Resolution 3236,” 1974, [https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=A/RES/3236\(XXIX\)&i=A/RES/3236\(XXIX\)_0046924](https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=A/RES/3236(XXIX)&i=A/RES/3236(XXIX)_0046924).

¹⁵ International Humanitarian Law Databases, “Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949,” <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949>.

¹⁶ Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, “The Ten Stages of Genocide,” accessed October 17, 2024, <https://www.hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/what-is-genocide/the-ten-stages-of-genocide/>.

¹⁷ Patrick Wolfe, “Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native,” *Journal of Genocide Research*, 8, no. 4 (2006): 387-409, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14623520601056240>.



to 'construct', while Benvenisti claims he "'made the desert bloom" by uprooting the ancient olive trees of al-Bassa to clear the ground for a non-native banana grove.^{18, 19}

The European Commission defines ethnic cleansing as the deliberate and systematic use of force or intimidation to remove individuals of a particular ethnic or religious group from a specific area to achieve ethnic homogeneity – an act that blatantly violates international law.²⁰ According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the ongoing situation in Palestine has been explicitly identified as a clear case of ethnic cleansing, further underscoring the severity of the violations being committed.²¹ The UN has stated ethnic cleansing is rendering an area ethnically homogeneous by using force or intimidation to remove from a given area persons of another ethnic or religious group, and is contrary to international law.²²

It is this policy of erasure and replacement – destroying native wildlife, historic buildings and landmarks, and the lives of Palestinians – that forms the foundation of Zionism and enabled the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian cities to make way for Israeli settlers. This violent displacement was performed through a variety of tactics including the *"military occupation of Palestinian cities (Lydda for instance) ... confiscation of Palestinian properties, demolition of cultural, political and religious centres, populating of now emptied houses with Jewish settlers, and re-inscription of Palestinian landscapes as Jewish-Israeli."*²³

This approach is accompanied by policies that critics and human rights organisations describe as apartheid, wherein two separate legal systems exist: one for Israeli settlers and another for Palestinians. This dual system manifests in widespread discrimination, including restricted movement, limited access to resources, and the demolition of Palestinian homes.²⁴ Such restrictions are intended to limit and criminalise the daily actions – therefore the existence – of native Palestinians, to the benefit of the occupying Israeli settlers and government.

1.2. Genocide

For the purpose of this section – and throughout this paper – we will be referring to the army of the settler colonial state of Israel, generally referred to as the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), as the Israel Occupation Forces (IOF), acknowledging their current and historic role in enforcing ethnic cleansing and occupation across Palestine and Lebanon.²⁵ We will be using the term 'genocide' in accordance

¹⁸ Herzl, Theodor. Old-New Land [Altneuland]. Translated by Lotta Levensohn. New York: M. Wiener, 1941. Accessed October 17, 2024. <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Old-New-Land-Herzls-vision-for-the-future-of-Herzl/74c94b07b57abf3a64f7c9e5e5936f37e2a6b60e>.

¹⁹ Meron Benvenisti, Sacred Landscape. The Buried History of the Holy Land since 1948 (Berkeley, CA: California U.P. 2000), 2.

²⁰ European Commission, "Ethnic Cleansing," Asylum and Migration Glossary, accessed October 16, 2024, https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/ethnic-cleansing_en.

²¹ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, "UN Expert Warns of New Instance of Mass Ethnic Cleansing of Palestinians, Calls for Immediate Ceasefire," OHCHR Press Release, October 12, 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/un-expert-warns-new-instance-mass-ethnic-cleansing-palestinians-calls>.

²² United Nations, Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, "Definitions: Ethnic Cleansing," accessed October 17, 2024, <https://www.un.org/en/genocide-prevention/definition>.

²³ Naama Blatman and Areej Sabbagh-Khoury, "The Presence of the Absence: Indigenous Palestinian Urbanism in Israel," International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 47, no. 1 (2022): 119-128. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.13130>.

²⁴ John Dugard and John Reynolds, "Apartheid, International Law, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory," European Journal of International Law 24, no. 3 (2013): 867-913, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ejil/cht045>.

²⁵ Raanan Ben-Zur, "IDF to Recognize 18-Year Occupation of South Lebanon as Official Campaign," *The Times of Israel*, October 18, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-to-recognize-18-year-occupation-of-south-lebanon-as-official-campaign/>



with the definition supplied by the United Nations in Article II of the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*.²⁶ This reads as follows:

"Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

It is on this basis that, on the 29th of December 2023, the Republic of South Africa initiated legal proceedings against the Israeli occupation's presence and conduct in the Gaza strip. In the following months Nicaragua, Colombia, Libya, Mexico, Palestine, Spain, Türkiye, Chile, the Maldives and Bolivia have each submitted a declaration of intervention – as well as the ICJ issuing provisional measures²⁷ which Israel has continually ignored.

Prior to October 7th, 2023 had already been deemed the deadliest year on record for Palestinians since 1948.²⁸ Since October 2023, over 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been murdered, 20,000+ of those murdered being women and children.²⁹ This statistic is a huge underestimate, detailing the people who have had their identities confirmed; a more accurate, albeit still extremely conservative, estimate was provided by the Lancet medical journal estimating over 186,000 Palestinians have been killed directly or indirectly as a result of the assault on Gaza. To put this into context, this is as though the entire UoN student population of the UK, Malaysia and China were massacred four times over.³⁰ October 2024

²⁶ United Nations, "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,"

https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.1_Convention%20on%20the%20Prevention%20and%20Punishment%20of%20the%20Crime%20of%20Genocide.pdf.

²⁷ International Court of Justice. "Case Concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)." <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/192>.

²⁸ Save the Children, "2023 Marks Deadliest Year on Record for Children in Occupied West Bank," *Save the Children*, October 18, 2023, <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/2023-marks-deadliest-year-record-children-occupied-west-bank>.

²⁹ Al Jazeera, "Israel-Hamas War in Maps and Charts: Live Tracker," Last Modified 20 Oct 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>.

³⁰ University of Nottingham, "Student Statistics 2019/20," *University of Nottingham*, accessed October 21, 2023, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ppsc/student-statistics/student-statistics-2019-20.aspx>.



marked the beginning of the targeted ethnic cleansing of North Gaza.³¹ Men and boys were separated from their families and lined up while a hole was dug next to them. As we write this paper, journalists and civilians from Gaza are calling out to the world to take action against these abhorrent actions reminiscent of the genocides committed against the people of Bosnia, as well as against millions of Jewish and marginalised peoples during the Holocaust in World War Two.

It is all too easy when discussing the occupation of Palestine to focus solely on Israel's assault on Gaza – the scale and extremity of the crimes being committed by the IOF on Gazan civilians understandably hold the focus of current dialogue. However, it is of the utmost importance that Israel's aggression and plans for ethnic cleansing across the entirety of Palestine are not overlooked or ignored. According to Al Jazeera, these attacks span back to 1938 when the armed Zionist militia, Irgun, carried out a series of violent attacks on Palestinians. Just 8 years later, the same group bombed the King David hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91 people.³² Only a decade after Irgun's first attack on Palestinians, the 1948 Nakba took place, killing 15,000 Palestinians and displacing two thirds of the Palestinian population.³³ Israel's attacks on Palestine have continued at increasing rates over the last 70 years, with many of them carried out not by the IOF but by the settlers themselves, with nearly 3000 attacks taking place over just nine years in the West Bank alone.³⁴

This process has been described by Israeli historian Ilan Pappé as an "incremental genocide", in which the crime is committed in "waves".³⁵ Facing little to no international backlash to these 'waves' has enabled both the expansion and refinement of Israel's crimes against Palestine: refinement in the form of practice – with the committing and defence of the ethnic cleansing of Palestine becoming routine – and expansion in terms of tactics. Since October 7th 2023, this being little over a year from the time of writing, Israel has cut almost all access to food, water, electricity, fuel, internet and telecommunication services in Gaza, rendering healthcare services inoperable.³⁶ On top of this Palestinians, who have been illegally and indefinitely detained without trial at large, are refused family visits – an act which is also in violation of international humanitarian laws'.^{37,38}

³¹ Al Jazeera, "Genocide Unfolding: 640 Palestinians Killed in North Gaza in 17 Days," October 21, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/21/genocide-unfolding-640-palestinians-killed-in-north-gaza-in-17-days>.

³² Palestine Remix, "Timeline of Palestine's History," https://remix.aljazeera.com/aje/PalestineRemix/timeline_main.html.

³³ Meena Ghani, "Remembering the Nakba: A 70 Year Struggle for Justice," *Global Justice Now*, May 15, 2024, <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/blog/2024/05/remembering-the-nakba-a-70-year-struggle-for-justice>.

³⁴ Al Jazeera, "Israeli Settler Attacks Against Palestinians by the Numbers," March 3, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/3/israeli-settler-attacks-against-palestinians-by-the-numbers>.

³⁵ Ilan Pappé, "Israel's Incremental Genocide in the Gaza Ghetto," *The Electronic Intifada*, July 13, 2014, <https://electronicintifada.net/content/israels-incremental-genocide-gaza-ghetto/13562>.

³⁶ Aamir Hasan and Mohamed Buheji, "A World Losing Its Legitimacy: Gaza from Collective Punish till Ethnic Cleansing & Genocide," *International Journal of Management* 15, no. 1 (2024).

³⁷ CounterPunch, "No to Preventive Detention: From Palestine to Guantanamo to U.S. Jails," February 23, 2022, <https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/02/23/no-to-preventive-detention-from-palestine-to-guantanamo-to-u-s-jails/>.

³⁸ *ibid.*



1.3. Israeli Military & Impunity

The unofficial exemption of the IOF from the legal consequences of their crimes is not confined to their treatment of Palestinian hostages or murder of Palestinians civilians. From early on in its assault on Gaza, the IOF has employed various technologies to exacerbate its onslaught. The use of artificial intelligence and surveillance technology not only further dehumanises Israel's victims but – according to Human Rights Watch – may even 'be increasing the risk of civilian harm' through 'tools not fit for purpose to help make life and death decisions in Gaza'.³⁹ As noted by the British Medical Journal, these technologies have since been used to carry out Israel's newest protocol-divergent strategies, including 'the foregoing of warning shots along with strikes on residential buildings with no active military targets' – actions which are in complete violation of international humanitarian law.⁴⁰ Israel's undeniable confidence in their exemption from these laws has only been bolstered by the international community's lack of action, who have failed to condemn Israel's latest targeting of Gaza's health industry in addition to maintaining silence on the equally horrific attacks – in which hospitals were flattened and paramedics and doctors were targeted – of 2014 and 2009.^{41 42}

International and legal bodies, such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the United Nations (UN) have put out a number of statements.

The following shows a timeline of public statements made by the ICJ, ICC, and the UN since January 2024, regarding the human rights violations being perpetuated by the Israeli military against Palestinians and the illegality of the Israeli settlements.

³⁹ Human Rights Watch, "Gaza: Israeli Military's Digital Tools Risk Civilian Harm," September 10, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/09/10/gaza-israeli-militarys-digital-tools-risk-civilian-harm>.

⁴⁰ Bram Wispelwey et al., "Civilian Mortality and Damage to Medical Facilities in Gaza," *BMJ Global Health* 9, no. 5 (2024): <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2023-014756>.

⁴¹ Owen Dyer, "Israeli Forces Attack Medical Facilities in Gaza and Destroy Brand New Hospital," *BMJ*, 349, no. 4865: <https://www.bmj.com/content/375/bmj.n3044>.

⁴² Mads Gilbert and Erik Fosse, "Inside Gaza's Al-Shifa hospital," *The Lancet*, 373, no. 9659, (2009): [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)60057-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)60057-X/fulltext).



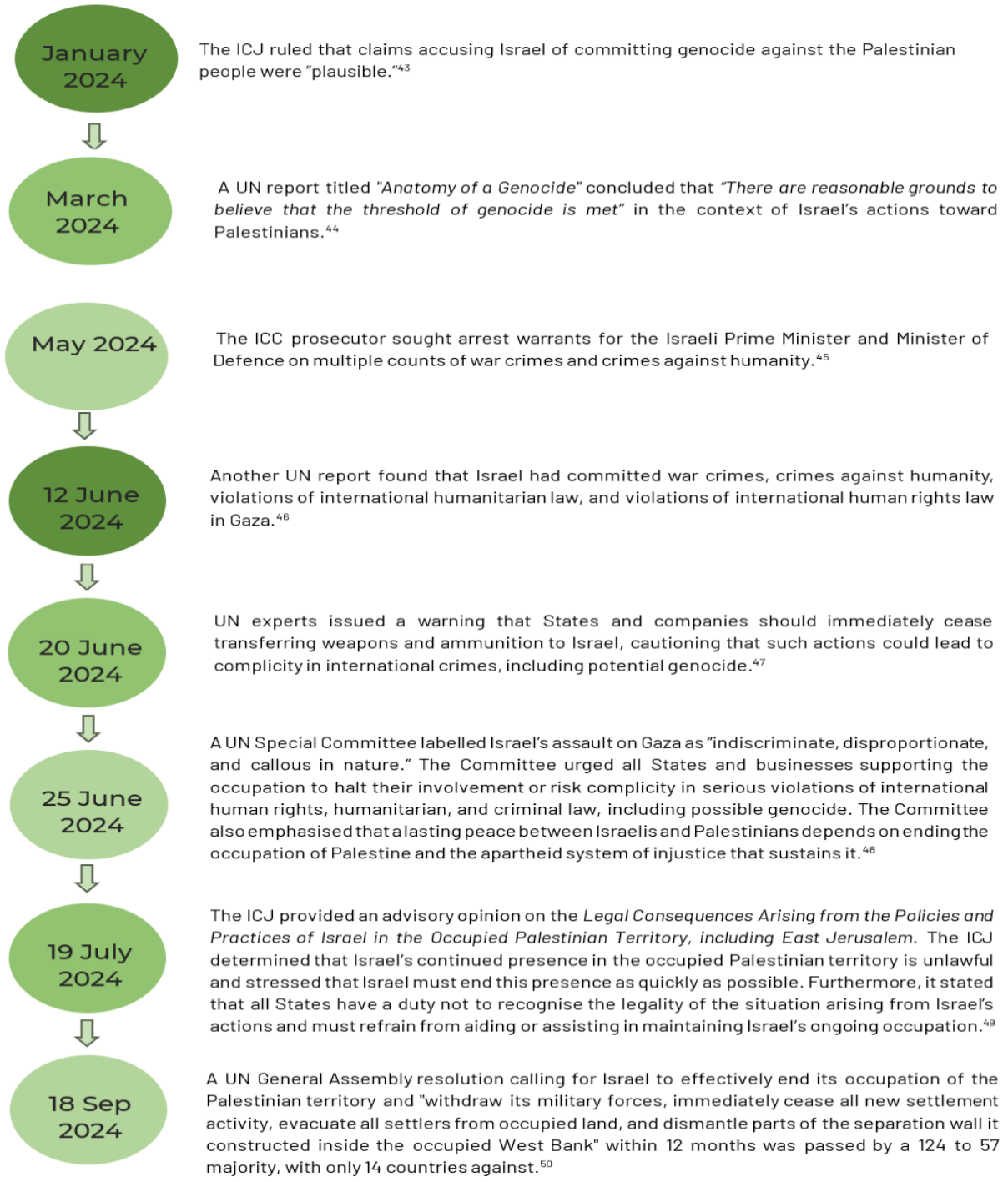


Figure 2: Timeline of public statements made by the ICJ, ICC, and the UN



Despite the numerous rulings, legal opinions and warnings from various international organisations, the Israeli army has only escalated their attacks against Palestine, now replicating its previous attacks and attempted occupation in other countries such as Lebanon.⁵¹ These actions remain unimpeded by governments and institutions across the world who maintain partnerships with and invest in arms and technology companies, directly work with Israeli businesses and universities, and financially and socially support the Israeli government and their crimes. This sits in stark contrast to the rightful global condemnation of the Russian government and military. The clear impunity with which the Israeli military has been allowed to operate highlights how these institutions value profits, which they receive from the sale of arms to Israel, over human rights and international law. The intricacies of the arms trade, the profit-generating machine of war and the resulting human rights violations will be further explored below.

1.4 Humanising the victims of Israeli aggression

Dehumanisation is identified as the fourth stage of genocide in Stanton's *The Ten Stages of Genocide*⁵². The University of Nottingham appear to have fallen for the widespread campaigns of dehumanisation against the Palestinian people, and have become accustomed to their massacre, losing the normal revulsion one would experience when discovering they are connected to ethnic cleansing, illegal occupation and genocide. Countering dehumanisation involves actively choosing to ensure we do not allow murdered Palestinians to become mere statistics. Statistics are important to record and cite, however the importance of maintaining the humanity of victims cannot be understated. This necessarily entails acknowledging the reality of their suffering and taking swift action to end any and all connections to their oppression.

⁴³ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, "Gaza: ICJ Ruling Offers Hope for Protection of Civilians Enduring 'Apocalyptic' Conditions," January 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/01/gaza-icj-ruling-offers-hope-protection-civilians-enduring-apocalyptic>.

⁴⁴ United Nations Human Rights Council, "Anatomy of a Genocide: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territory Occupied Since 1967 to Human Rights Council," Advance Unedited Version A/HRC/55, 2023, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/anatomy-of-a-genocide-report-of-the-special-rapporteur-on-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-the-palestinian-territory-occupied-since-1967-to-human-rights-council-advance-unedited-version-a-hrc-55/>.

⁴⁵ International Criminal Court, "Statement of ICC Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan KC on Applications for Arrest Warrants in the Situation in the State of Palestine," October 2023, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/statement-icc-prosecutor-karim-aa-khan-kc-applications-arrest-warrants-situation-state>.

⁴⁶ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, "Israeli Authorities and Palestinian Armed Groups Are Responsible for War Crimes," June 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/israeli-authorities-palestinian-armed-groups-are-responsible-war-crimes>.

⁴⁷ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, "States and Companies Must End Arms Transfers to Israel Immediately or Risk Complicity in War Crimes," June 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/states-and-companies-must-end-arms-transfers-israel-immediately-or-risk>.

⁴⁸ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, "UN Special Committee on Israeli Practices in the Occupied Territories Concludes Field Mission," June 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/un-special-committee-israeli-practices-occupied-territories-concludes-field>.

⁴⁹ International Court of Justice, "Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem," July 19, 2024, <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-pre-01-00-en.pdf>.

⁵⁰ Vibhu Mishra, "UN General Assembly Demands Israel End 'Unlawful Presence' in Occupied Palestinian Territory," UN News, September 18, 2024, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154496>.

⁵¹ Al Jazeera. "Updates: Israel Kills 27, Again Hits UN Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon."

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/10/16/live-ten-killed-as-israel-hits-homes-healthcare-centre-in-lebanons-qana>.

⁵² Genocide Watch. "The Ten Stages of Genocide." Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.genocidewatch.com/tenstages>.



Over the span of one year between October 2023 to October 2024, organisations have diligently been working to gather and publish statistics about the ongoing genocide in an attempt to share the severity of massacres and move the international community to take action. A reputable organisation called Let's Talk Palestine has meticulously combed through this information and compiled a fully sourced document titled "One Year of Genocide: Factsheet"⁵³.

In order to counter the internalised biases, we are encouraged to hold - consciously or otherwise - and to re-humanise and commemorate the Palestinian people, we have taken the time to gather four individual cases where Palestinians have been heinously killed by the settler colony of Israel across this past year. It is important to remember that these four people are drops in a sea of millions of Palestinians killed, orphaned, injured, displaced, tortured, amputated, raped and traumatised as a result of Israel's 76 years long campaign of ethnic cleansing.

Hind Rajab, aged 6: Murdered alongside her family and 2 paramedics travelling along 'safe routes'⁵⁴

Hind was a child. Her family did everything they had been ordered to, notifying the IOF of their intent to travel along the safe route, and sticking to the safe roads. Nonetheless, the Israelis targeted the car, ultimately killing all the family members Hind was travelling with, including her 15-year-old cousin, Layan. Hind was trapped in the car, surrounded by the dead bodies of her family members, and remained on the phone to the Red Crescent for three hours. The paramedics sent by the Red Crescent were killed when they tried to rescue her, and the IOF proceeded to block access to the area, preventing the recovery of their remains for twelve days. When the military left, the ambulance was found burnt to pieces, and Hind's body was found decomposing in the car her family were killed in. Forensic evidence has revealed that the car was hit with 335 bullets and analysts have concluded that it is 'not plausible' that the Israeli forces in the tank could not see children inside the car. This six-year-old witnessed her family killed around her, called for help herself only to be murdered in cold-blood.

Sha'baan Al-Dalou⁵⁵, aged 19: Burnt alive with his family in the ruins of Al-Asqa Hospital (Gaza)

Sha'baan was studying software engineering and had just survived an airstrike attack carried out against people sheltering in a mosque in Gaza a week before he was martyred. He was being treated alongside his family in makeshift tents in the ruins of Al-Aqsa hospital, which has also been bombed previously. An Israeli airstrike on these hospital tents left Sha'baan burning alive in his hospital bed, still connected to an IV drip. His father recounts being thrown out of his bed by the bomb blast, faced with the decision of choosing which of his three children to attempt saving from the flames. Sha'baan's 10-year-old brother, who was rescued from the fire, later died from his wounds. Sha'baan did not live

⁵³ Let's Talk Palestine. "One Year of Genocide: Factsheet (Oct 7, 2023 - Oct 5, 2024)" Last modified 05 October 2024. https://docs.google.com/document/d/12tQgWUFgeGJ_KlccrwfQ_Yh546teMAq1IrDWZF_cPM/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.2fkq4h9uw78

⁵⁴ Middle East Eye. "Forensic Architecture Probe Says Israeli Tank Fire Likely Killed Palestinian Child Hind Rajab." Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/forensic-architecture-probe-says-israeli-tank-fire-likely-killed-palestinian-child-hind-rajab>.

⁵⁵ Al Jazeera. "Shaban al-Dalou: The Palestinian Teen Burned to Death in Israeli Bombing." October 15, 2024. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/15/shaban-al-dalou-the-palestinian-teen-burned-to-death-in-israeli-bombing>.



to see his 20th birthday, due to bombs dropped on hospital tents used to treat refugees who had survived a previous bombing.

Hassan Hamad⁵⁶, aged 19: Assassinated by Israeli aerial attacks for reporting on the Gaza genocide

Hassan was a teenager who took on the responsibility of becoming a journalist to report on the crimes being committed by the IOF in Gaza. He had shared with his colleagues online that the Israeli army had been threatening him, ordering him to either stop sharing news about the massacres or face death. Although it is a crime under international law, it is common practice for Israel to target Palestinian journalists. As such, Hassan had already been forced to make the decision to stay away from his family to protect them from being targeted. Hassan was on the phone to a fellow journalist before he was killed, saying "There they are, there they are, it's done". The attack dismembered his body so severely that his remains were given to his father in two shoe boxes. Hassan was a child who was forced to document the murder of his people and the destruction of his land for a year only to be targeted and killed for it.

Ziad Abu Helaiel⁵⁷, aged 66: Beaten to death by IOF soldiers during a house raid in the occupied West Bank

Ziad Abu Helaiel was a renowned Palestinian activist, known for peacefully confronting the IOF during their attacks in Al-Khalil (Hebron). Across his many years of living under illegal occupation and Israeli war crimes, Ziad was often found standing (supported by his walking stick) between heavily armed soldiers and peaceful protesters, trying to protect the youth of his town from being murdered. He was a highly respected man, killed for trying to peacefully protect his people and land.

Countering dehumanisation involves actively choosing to ensure we do not allow murdered Palestinians to become mere statistics. In the UK, we must rediscover the natural reaction to genocide that we have been taught to ignore. Unlearning the normalisation of genocide and rejecting the dehumanisation of Palestinians will allow us all to feel repulsed by the mass murder and displacement of millions and moved to do all we can to stop it. The University of Nottingham must acknowledge the reality of the role it plays in supporting and enabling this genocide and take instantaneous action to rectify its wrongs. The settler colony of Israel has been given permission to act with impunity, but as an academic institution, the University must take swift action to ensure international law and human rights taught on our campuses are upheld. The University of Nottingham has demonstrated it is possible to do this in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it is imperative we see the same swift response for Palestine as a matter of urgency.

⁵⁶ Al Jazeera, "Palestinian Journalist, 19, Killed in Israeli Raid After Receiving Threats," October 6, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/6/palestinian-journalist-19-killed-in-israeli-raid-after-receiving-threats>.

⁵⁷ Middle East Eye, "Israeli Forces Beat to Death Renowned Activist in Hebron," October 23, 2023, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israeli-forces-beat-death-renowned-activist-hebron>.



2. THE ARMS TRADE

2.1. The Profit-Generating Machine of War

The Arms Trade is one of the most lucrative industries globally, with the financial value of the global arms trade estimated at over US\$112 billion in 2020. With the combined revenue of the world's top 100 arms-producing and military services companies equating to US\$597.2 billion⁵⁸ in 2022, according to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

The market is dominated by a small number of key players, namely the following companies:

COMPANY NAME	2023 REVENUE
LOCKHEED MARTIN ⁵⁹	\$67.6 billion
BOEING ⁶⁰	\$77.8 billion
BAE SYSTEMS ⁶¹	17.2 billion
NORTHROP GRUMMAN ⁶²	\$39.3 billion
RAYTHEON ⁶³	\$£74.3 billion

Table 1 Arms-producing and military services companies

These companies manufacture a wide range of military equipment, from advanced fighter jets such as the F-35 to missile systems and small arms, with a significant proportion of their revenue derived from government defence contracts. The arms trade is intertwined with geopolitical instability, as conflicts increase arms demand, leading to increased production and profit. This dynamic reinforces a cycle of conflict where profits incentivise further arms proliferation, often to unstable regions, exacerbating conflicts rather than resolving them.

The arms trade raises significant moral and ethical concerns. Weapons sold to oppressive regimes or conflict zones contribute to human rights abuses and the deaths of civilians. Previous examples include arms supplied to Syria in 2011, Saudi Arabia/UAE - involved in the Yemen conflict - and in the present day - Israel. These have all sparked international outcry due to civilian casualties, humanitarian crises and human rights violations.

⁵⁸ SIPRI, The SIPRI Top 100 Arms-Producing and Military Services Companies in the World, 2022 (2023), <https://www.sipri.org/visualizations/2023/sipri-top-100-arms-producing-and-military-services-companies-world-2022>.

⁵⁹ Statista, "Revenue of the Defense Supplier Lockheed Martin from 2000 to 2023," <https://www.statista.com/statistics/268908/revenue-of-the-defense-supplier-lockheed-martin/>.

⁶⁰ Statista, "Worldwide Revenue of Boeing from 2005 to 2022," <https://www.statista.com/statistics/264374/boeings-worldwide-revenue/>.

⁶¹ Statista, "Revenue of the Defense Technology Supplier BAE Systems from 2000 to 2022," <https://www.statista.com/statistics/268878/revenue-of-the-defense-technology-supplier-bae-systems/>.

⁶² Statista, "Revenue of Northrop Grumman from 2000 to 2022," <https://www.statista.com/statistics/268953/revenue-of-northrop-grumman/>.

⁶³ Statista, "Net Sales of United Technologies from 2005 to 2022," <https://www.statista.com/statistics/261562/net-sales-of-united-technologies/>.



While some regulations like the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the Geneva conventions attempt to ethically control the flow of weapons, enforcement is often weak. Powerful nations and companies, who are also the largest arms suppliers, can bypass or ignore such regulations, driven by profit and strategic interests rather than international human rights laws and national safety.

Countries heavily reliant on arms exports can see their economies tied to global military spending, creating a "war machine" that sustains itself with conflict. This not only includes arms manufacturers but also smaller contractors and supply chains, leading to a broad dependence on the defence sector for economic stability.

2.2. Human Rights Violations

The global arms trade has significant implications for human rights, often exacerbating conflicts and contributing to civilian suffering. International treaties such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which came into force in 2014⁶⁴, aim to regulate the international trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion to illicit markets. The ATT requires states to assess the risk that exported arms could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian law or human rights abuses.

Several companies have faced scrutiny for their involvement in arms sales to conflict zones. For instance, BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon have been criticised for supplying weapons to Saudi Arabia, which have been used in the Yemen conflict⁶⁵, resulting in significant civilian casualties and alleged war crimes. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)⁶⁶, Amnesty International⁶⁷ and other human rights organisations have highlighted the failure of these companies to adequately address the human rights risks associated with their business operations.

The UK government has acknowledged a "clear risk" that UK-supplied weapons and components may be involved in serious violations of international humanitarian law, prompting Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, to announce the suspension of around 30 out of 350 export licences to Israel⁶⁸. However, it's important to note that this suspension does not apply to UK-made components for the multinational F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme, except in instances where they are sent directly to Israel. This exclusion raises serious concerns given the established connections between UK-made F-35 components and civilian casualties in Gaza⁶⁹.

The UK Chief Executive of Amnesty International stated this exclusion is "a catastrophically bad decision for future arms control and misses a clear obligation to hold Israel accountable for its

⁶⁴ Arms Trade Treaty, <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/>.

⁶⁵ Amnesty International, "Yemen: The Forgotten War," September 22, 2015. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/09/yemen-the-forgotten-war/>.

⁶⁶ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, "States and Companies Must End Arms Transfers."

⁶⁷ Amnesty International, "Arms Companies Failing to Address Human Rights Risks," September 30, 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/09/arms-companies-failing-to-address-human-rights-risks/>.

⁶⁸ UK Government. "UK Suspends Around 30 Arms Export Licences to Israel for Use in Gaza Over International Humanitarian Law Concerns."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-suspends-around-30-arms-export-licences-to-israel-for-use-in-gaza-over-international-humanitarian-law-concerns>.

⁶⁹ Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), "UK-Made F-35 Components Linked to Civilian Casualties in Gaza Strikes: New Evidence Published," January 8, 2024, <https://aoav.org.uk/2024/uk-made-f-35-components-linked-to-civilian-casualties-in-gaza-strikes-new-evidence-published/>.



extensive war crimes and other violations"⁷⁰. This situation suggests that the measures taken may be more reactive than proactive, failing to adequately address the potential for British-made arms to contribute to human rights abuses abroad.

The situation in Palestine underscores the ongoing issues with the arms trade. Weapons supplied to Israel have been used in operations that have resulted in significant civilian casualties and destruction in Gaza. The international community's failure to effectively regulate arms transfers to such conflict zones highlights the need for stronger enforcement of international treaties and greater accountability for both states and corporations involved in the arms trade.

2.3. Environmental Degradation

The environmental degradation caused by the arms trade is significant, though it often receives less attention than the human toll of conflict. The production, transportation, testing, and deployment of military equipment contribute heavily to carbon emissions, pollution, and habitat destruction.

In 2019, the global military sector accounted for approximately 6% of the world's total carbon emissions, with defence-related activities contributing nearly 1.8 billion tonnes of CO₂ annually⁷¹. Between the years 2006-2019, the total aviation fuel used for UK's defence activities equated to an average of 1.8 billion tons of CO₂ annually. From the manufacture of weapons to the aftermath of their use, the arms trade has a profound and lasting impact on ecosystems and biodiversity.

The production of arms is resource-intensive, relying on vast amounts of raw materials like steel, aluminium, and rare earth metals. Arms manufacturing is energy-heavy, often requiring fossil fuels, which leads to the emission of large amounts of greenhouse gases. Factories producing military equipment can also generate significant amounts of toxic waste. Hazardous chemicals used in processes such as metal plating, coating, and assembly can leach into the soil and local water systems if not properly managed. For instance, military production facilities in the United States alone produce over 400,000 tonnes of hazardous waste annually⁷². When improperly disposed of, these pollutants can cause long-term environmental damage, contaminating ecosystems and harming human populations living nearby.

The environmental impacts of arms do not end with production; their deployment in conflict zones also causes widespread environmental degradation. The use of high-explosive weapons in warfare results in the destruction of natural landscapes, contaminating soil and water sources with hazardous materials like lead, mercury, and unexploded ordnance. These chemicals persist in the environment long after conflicts have ended, contributing to long-term health issues and preventing the land from being repurposed for agriculture or habitation. For example, research suggests that conflicts across Africa, particularly in countries such as Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have left

⁷⁰ Amnesty International UK, "UK Suspension of 30 Arms Export Licences to Israel Too Limited," <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/uk-suspension-30-arms-export-licences-israel-too-limited>.

⁷¹ Ho-Chih Lin and Deborah Burton, *Indefensible: The True Cost of the Global Military to Our Climate and Human Security* (London: Tipping Point North South, 2020). <https://transformdefence.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/indefensible-the-true-cost-of-the-global-military-to-our-climate-and-human-security.pdf>.

⁷² U.S. Department of Defense. Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report to Congress: Fiscal Year 2020. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Defense, 2022. <https://www.denix.osd.mil/arc/denix-files/sites/6/2022/06/TAB-B-FY-2020-DEP-ARC-Report-508C.pdf>.



behind large areas of land contaminated by unexploded ordnance, leading to loss of farmland and biodiversity⁷³

The arms trade is also responsible for significant carbon emissions due to the transportation and deployment of military equipment. Fighter jets, tanks, and naval vessels are among the most energy-intensive vehicles, consuming vast quantities of fuel. A single F-35 fighter jet, for instance, burns around 5,600 litres of fuel per hour, contributing significantly to atmospheric pollution^{74,75}. Additionally, military activities involving the detonation of explosives release harmful particulates into the air, further degrading air quality in conflict zones. This not only has an immediate effect on human health but also contributes to long-term environmental damage.

Military operations and conflicts lead to significant deforestation, soil erosion, and habitat destruction, particularly in areas rich in biodiversity. A case study of the Vietnam War highlights how defoliants like Agent Orange, used to remove forest cover, destroyed approximately 1.8 million hectares of forest, leaving large swaths of land barren and uninhabitable.⁷⁶ Similarly, modern conflicts in regions such as the Middle East have caused severe damage to natural ecosystems, as bombs and heavy artillery have disrupted critical habitats and biodiversity. The conflict in Yemen, for example, has led to the destruction of over 100,000 hectares of agricultural land due to aerial bombardment and landmines, drastically reducing biodiversity and food production⁷⁷.

2.3.1 Case Study: Palestine

Environmental degradation in Palestine, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank, has been exacerbated by military conflict and infrastructure damage. Gaza's sole aquifer has been severely contaminated, leaving over two million people without safe drinking water due to over-extraction, as well as pollutants from explosives and waste generated by conflict.⁷⁸ Restrictions on importing materials needed to repair water and sewage systems have worsened water scarcity, contributing to environmental stress and public health risks.⁷⁹ Furthermore, damage to Gaza's wastewater treatment plants has resulted in raw sewage flowing into the Mediterranean Sea, causing pollution that affects not only Gaza's coastline but also neighbouring territories, such as the Israeli occupied areas of Palestine and Egypt⁸⁰.

⁷³ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). "The Environmental Impacts of Explosive Ordnance." December 16, 2021 <https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2021/12/16/environmental-impacts-explosive-ordnance/>.

⁷⁴ Margaret Sullivan, "Military Carbon Emissions: A Major Factor in Climate Change," *Inside Climate News*, January 18, 2022, <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/18012022/military-carbon-emissions/>.

⁷⁵ John A. Tirpak, "The Next Threat: Stealth F-35 and Global Warming," *The National Interest*, October 17, 2022, <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/next-threat-stealth-f-35-global-warming-92931>.

⁷⁶ Keith McCull and Robert J. McCoy, "The Extent and Patterns of Usage of Agent Orange and Other Herbicides in Vietnam," *Environmental Health Perspectives* 113, no. 6 (2005): 596–602, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/10799590_The_extent_and_patterns_of_usage_of_Agent_Orange_and_other_herbicides_in_Vietnam.

⁷⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). *The State of Food and Agriculture 2022: Sustainability and Resilience in the Face of Climate Change*. Rome: FAO, 2022. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/bf424047-b87c-4469-bb08-72b2d8673307/content>.

⁷⁸ Conflict and Environmental Observatory (CEOBS), "UN Report Details Environmental Degradation in West Bank and Gaza," <https://ceobs.org/un-report-details-environmental-degradation-in-west-bank-and-gaza>.

⁷⁹ Institute for Middle East Understanding (IMEU), "Environmental Apartheid in Palestine," <https://imeu.org/article/environmental-apartheid-in-palestine>.

⁸⁰ Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), "Impact of Occupation and Environmental Challenges on Palestine," <https://www.arij.org/latest/impact-of-occupation-and-environmental-challenges-on-palestine>.



Agriculture, a critical part of Palestine's economy, has also been severely impacted. Thousands of acres of farmland have been destroyed due to military operations, bulldozers, and artillery⁸¹. In the 2014 Gaza massacres, large areas of agricultural land were ruined, threatening long-term food security. In the West Bank, Israeli settler activity has resulted in the destruction of olive trees, which are economically and culturally vital for Palestinian farmers. Unexploded ordnance and munitions residues pose ongoing risks in densely populated regions like Gaza⁸².

The destruction of Gaza's natural ecosystems, especially its coastal and marine environments, has had severe repercussions on marine biodiversity and the local fishing industry. The collapse of systems for managing sewage, wastewater, and solid waste has led to major environmental impacts and adverse effects on communities⁸³. Various international organisations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have highlighted these environmental crises, noting that over a decade of blockade, conflict, and infrastructure collapse have rendered the situation unsustainable⁸⁴. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have also documented how the destruction of key infrastructure, including water and sanitation facilities, intensifies both humanitarian and environmental crises⁸⁵.

Although international laws, such as Article 55 of the 1977 Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions⁸⁶ and Article 8(2)(b)(iv) of the Rome Statute⁸⁷ aim to prevent severe, long-term environmental damage during warfare, enforcement remains weak⁸⁸. As a result, the degradation of Palestine's natural resources continues with minimal accountability. Reports from UNEP⁸⁹ and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)⁹⁰ underscore the environmental toll of military activities and arms production, calling for stronger regulations to curb military carbon emissions and prevent further environmental harm. This complex crisis highlights the urgent need for more effective legal mechanisms to hold actors accountable for environmental damage in conflict zones and to promote sustainable recovery efforts in regions like Palestine. Divestment campaigns are one of the strategies to highlight to governments that they cannot act with impunity and must operate within the framework of international law.

⁸¹ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), "State of the Environment in Palestine," <https://www.unep.org/state-palestine>.

⁸² United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), "Environmental Assessment of the Occupied Palestinian Territory," 2020, <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/32268>.

⁸³ United Nations, "Environmental Impact of Conflict in Gaza," June 2024, https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/environmental_impact_conflict_Gaza.pdf.

⁸⁴ Deoxy.org, "World Conference on the World Crisis," Accessed October 17, 2023, <https://deoxy.org/wc/wc-proto.htm>.

⁸⁵ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), "Article 55: Protection of the Natural Environment," In Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/api-1977/article-55>.

⁸⁶ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), "Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)," Accessed October 17, 2023, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/api-1977>.

⁸⁷ International Criminal Court, "Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court" (May 2024), 6, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf>.

⁸⁸ International Bar Association, "Crimes Against the Environment and International Criminal Law," last modified July 2023, <https://www.ibanet.org/article/6D983066-BCDB-481A-8C79-BD47362BDB49>.

⁸⁹ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), "Protecting the Environment during Armed Conflict: An Inventory and Analysis of International Law," 2022, <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/protecting-environment-during-armed-conflict-inventory-and-analysis-international>.

⁹⁰ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). *SIPRI Yearbook 2024: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security*. Stockholm: SIPRI, 2024. <https://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2024/05>.



3. THE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF UNIVERSITY BOYCOTT AND DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGNS

3.1 South African Apartheid & Divestment

The student-led divestment campaigns against South African apartheid in the 1970s and 1980s were pivotal in applying international pressure to dismantle the racist regime⁹¹. These campaigns focused on encouraging universities, governments, and corporations to withdraw their investments from companies operating in or supporting apartheid South Africa to weaken its economic base and international legitimacy⁹².

Despite the end of Britain's formal colonisation of South Africa by the early 1960s, its economic influence and control persisted and between 1972 and 1976, British banks provided over \$2.7 billion in loans to South Africa, which rose to \$3.16 billion by 1977. The anti-apartheid movement specifically targeted Barclays Bank, one of Britain's largest financial institutions and the most prominent street bank operating in South Africa, as well as Shell, which continued to supply oil to South Africa even after major oil-exporting nations imposed an embargo⁹³. After the movement gained momentum in 1976 it was revealed that Barclays National had invested an additional £6.5 million in South African Defence Bonds⁹⁴.

The divestment movement gained significant momentum in the United States and Europe, with university students playing a crucial role. Protests and sit-ins were organised on campuses, demanding that universities divest from companies complicit in apartheid⁹⁵. The success of these campaigns was marked by several high-profile divestment decisions, including those by large institutions like the University of California system, which divested \$3.1 billion from South Africa-related investments in 1986⁹⁶. These actions contributed to the broader global pressure that ultimately led to the end of apartheid legislation⁹⁷. Presently, Pro-Palestinian activists and organisations mirror many of the same demands and actions to ensure that governments, institutions and organisations do

⁹¹ South Africa Apartheid Divestment Movement (1970s-1980s), "Global Nonviolent Action Database, Swarthmore College, <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/category/wave-campaigns/south-africa-apartheid-divestment-movement-1970s-1980s>.

⁹² Wikipedia, "Disinvestment from South Africa," last modified August 20, 2023, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disinvestment_from_South_Africa

⁹³ AAM Archives, "Barclays and Shell," accessed October 17, 2023, <https://www.aamarchives.org/campaigns/barclays-and-shell.html>.

⁹⁴ Swarthmore College, "British Students Force End to Barclays Bank's Investments in South African Apartheid, 1969-1987," accessed October 17, 2023, <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/british-students-force-end-barclays-bank-s-investments-south-african-apartheid-1969-1987>.

⁹⁵ Swarthmore College, "South Africa Apartheid Divestment Movement, 1970s-1980s," accessed October 17, 2023, <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/category/wave-campaigns/south-africa-apartheid-divestment-movement-1970s-1980s>.

⁹⁶ Marc Fisher, "Students Protest Divestment From South Africa," *Los Angeles Times*, July 19, 1986, <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1986-07-19-mn-26296-story.html>.

⁹⁷ Wikipedia Contributors, "Apartheid," last modified October 16, 2024, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apartheid>.



not invest in apartheid, illegal occupation as well as the genocide being carried by the Israeli government.

3.2 The Historical Involvement of Universities in Divestment Campaigns

Universities have historically been at the forefront of divestment campaigns, acting as moral and intellectual leaders in global social justice movements. The anti-apartheid protests in Nottingham, especially at the University of Nottingham, demonstrate a longstanding commitment from students to push universities and governments toward anti-apartheid actions. From the 1960s onward, student-led campaigns sought to pressure the university to divest from companies supporting South Africa's apartheid regime and urged the UK government to take stronger stances against it. This activism reflects a persistent call for institutions to align their policies with global human rights values, particularly in opposition to racial injustice⁹⁸. The anti-apartheid divestment campaigns were often driven by the belief that universities, as centres of learning and progress, had a moral obligation to align their investments with their values of equality and justice. The success of the anti-apartheid divestment movement set a precedent for future campaigns.

In more recent years, universities have been involved in divestment campaigns targeting fossil fuels, private prisons, and companies involved in human rights violations, such as what is currently happening in Palestine^{99 100 101}. Although opponents of divestment argue that divesting fails to significantly reduce the amount of money sent to arms and fossil fuel companies. However, activists and social scientists argue that this overlooks the main impact of divestment, which is to stigmatise these industries, undermine their social licence to operate, and ultimately help shape policy decisions¹⁰². These highlight the continued role of universities in shaping ethical investment practices and contributing to global social justice movements. Presently, many universities worldwide are being urged to divest from Israel by cutting ties with companies that work with and in the apartheid state^{103 104}. In May of this year Goldsmiths University of London agreed to review investments with Israeli companies as well as renaming a building in honour of Shireen Abu Akleh, who was a longtime correspondent with Al Jazeera, and was killed two years ago by an Israeli soldier while covering a raid

⁹⁸ University of Nottingham, "Anti-Apartheid Activists of Nottingham," last modified March 22, 2023, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/anti-apartheid-activists-of-nottingham>.

⁹⁹ Simon Baker, "UK Universities Divest from Fossil Fuels," *The Guardian*, October 27, 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/oct/27/uk-universities-divest-fossil-fuels>.

¹⁰⁰ Alene Wong, "An Uphill Battle: Harvard Students Urge School to Pull Investments That Support Prisons," *NBC News*, December 4, 2019, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/uphill-battle-harvard-students-urge-school-pull-investments-support-prisons-n1038686>.

¹⁰¹ Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Movement, "Student Solidarity," accessed October 17, 2023, https://bdsmovement.net/student-solidarity?__cf_chl_tk=MA3TcUc40N_yHgqLtCCIFFVvin.0BYOZ6QwCYb2svJw-1725052813-0.0.1.1-5033.

¹⁰² David Shaw, "As Oil Giants Defy Pressure to Divest from Russia, the Risks of Inaction Grow," *Financial Times*, March 30, 2022, <https://www.ft.com/content/6d56db46-6241-4b1c-846f-9985933cbdd0>.

¹⁰³ Marc Fisher, "Students Protest University Fossil Fuel Divestment Amid Ongoing Conflict in Gaza," *The Guardian*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/apr/24/university-fossil-fuel-divestment-student-protests-israel-gaza>.

¹⁰⁴ Islam Channel, "Assets in Apartheid: UK University Encampments Grow as Students Urge Israel Divestment," accessed October 17, 2023, <https://islamchannel.tv/assets-in-apartheid-uk-university-encampments-grow-as-students-urge-israel-divestment/>.



in the West Bank¹⁰⁵. In the same month, Columbia Union Theological Seminary announced it will divest its \$110 million endowment from all *"companies substantially and intractably benefiting from the war in Palestine"*¹⁰⁶. In April of 2024, Brown University made a public agreement to vote on divestment from *"companies that facilitate the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory."* in their October meeting¹⁰⁷. Similar commitments have been made by the University of Cambridge Trinity College¹⁰⁸, the University of York¹⁰⁹, and Trinity College Dublin¹¹⁰. This demonstrates that universities have the ability to review their investments, divest from unethical companies and honour those who were murdered by the Israeli military.

The UoN is one of many that have investments and partnerships with companies and institutions that are operating in the settler colony of Israel and aid the IOF in carrying out military attacks that have killed over 42,126 people, in Gaza alone¹¹¹. Despite the widely known facts about Israel's human rights violations, and the legal opinions that urge states and international organisations to stop aiding the apartheid regime, the UoN has not made any commitments to divest from arms companies that are at risk of complicity in these actions.

In 2023, The UoN advertised and hosted a talk about the crime of apartheid in South Africa¹¹². This included speakers and guests such as Francesca Albanese¹¹³, Noura Erakat¹¹⁴, Russell Rickford¹¹⁵, Omar Shakir¹¹⁶ and Daniel Levy¹¹⁷ who have all shown public criticism of Israel's actions and support for the liberation of Palestine. This highlights the University's position in regard to past apartheid regimes, yet despite the ICJ advisory ruling that what Israel is presently doing is apartheid, the University is not following their past approach in addressing apartheid¹¹⁸. This performative support for Palestine through the invitation of prominent Pro-Palestine activists whilst not taking any action to divest from Israel highlights that the University does not stand by its own principles and past actions. The

¹⁰⁵ Al Jazeera, "Israel's War on Gaza Live: Unprecedented Levels of Death and Destruction," May 3, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/5/3/israels-war-on-gaza-live-unprecedented-levels-of-death-and-destruction>.

¹⁰⁶ Union Theological Seminary, "Union Theological Seminary Board of Trustees Endorses Divestment and Other Strategies for Companies Profiting from War in Palestine/Israel," May 9, 2024, <https://utsnyc.edu/blog/2024/05/09/union-theological-seminary-board-of-trustees-endorses-divestment-and-other-strategies-for-companies-profiting-from-war-in-palestine-israel/>.

¹⁰⁷ Brown University, "Brown University Administration and Students Reach Agreement Following Student Encampment," April 30, 2024, <https://www.brown.edu/news/2024-04-30/encampment-agreement>.

¹⁰⁸ Middle East Eye "Cambridge's Wealthiest College to Divest from Arms Companies," May 1, 2024, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/cambridges-wealthiest-college-divest-arms-companies>.

¹⁰⁹ University of York, "University of York Announces Divestment from Companies Involved in Weapons Production," April 30, 2024, <https://www.york.ac.uk/students/news/2024/responsible-investment/>.

¹¹⁰ The Guardian, "Trinity College Dublin Agrees to Divest from Israeli Firms After Student Protest," May 8, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/may/08/trinity-college-dublin-agrees-to-divest-from-israeli-firms-after-student-protest>.

¹¹¹ Ibid., 29.

¹¹² University of Nottingham, "The Crime of Apartheid in South Africa and Beyond," accessed October 17, 2024, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/conference/fac-socsci/crime-of-apartheid-in-south-africa-and-beyond/home.aspx>.

¹¹³ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, "Francesca Albanese," <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-palestine/francesca-albanese>.

¹¹⁴ Noura Erakat, Instagram profile, <https://www.instagram.com/nouraerakat/?hl=en>.

¹¹⁵ Cornell University Department of History, "Russell Rickford," <https://history.cornell.edu/russell-rickford>.

¹¹⁶ Human Rights Watch, "Omar Shakir," <https://www.hrw.org/about/people/omar-shakir>.

¹¹⁷ Wikipedia, "Daniel Levy (political analyst)," last modified October 8, 2024, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Levy_\(political_analyst\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Levy_(political_analyst)).

¹¹⁸ International Court of Justice, "Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures in the Case Concerning the Allegations of Genocide Under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v. Russian Federation)," July 19, 2024, <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>.



University's approach to supporting human rights causes is selective and showcases a lack of a uniform approach and reinforcement for their own policies and principles.

3.3 The Double Standard

The involvement of universities in divestment campaigns is also intertwined with broader questions about institutional racism. Historically, many universities, both in the UK and globally have been complicit in systems of racial oppression, whether through investments, policies, or practices that perpetuate inequality¹¹⁹. The anti-apartheid divestment campaign not only addressed the issue of South African racism but should have also sparked internal reflections on racism, colonial mindsets and imperialistic practices within the universities themselves. The recent actions of many UK universities, including UoN, highlight that these reflections have not taken place.

In 2022, The UoN put out a public statement about their decision to cut all formal ties with Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine, aligning its actions with a commitment to support Ukrainian students and uphold human rights. This decision included ending partnerships and collaborations with Russian institutions, reflecting the university's stance against the conflict and its implications for global justice.¹²⁰

Within 3 months of Russia invading Ukraine, the University introduced the Ukrainian Scholars at Risk programme, offering a "full package of support enabling eligible Ukrainian students displaced by the Russian invasion of their country to continue their studies at UoN"¹²¹.

¹¹⁹ Alice Foster, "A Demeaning Environment: Stories of Racism in UK Universities," The Guardian, July 5, 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jul/05/a-demeaning-environment-stories-of-racism-in-uk-universities>.

¹²⁰ University of Nottingham, "Support for Ukraine – University to End All Formal Links with Russia," 2022, <https://exchange.nottingham.ac.uk/blog/support-for-ukraine-university-to-end-all-formal-links-with-russia/>.

¹²¹ University of Nottingham, "Scholarship Programme Launched to Support At-Risk Ukrainian Students," 2022, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/currentstudents/news/scholarship-programme-launched-to-support-at-risk-ukrainian-students>.



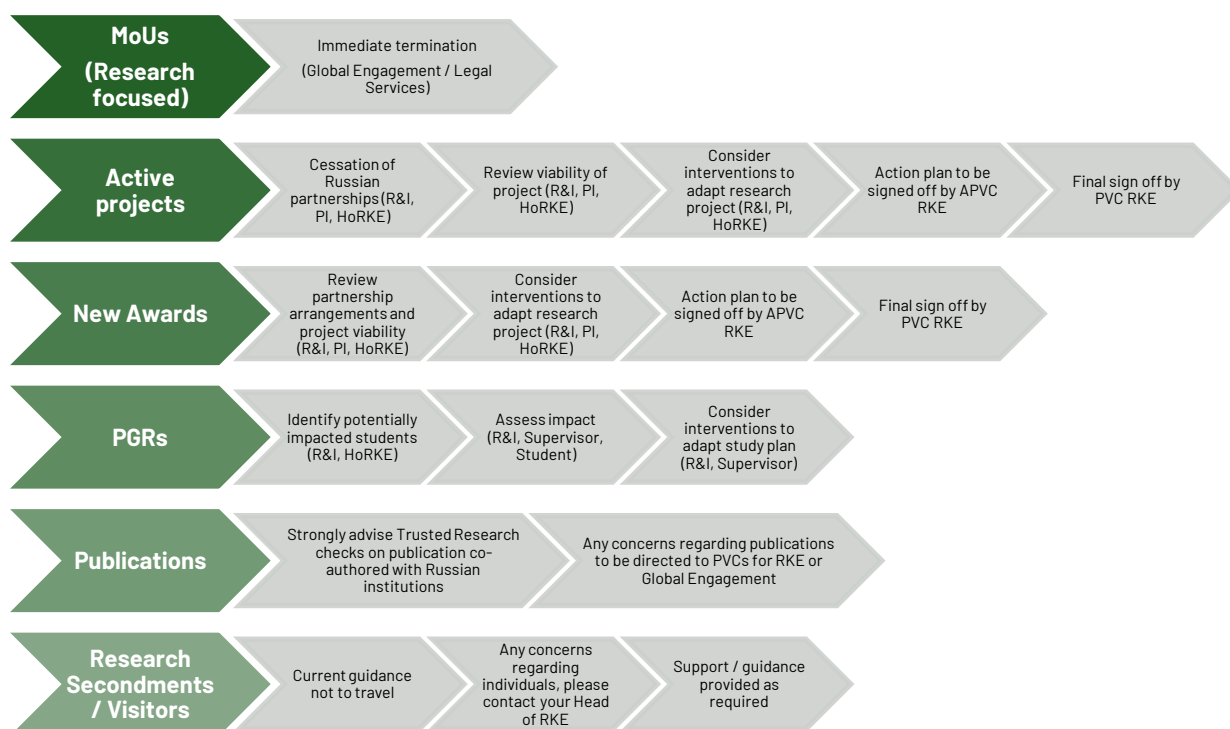


Figure 3 Cutting ties with Russian Unis, update 2022 - information taken from Research and Knowledge Exchange Guidance: Collaborations with Ukraine and Russia¹²²

The University has approved five awards for postdoctoral and established researchers, as well as three awards for PhD students displaced by the war in Ukraine. These initiatives are funded through Universities UK International's UK-Ukraine R&I Twinning Grants Scheme.¹²³ The key areas of research that the grants are afforded to are:

- War and Resilience
- Religion and War
- Moral and Legal Considerations of Wartime Actors
- Integral Human Development and Sustainable Reconstruction

Grants of £5,000 and £15,000 are available per application, with a total of £100,000 available. The disparity between the approach they have taken in regard to Ukraine and the ongoing genocide in Palestine is evident. In the 12 months since Israel's ongoing genocidal assault on Gaza began, which has systematically targeted and destroyed every single Gazan university and 80% of schools, no such programme has been put in place by UoN for Palestinian students who have been affected by this

¹²² Research and Knowledge Exchange Guidance: Collaborations with Ukraine and Russia, internal document, University of Nottingham SharePoint, accessed October 17, 2024. <https://uniofnottm.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchandInnovation/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FResearchandInnovation%2FShared%20Documents%2FTrusted%20Research%2FResearch%20and%20Knowledge%20Exchange%20Guidance%5Fcollaborations%20with%20Ukraine%20and%20Russia%5F%5F29%20March%202022%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FResearchandInnovation%2FShared%20Documents%2FTrusted%20Research>

¹²³ Universities UK, "UK-Ukraine R&I twinning grants scheme," 2022, <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/topics/international/international-research-collaboration/uk-ukraine-ri-twinning-grants-scheme>

'scholasticide'¹²⁴. Additionally, the escalations in the West Bank and Lebanon have resulted in school closures over the past year.^{125,126} Neither has the University of Nottingham made any public commitment to improve the level of financial support available to students affected by the Israeli attacks.

Despite UoN claiming its contribution to the Quality Education SDG, they have not provided adequate support to students affected by Israel's assaults on Palestine and, generally, current financial support for Palestinian students at UoN is inadequate and severely disproportionate. The Middle East and Turkey Undergraduate Excellence Award, offered to students from 16 countries including Israel, is the only undergraduate scholarship available to Palestinians¹²⁷. It grants £2,000 for the first academic year; meanwhile European scholarship students receive triple the sum (£6,000)¹²⁸. It also offers one Saïd Foundation Masters Scholarship for students from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria¹²⁹. Furthermore, there is no country-specific information page for Palestinian international students who wish to study at UoN. Aside from these two programmes, the University provides no substantial financial nor welfare support for Palestinian students, despite the context of the past 12 months¹³⁰.

The double standard between the approaches that the UoN has taken with regards to Ukraine and Palestine is evident both in the support they provide for students and their investments in companies, institutions and organisations that continue to support the apartheid regime of Israel and enable the genocide that is being committed by the settler-colonial state of Israel.

¹²⁴ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, "UN Experts Deeply Concerned Over 'Scholasticide' in Gaza," April 2024, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/un-experts-deeply-concerned-over-scholasticide-gaza>.

¹²⁵ Anadolu Agency, "Lebanon Announces Nationwide School Closure After Pager Explosions," October 16, 2023, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/lebanon-announces-nationwide-school-closure-after-pager-explosions/3332964>.

¹²⁶ ReliefWeb, "Urgent Appeal to Protect Palestinian Children's Future," accessed October 17, 2024, <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/urgent-appeal-protect-palestinian-childrens-future>.

¹²⁷ University of Nottingham, "Middle East and Turkey Undergraduate Excellence Award," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/international-applicants/scholarships/middle-east-ug.aspx>.

¹²⁸ University of Nottingham, "Europe Undergraduate Excellence Award," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/international-applicants/scholarships/europe-ug.aspx>.

¹²⁹ University of Nottingham, "Saïd Foundation Masters Scholarship," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/funding/said-foundation-masters-scholarship>.

¹³⁰ University of Nottingham, "Country-specific Information," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/international-applicants/country-info/index.aspx>.



4. INVESTMENTS

4.1. The University of Nottingham's Ethical Investment Policy

The UoN first introduced its investment policy, '*Policy on investment, acquisitions and disposals*', in 2013.¹³¹ This is the single document which outlines how the University incorporates ethical considerations when making investment decisions. These considerations are also reiterated in the Cazenove Capital Report, a high-level summary of how the University's portfolio is managed and allocated, which should be published every fiscal year.^{132,133} Cazenove Capital, a Schroders subsidiary, has managed Nottingham's investments since 2021, in a Permanent Endowment Fund and a Medium Term Fund.¹³⁴ It is required to implement the University's responsible investment policy and uphold ESG standards as highlighted in the Cazenove Capital report:

*"The intention is for the Fund to have a positive impact on people and the planet. The managers will invest to avoid harm through ESG integration and exclusions, benefit society through responsible business activities and contribute to solutions through influence and investing for impact."*¹³⁵

The University's investments are therefore subject to several exclusionary criteria, namely the University's fund manager is responsible for ensuring that investments are not held in "organisations where the primary part of their business clearly demonstrates the following characteristics:

- explicit environmental damage;
- manufacture and sale of armaments to military regimes;
- institutional violations of human rights, including modern slavery and the exploitation of the workforce;
- discrimination against the individual;
- the manufacture and sale of tobacco products;
- the extraction of thermal coal and tar sands or oil shale;
- oil and gas producers."¹³⁶

As this is particularly relevant for the purposes of this report, it is worth noting that two of the above exclusion commitments stated in the University's investment policy do not feature in the 2023

¹³¹ University of Nottingham, *Policy on Investment, Acquisitions and Disposals* (2021),

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/governance/documents/policy-on-investment-acquisitions-and-disposals.pdf>.

¹³² University of Nottingham, *Cazenove Capital Report* (2023), 5, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/documents/cazenove-capital-report-2023.pdf>.

¹³³ Note: The Cazenove Capital Report for FY23/24 has yet to be published. In June, NCLP requested information from the Registrar of the University about when this report will be made publicly available, however the Registrar has provided no answer.

¹³⁴ Schroders, "Cazenove Capital Appointed to Manage Endowment Assets for University of Nottingham," 2021,

<https://www.wealth.schroders.com/en/global/wealth-management/media-centre/cazenove-capital-appointed-to-manage-endowment-assets-for-university-of-nottingham/>.

¹³⁵ University of Nottingham, *Cazenove Capital Report*.

¹³⁶ University of Nottingham, *Policy on Investment*.



Cazenove Capital Report. Namely, the commitment to screen out institutional violations of human rights and discrimination against the individual are both not referenced within the Report's exclusion criteria.¹³⁷

The UoN draws on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to both guide its investments, as well as to measure the ESG impact of its investments. The University's commitment to promote and contribute to the UN SDGs is also part of its wider strategy.^{138,139} A primary means by which businesses and organisations can contribute to the UN SDGs, which act as a "shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet", is through responsible investments.¹⁴⁰ The UoN claims that 34% of its fund directly contributes to goals 3, 7, 9 and 11, which respectively concern good health (38%), clean energy (23%), sustainable industrialisation (10%) and sustainable cities and communities (9%).¹⁴¹ In the following sections, we will scrutinise these claims and consider how the University's investments might undermine these particular SDGs, alongside Goal 16, which concerns the promotion of peace and justice.

4.2. Defining Ethical Investment

Although there exists a multitude of frameworks and guidelines outlining the financial responsibilities of institutions, the UoN does not draw on any of these in its investment policy, but rather focuses on the UN SDGs as an impact indicator. However, SDGs, which are very broad in scope and do not outline any specific responsibilities, cannot be said to constitute a comprehensive metric against which the ethics and sustainability of university investments may be quantified. This issue is particularly aggravated when they are interpreted in isolation because, although they may serve as a (somewhat) adequate indicator of the University's positive-impact investments, they provide no real basis for developing robust exclusion criteria. Indeed, the weaknesses of the University's investment policy are clearly reflected in its choice of investments, which will be examined more closely in the following section.

Developing a robust investment policy necessarily requires consideration and implementation of more concrete guidelines, a key example being the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.¹⁴² The Guiding Principles framework is the key document outlining businesses' responsibilities in upholding human rights, and it will be of particular importance when discussing the University's industrial partners in the following chapter (Chapter 5). It is important to note that universities, regardless of whether they are created as statutory bodies, charities, or otherwise, are business enterprises for the purposes of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Therefore, Universities have the corporate responsibility to respect human rights.

¹³⁷ University of Nottingham, *Cazenove Capital Report*, 45, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/documents/cazenove-capital-report-2023.pdf>.

¹³⁸ University of Nottingham, "Ethical Finance and Investments," 2024, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/finance.aspx>.

¹³⁹ University of Nottingham, *Strategy* (2019), <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/strategy/documents/university-strategy.pdf>.

¹⁴⁰ United Nations, "The 17 Goals," <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

¹⁴¹ University of Nottingham, "Ethical Finance and Investments," 2024, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/finance.aspx>.

¹⁴² United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework* (2011), https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/Guidingprinciplesbusinessshr_en.pdf.



The responsibilities of business enterprises and private bodies with respect to illegal Israeli settlements has been laid out very clearly by a UN fact-finding mission, as early as 2013¹⁴³:

“116. The mission calls upon all Member States to comply with their obligations under international law and to assume their responsibilities in their relations with a State breaching peremptory norms of international law, and specifically not to recognize an unlawful situation resulting from Israel’s violations.

117. Private companies must assess the human rights impact of their activities and take all necessary steps – including by terminating their business interests in the settlements – to ensure that they do not have an adverse impact on the human rights of the Palestinian people, in conformity with international law as well as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The mission calls upon all Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that business enterprises domiciled in their territory and/or under their jurisdiction, including those owned or controlled by them, that conduct activities in or related to the settlements respect human rights throughout their operations. The mission recommends that the Working Group on Business and Human Rights be seized of this matter.”

Despite the recommendations of the mission over 10 years ago, Israel has continued to expand its settlements with practically no consequence nor pressure from other States, nor private bodies. In light of this, the ICJ revisited this issue in July 2024 to provide an official ruling clarifying the legality of the settlements and Israel’s continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. The world court concluded, for the first time, that¹⁴⁴:

“279. ... in view of the character and importance of the rights and obligations involved, all States are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. They are also under an obligation not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by Israel’s illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It is for all States, while respecting the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to ensure that any impediment resulting from the illegal presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to the exercise of the Palestinian people of its right to self-determination is brought to an end. In addition, all the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention have the obligation, while respecting the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to ensure compliance by Israel with international humanitarian law as embodied in that Convention.”

¹⁴³ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, “Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of the Israeli Settlements on the Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the Palestinian People Throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem,” February 7, 2013, 23, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf.

¹⁴⁴ International Court of Justice, “186 - Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem”, 2024. <https://www.icj-cij.org/index.php/node/204160>



We have used a reduced form of the comprehensive criteria developed by the LSESU Palestine Society in their May 2024 *Assets in Apartheid: LSE's Complicity in Genocide of the Palestinian People, Arms Trade, and Climate Breakdown* report, to assess the egregious activities, including illegal settlement activity, which the University's investments, as well as its industry partnerships, are complicit in supporting.¹⁴⁵ The LSESU Palestine Society's criteria highlighted four egregious activities, namely regarding crimes against Palestinian people, extraction and/or distribution of fossil fuels, proliferation and/or manufacture of arms, and the financing of fossil fuel companies and/or nuclear weapons producers. We have chosen to focus our examination on two of these activities, alongside an adapted version of LSESU Palestine Society's fourth:

1. Crimes against the Palestinian people, including through supporting illegal Israeli settlements; and/or supporting the Israeli military; and/or sustaining apartheid.
2. Proliferation and/or manufacture of arms.
3. Financing crimes against the Palestinian people and/or financing the arms trade.

4.3. Overview of Investments

The Cazenove Capital Fund is monitored by an independent Advisory Committee, therefore University does not independently curate its investment portfolios. This makes it even more imperative that the University has a robust policy for ethical investment.

The University's permanent endowment fund, as of July 31st 2024, was worth £68,752,984.72, with a medium-term fund of £9,912,540.38. This sums to a total of £78,665,525.10, which is invested in a range of different assets.¹⁴⁶ At the time of writing, the University has agreed to share the equities in which its funds are invested, accounting for approximately 60% of the University's total investments. The remaining 40% are mostly held in bonds or alternative assets. Therefore, the following analysis will draw primarily on the University's equity holdings in FY23/24, however we will refer to some short-term equity funds, as well as brief findings from the previous year FY22/23.

4.4. Key Findings

Through Freedom of Information requests and analysis of the University's financial statements, we have obtained details of the University's global equity holdings, which constitute £51,852,860.52 (65.28% of the University's portfolio).

Although our research did not reveal any investments in arms manufacturer, nor arms distributor, we did however find that £16,974,399.98 of the University's equities in FY23/24 were held in 53 holdings in 28 companies that are either conducting or enabling crimes against the Palestinian people (including through supporting illegal Israeli settlements; and/or supporting the Israeli military; and/or sustaining apartheid); and/or financing crimes against the Palestinian people and/or financing the arms trade.

¹⁴⁵ LSESU Palestine Society, 'Assets in Apartheid: LSE's Complicity in Genocide of the Palestinian People, Arms Trade, and Climate Breakdown', May 2024, <https://lsepalestine.github.io/documents/LSESUPALESTINE-Assets-in-Apartheid-2024-Web.pdf>

¹⁴⁶ Note: This information was obtained from an FOI request "UoN Investments breakdown" What Do They Know? "UON Investments Breakdown." Accessed October 21, 2024. https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/uon_investments_breakdown.



- We found that the University has investments worth **£2,974,774.55** in 15 holdings in 8 companies operating in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank. These include Booking Holdings Inc (£1,006,806.73), Carrefour S.A. (£157,935.44), and Adidas Ag (£740.80).
- Furthermore, UoN invests **£113,419.10** in 4 companies involved in resource extraction and/or operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including First Solar, Inc. (£52,754.89), Lg Chem Limited (£30,681.23), Sma Solar Technology Ag (£15,170.75), and Deme Group Nv (£14,812.23).
- The University invests **£8,647,246.94** in 16 holdings in 8 companies complicit in upholding Israel's apartheid regime by supplying Israel with technology used by the IOF against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian Territory. These companies include Microsoft (£2,946,529.97), Alphabet Inc (£2,200,747.85), International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) (£188,308.39), Hp Inc (£158,429.20), and Intel Corp (£124,884.78).
- The University of Nottingham has a total of **£4,208,849.14** in 16 holdings in 10 companies which are involved in financing either the Israeli military, illegal settlements or arms manufacturers complicit in the genocide against Palestinians. Seven of these are financial institutions that are investors and/or creditors in business enterprises listed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as involved in illegal settlement activities. These companies include Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria Sa (£1,051,562.99), Standard Chartered Plc (£237,684.97), Natwest Group Plc (£218,029.30), Aviva Plc (£179,540.87), BNP Paribas Sa (£127,448.56), and Axa Sa (£112,686.23).
- UoN invests a total of **£1,375,825.11** in two global 'big pharma' corporations which have been found to contribute to 'vaccine apartheid' in various countries, particularly supporting Israel in its regime of apartheid during the COVID-19 pandemic. These companies are Astrazeneca Plc (£1,209,691.89) and Pfizer Inc (£166,133.22). Israel has shown to be participating in medical apartheid, most notably through denying access to Covid-19 vaccines to Palestinians¹⁴⁷ and denial of medical referrals for more advanced healthcare¹⁴⁸. The unequal access that Israelis and Palestinians have to medical care is a clear indication of the power-imbalance between the occupying force (Israel) and the occupied population (Palestine).

Furthermore, although the UoN claims to have no direct investments in the arms trade, its assets are managed by Cazenove Capital, a Schroders subsidiary.¹⁴⁹ Schroders and other financial institutions currently financing the genocide against Palestinians also sponsor several of the funds in which the University's short-term assets are invested. These funds include Schroder Global Sustainable Growth Fund, Schroder Global Energy Transition and HSBC ESG Liquidity Fund.¹⁵⁰ In December 2023, HSBC was named the second largest European creditor to companies operating in Israeli settlements in the West

¹⁴⁷ Rima Najjar, "COVID-19 Vaccinations Are Proof of Israel's Medical Apartheid," *Al Jazeera*, March 23, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/3/23/covid-19-vaccinations-are-proof-of-israels-medical-apartheid>.

¹⁴⁸ Yazid Barhoush & Joseph J. Amon. 2023. "Medical Apartheid in Palestine." *Global Public Health* 18 (1). doi:10.1080/17441692.2023.2201612.

¹⁴⁹ Schroders (2014). *Cazenove Capital Fund information*.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140204075331/http://www.schroders.com/global/cazenove-capital>

¹⁵⁰ University of Nottingham, *Cazenove Capital Report*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sustainability/documents/cazenove-capital-report-2023.pdf>. P. 9



Bank between 2020-2023, providing them \$14.201bn in loans and underwriting services.¹⁵¹ HSBC invested \$2.652bn in such companies, and Schroders invested a larger sum, at \$3.535bn.¹⁵² Previous figures from 2017 also indicate investments of £831.5m in arms and technology companies equipping the Israeli military by HSBC, and £917.6m by Schroders.¹⁵³

4.5. Individual Case Studies

4.5.1 Alphabet Inc.

Alphabet's subsidiary, Google, alongside Amazon, is delivering a \$1.2bn project to the Israeli military and government.¹⁵⁴ Project Nimbus weaponises cloud computing and AI to facilitate the expansion of Israel's illegal settlements, and the unlawful surveillance of Palestinians. It has been opposed by hundreds of Google and Amazon employees for this.¹⁵⁵ In the FY23/24, the University holds equities in Alphabet totalling **£2,200,747.85** in their Medium Term and Permanent Endowment Funds. Despite the links with the Israeli military and illegal settlements in Palestine, the UoN actively invests in Alphabet Inc.

4.5.2 Booking Holdings

In 2020, the UN's Human Rights Council named Booking.com as a company complicit in human rights infringements, due to its support for illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine¹⁵⁶. In December 2023, a report found that Booking.com continues to offer accommodation in at least 21 Israeli settlements¹⁵⁷. Despite the evidence of Booking.com profiting off illegal settlements, the University currently holds **£986,806.73** worth of equities in their medium term and permanent endowment funds.

4.5.3 Intel Corp.

Intel Corp has strong ties with Israel, with major investments in its technology sector, including R&D centres and manufacturing plants. Notably, Intel's \$25 billion investment in a new factory has been

¹⁵¹ DBIO (2023). European Financial Institutions' Continued Complicity in the Illegal Israeli Settlement Enterprise. https://dontbuyintooccupation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023_DBIO-III-Report_11-December-2023.pdf p.14

¹⁵² DBIO (2023). European Financial Institutions' Continued Complicity in the Illegal Israeli Settlement Enterprise. https://dontbuyintooccupation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023_DBIO-III-Report_11-December-2023.pdf p.17

¹⁵³ War on Want (2017). Deadly Investments: UK bank complicity in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people. <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Final%20Web%20version%20Deadly%20Investments.pdf>

¹⁵⁴ McCarthy, Brian. "Google and Amazon Are Tied to Israeli Arms Firm That Supplies Weapons Used in Gaza." The Intercept, May 1, 2024. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://theintercept.com/2024/05/01/google-amazon-nimbus-israel-weapons-arms-gaza/>.

¹⁵⁵ Graham-Harrison, Emma. "Google and Amazon Workers Condemn Project Nimbus, a \$1.2bn Israeli Military Contract." The Guardian, October 12, 2021. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/oct/12/google-amazon-workers-condemn-project-nimbus-israeli-military-contract>.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2020). Database of all business enterprises involved in certain activities relating to Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank (A/HRC/43/71). P.17

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session43/Documents/A_HRC_43_71.docx

¹⁵⁷ Khan, Wasima. "Booking.com Has Been Doing Business in Illegal Israeli Settlements for Years." FTM, 2023. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://ftm.eu/articles/bookingcom-active-in-illegal-israeli-settlement-areas?share=OUC8pQhIS6761HjkZ5spaMm4wBeGNOCd1%2B1oOh4z3angc%2BCERhasfNU8%2BJTTOiU%3D>.



linked to Israel's economy, contributing to its technology infrastructure¹⁵⁸. Its plant at "Qiryat Gat" is built on Palestinian land within the boundaries of the Palestinian village of Iraq al Manshiya, which was ethnically cleansed and razed to the ground and then replaced by the Israeli settlement of Qiryat Gat¹⁵⁹. Intel's involvement has sparked debates on ethical responsibility and political implications related to its operations in the region. The University's current equity portfolio invests **£124,884.78** in Intel Corp which highlights their lack of due diligence when screening for ethical investments.

4.5.4 International Business Machines Corp. (IBM)

IBM makes up **£188,308.39** of the 2024 equity investment portfolio despite the company having strong links to the Israeli apartheid through its provision of technology used in the management of Israel's population registry and biometric systems¹⁶⁰. PIBA, that IBM has provided services to, have also created an illegal biometric database of facial images¹⁶¹. The company has a long history of unethical business, which the University of Nottingham has been ignoring in the interests of profit.

1 4.5.4 First Solar Inc.

The University has **£52,757.89** total equities invested in First Solar, Inc. A report from Who Profits in 2016 and 2017 found that approximately 104,000 solar panels, covering 135,000 square metres of Palestinian land, were installed in the Kalia settlement in the occupied Jordan Valley. This installation, a joint venture between Clal Sun Ltd and Kibbutz Kalia, highlights the unethical nature of profiting from renewable energy infrastructure on land taken from Palestinians under military occupation¹⁶². Using occupied land for economic gain not only violates international law but also exacerbates the exploitation of Palestinian resources and rights.

4.5.5 Microsoft Corp.

Microsoft, which makes up **£2,976,529.97** of the University's equity portfolio, has been supporting Israeli operations through its technology and services and has strong ties to the Israeli military. It provides cloud solutions and software to the Israeli government and military, while also investing in tech companies¹⁶³ that develop surveillance tools used against Palestinians¹⁶⁴. They also have a cloud system Azure which Elbit systems and the Israeli military utilises¹⁶⁵. Microsoft operates in illegal Israeli settlements and supports Israel's military operations, which raises serious ethical concerns regarding

¹⁵⁸ Krauss, Clifford. "Intel to Get \$32 Billion Government Grant for New \$25 Billion Israel Chip Plant." Reuters, December 26, 2023. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/intel-get-32-billion-government-grant-new-25-billion-israel-chip-plant-2023-12-26/>.

BDS Movement. "Act Now Against These Companies Profiting From Genocide." Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://bdsmovement.net/Act-Now-Against-These-Companies-Profiting-From-Genocide>.

¹⁶⁰ Who Profits. "IBM Company Feature." February 2022. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.whoprofits.org/writable/uploads/old/uploads/2022/02/IBM-company-feature-final-1.pdf>.

¹⁶¹ Kabir, Omer. "Israel's Secret Biometric Database Revealed." Calcalist Tech, January 11, 2024. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctech/articles/0,7340,L-3912552,00.html>.

¹⁶² Who Profits. "First Solar." Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/company/3694?first-solar>.

¹⁶³ Deger, Alice. "How Microsoft Is Invested in Israeli Settler Colonialism." *Mondoweiss*, March 15, 2021. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://mondoweiss.net/2021/03/how-microsoft-is-invested-in-israeli-settler-colonialism/>.

¹⁶⁴ Solon, Olivia. "Why Did Microsoft Fund an Israeli Firm That Surveils West Bank Palestinians?" *NBC News*, October 30, 2019. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/all/why-did-microsoft-fund-israeli-firm-surveils-west-bank-palestinians-n1072116>.

¹⁶⁵ No Tech for Apartheid, accessed October 20, 2023, <https://www.notechforapartheid.com/>.



its complicity in the occupation and human rights violations. There are also ongoing investigations into how the cloud computing technologies, provided by companies like Microsoft, have aided the Israeli military during their attacks on Gaza.¹⁶⁶

4.5.6 Notable mention: ThyssenKrupp Nucera AG & Co KgaA

ThyssenKrupp Nucera is the subsidiary of one of the top 100 arms companies in the world, ThyssenKrupp AG.¹⁶⁷ Although not present on the FY23/24 Fund list, the University had **£9252.87** worth of equity investments in the company in the FY22/Y23. Not only is ThyssenKrupp currently listed on the UN complicity list¹⁶⁸ but was one of the top 100 arms companies in 2022¹⁶⁹. This highlights the University's weak investment policy as it did qualify for exclusion on last year's portfolio.

4.6 Summary

The current Investment Policy allows for investments in companies that have shown clear links with the Israeli military and are complicit in crimes against the Palestinian people. Although the University claims to not invest in the arms trade directly, they are complicit through their investments in companies that have links to the military and the arms trade as well as illegal and activities such as apartheid, illegal occupation and the genocide due to the companies operating in Israel and aiding their apartheid regime. We urge the university to take on a full investigation of the current investment portfolios to ensure that the companies that they invest in do not have links with unethical and illegal activities.

The current findings are based on approximately 60% of the University's investment portfolio and include only equity holdings. Remaining 40% investments have not been made easily accessible and therefore can reveal further complicity. However, investments are only a portion of the companies that make the University of Nottingham complicit. Past and active partnerships with companies which have links to the arms trade and the Israeli military which is currently perpetuating human rights violations and upholding an apartheid regime showcases how the University does not care for following their ethics framework or international law. The University is also not transparent with all the partnerships that they take on and therefore the following findings are based on the limited accessible information that could be found.

¹⁶⁶ Abraham, Yuval. "Amazon, Google & Microsoft Fuel Israeli Military Aggression in Israel's War on Gaza, Investigation Reveals." *Business & Human Rights Resource Centre*, August 4, 2024. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/amazon-google-microsoft-fuel-israeli-military-aggression-in-israels-war-on-gaza-investigation-reveals/>.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid., 57.

¹⁶⁸ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. "States and Companies Must End Arms Transfers to Israel Immediately or Risk Complicity in Violations of International Law." June 2024. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/states-and-companies-must-end-arms-transfers-israel-immediately-or-risk>.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid., 154



5. ETHICAL PARTNERSHIPS

5.1 The University of Nottingham's Ethical Research & Partnership Policies

The UoN has publicly declared its “commitment to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, rigour, and excellence”¹⁷⁰ with regards to research integrity, ethics and partnerships. This ties into the University’s values of Inclusivity, Ambition, Openness, Fairness and Respect,¹⁷¹ with particular reference to the penultimate value listed. Under “Fairness”, the University specifies that its “decisions and actions are consistent, impartial and ethical.”¹⁷²

5.1.1 The Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics

One of the methods by which the University purports to maintain these standards is through the implementation of their own Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics¹⁷³. This is a “comprehensive framework”¹⁷⁴ that “all staff and students involved in research are expected to be familiar with”¹⁷⁵. Under this Code, the University’s core key principles for ethical research are “maximising benefit”; “minimising harm”; “respecting autonomy”; “fairness and accountability”; and “integrity and transparency”¹⁷⁶. The Code also draws particular attention to considerations of the impact on “anyone involved in or affected by the research”, “welfare of animals”, “cultural sensitivities”, and “the environment”¹⁷⁷.

While the University’s Investment Policy precludes investments in organisations where the primary part of their business involves “manufacture and sale of armaments to military regimes”¹⁷⁸ to “reflect its ethical values”¹⁷⁹, the Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics includes no explicit restrictions of this kind. It does however emphasise that UK-based researchers are responsible for ensuring that “research being undertaken in the UK abides to applicable UK law” in the context of international research collaborations. This difference in standards allows research partnerships to be

¹⁷⁰ University of Nottingham, “2023 Annual Statement on Research Integrity.”, Ethics and Integrity, November 17, 2023, 3. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/documents/ethics-and-integrity/2023-uon-annual-statement-on-research-integrity-17-nov-2023.pdf>.

¹⁷¹ University of Nottingham, “Values,” <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/strategy/values.aspx>.

¹⁷² *ibid.*

¹⁷³ *nb:* the Code and its implementation are reviewed by the University Research Integrity and Research Ethics Committee which, at the time of writing, is chaired by Professor Penny Gowland. See:

University of Nottingham. “Research Ethics.” Accessed October 21, 2024.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/governance/universitycommittees/research-ethics.aspx>.

¹⁷⁴ University of Nottingham. “Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics.” Ethics and Integrity, March 27, 2023, 1.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/documents/ethics-and-integrity/code-of-research-conduct-and-research-ethics-v9.0-27-march-2023.pdf>.

¹⁷⁵ University of Nottingham. “Research Ethics and Integrity.” Accessed October 21, 2024.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/ethics-and-integrity/>.

¹⁷⁶ University of Nottingham. “Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics.” Ethics and Integrity, March 27, 2023, 1.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/documents/ethics-and-integrity/code-of-research-conduct-and-research-ethics-v9.0-27-march-2023.pdf>.

¹⁷⁷ *ibid.*, 6.

¹⁷⁸ University of Nottingham. “Research Ethics and Integrity.” Accessed October 21, 2024.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/ethics-and-integrity/>.

¹⁷⁹ *ibid.*, 163



formed with company's heavily involved in the sale of arms to the Israeli military. Israeli operations in Gaza have taken the lives of over 42,000 Palestinians, wreaked environmental devastation, threatened hundreds of animal species¹⁸⁰, and attempted to eradicate Palestinian culture.¹⁸¹ Therefore, we would challenge the University as to whether working with organisations that are key beneficiaries of this genocide constitutes "minimising harm".¹⁸²

5.1.2 The Ethical Framework

On a broader scale, another structure that the University has developed to hold itself to the "highest standards" is its Ethical Framework. This "*comprehensive set of principles, structures, policies and procedures*" forms an integral part of the University's wider governance strategy.¹⁸³ By its own declaration, this Framework gives "the assurance that the University of Nottingham behaves ethically across its activities".

It is worth noting that this Framework was developed in 2012 "*in part as a response to the findings of Lord Woolf's investigation into the LSE's links with Libya*." In this inquiry, Lord Woolf identified "shortcomings in the governance, structure and management at the LSE".¹⁸⁴ These shortcomings allowed for the development of financial ties and research partnerships between the UK university and the Gaddafi regime at the centre of the Libyan Civil War. In 2011, whilst the LSE was deepening its links to Gaddafi's brutal regime, the leader was charged by the ICC with two counts of crimes against humanity.¹⁸⁵

Lord Woolf's inquiry exposed the poor practice of LSE management, not excluding the Director, Sir Howard Davies, who resigned over this scandal. It also proposed recommendations on how the university might have prevented this unethical conduct. Many of these were adopted by the University of Nottingham's Executive Board when developing their Ethical Framework, although UoN admits it "*does not follow all of Lord Woolf's recommendations*".¹⁸⁶

Given the ICJ's ruling that the occupying state of Israel is plausibly committing a genocide against Palestinians people and, more specifically, its July ruling that Israel's presence in the Occupied Palestinian territories has been considered unlawful, there are arguably parallels to be drawn with the

¹⁸⁰ Egypt Today Staff. "Israeli Occupation Destroys Gaza's Biodiversity." *Egypt Today*, October 19, 2023. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/134169/Israeli-occupation-destroys-Gaza-s-biodiversity>.

¹⁸¹ Vanishing Ink: Palestinian Culture Under Threat in Gaza." *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, February 2024. <https://carnegieendowment.org/sada/2024/02/vanishing-ink-palestinian-culture-under-threat-in-gaza?lang=en>.

¹⁸² University of Nottingham. "Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics." Version 9.0. March 27, 2023. Pg5 <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/documents/ethics-and-integrity/code-of-research-conduct-and-research-ethics-v9.0-27-march-2023.pdf>.

¹⁸³ "Ethical Framework," University of Nottingham, accessed October 04, 2024, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/governance/otherregulations/ethical-framework.aspx>.

¹⁸⁴ "The Woolf Inquiry Report: An Inquiry into LSE's Links with Libya and Lessons to Be Learned," London School of Economics and Political Science, 2017, <https://www.lse.ac.uk/News/News-Assets/PDFs/The-Woolf-Inquiry-Report-An-inquiry-into-LSEs-links-with-Libya-and-lessons-to-be-learned-London-School-of-Economics-and-Political-Sciences.pdf>.

¹⁸⁵ "Situation in Libya: Gaddafi," International Criminal Court, accessed October 18, 2024, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/libya/gaddafi>.

¹⁸⁶ "Ethical Framework," University of Nottingham, accessed October 04, 2024, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/governance/otherregulations/ethical-framework.aspx>.



LSE-Gaddafi scandal that prompted the introduction of this Framework.^{187,188} We would call on the University to review their Ethical Framework to cease all partnerships that link the University to the crimes against humanity and war crimes that are being displayed in Palestine.

5.1.3 The Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy

The University has established a Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee, tasked with implementing the University's strategies for research and knowledge exchange, ensuring alignment with institutional goals and managing related risks. This strategy centres around partnerships that include collaborations with the public and policymakers to enhance societal benefits.¹⁸⁹ The committee oversees all research activities, including those of staff and postgraduate students, and promotes key initiatives such as interdisciplinary collaboration, strategic industry partnerships, and knowledge exchange. It also ensures compliance with regulatory obligations and supports the development of research policies. The committee operates under Senate's authority, has a delegated budget of £2 million, and meets quarterly to review progress, address risks, and drive performance in line with the University's objectives. Its membership includes senior academic leaders, professional staff, and student representation, with effectiveness reviewed every three years. While the RKE framework emphasises collaboration, societal benefit, and compliance with ethical standards, it may fall short in ensuring that all research aligns with values of human rights and global justice. This failure lies in not sufficiently scrutinising the broader consequences of research activities, thereby undermining the ethical foundation of the RKE strategy and its commitment to societal benefit.^{190, 191}

5.1.4 Dual-Use Export Control Loopholes

The University also avoids accountability by utilising the dual-use export control loophole. 'Export' means the physical removal of goods or the transfer (by any means) of technology or software and/or knowledge from the UK to a destination outside the UK, incl. via email, fax, video conferences and shared data environments. Technology means 'specific information' necessary for the 'development', 'production' or 'use' of goods or software that is not in the public domain. Export Control regulates the international transfer of certain goods, technology, and information, particularly those related to military equipment and "dual-use" items, which can be used for both civilian and military purposes. At the University, researchers must ensure their projects comply with these regulations, particularly if they involve controlled items or technologies. This includes obtaining the necessary licences, ensuring all team members follow export control laws, and preventing unauthorised transfers. While the University holds Principal Investigators responsible for understanding and following these rules to

¹⁸⁷ International Court of Justice, "Summary of the Order of 26 January 2024", 26 January 2024, "[https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203454#:~:text=\(7\)%20The%20State%20of%20Israel,not%20act%20to%20deny%20or](https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203454#:~:text=(7)%20The%20State%20of%20Israel,not%20act%20to%20deny%20or)

¹⁸⁸ International Court of Justice. "Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem." July 19, 2024. <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-pre-01-00-en.pdf>.

¹⁸⁹ University of Nottingham. "Knowledge Exchange: Strategic Delivery Plan." November 2020. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/Strategy/documents/KE-Strategic-Delivery-Plan-for-Publication-Final.pdf>.

¹⁹⁰ University of Nottingham. "Research Innovation." Accessed October 18, 2024. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/fabs/research-innovation/rke-development.aspx>.

¹⁹¹ University of Nottingham. "Research Ethics." Accessed October 18, 2024. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/governance/universitycommittees/research-and-knowledge-exchange-committee.aspx>.



avoid severe legal repercussions¹⁹², this framework does not prevent potential misuse of research outputs.

By partnering with defence contractors like BAE Systems and Boeing, the University can sell small components it collaboratively develops, often intended for military applications, without retaining oversight of their end use. Projects such as TEMPEST and FLAVIIR, both undertaken in collaboration with BAE Systems, highlight this issue, as these programs explicitly focus on military objectives. Although the exported components may receive legal approval, the subsequent privatisation of research limits accountability and obscures the actual applications of the technology. Additionally, the UK's violations of domestic arms export laws further diminish the effectiveness of these controls, especially regarding human rights concerns in conflict zones like Palestine, ultimately allowing the University to distance itself from the dangerous implications of its research partnerships.¹⁹³

Dual-use items are “goods, software and technology that can be used for both civilian and military applications”.¹⁹⁴ Export Control involves regulation of cross border transfers of certain types of goods, technology and information. Export controls apply to controlled items such as military equipment, so called “dual-use goods” and to the technology related to them. As a researcher you must understand how to comply with any export licences that apply to the projects you are working on. Failure to comply with this law can result in fines, legal costs or prison sentences of up to 10 years. The Export Control Joint Unit can, and will, hold individuals accountable.¹⁹⁵

¹⁹² University of Nottingham, “Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics”

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/documents/ethics-and-integrity/code-of-research-conduct-and-research-ethics-v9.0-27-march-2023.pdf>

¹⁹³ Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, “A Legal Duty and a Moral Imperative: the UK Must Halt its Arms Transfers to Israel”, <https://www.wilpf.org/a-legal-duty-and-a-moral-imperative-the-uk-must-halt-its-arms-transfers-to-israel/>.

¹⁹⁴ European Commission, “Exporting dual-use items”, https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/help-exporters-and-importers/exporting-dual-use-items_en#:~:text=Dual%2Duse%20items%20are%20goods,Dual%20use

¹⁹⁵ Gov.uk, “Export controls: dual-use items, software and technology, goods for torture and radioactive sources”, [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-controls-dual-use-items-software-and-technology-goods-for-torture-and-radioactive-sources#:~:text=Dual%2Duse%20items%20\(including%20software,or%20other%20nuclear%20explosive%20devices.](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-controls-dual-use-items-software-and-technology-goods-for-torture-and-radioactive-sources#:~:text=Dual%2Duse%20items%20(including%20software,or%20other%20nuclear%20explosive%20devices.)



5.1.5 The Concordat to Support Research Integrity

The current framework in place allows for the University to partner with companies that have direct links with the arms trade and the Israeli military and that have been warned to cut ties with the Israeli military. The UoN is a signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity¹⁹⁶ which states that the core elements of research integrity are as follows:

- **"honesty** in all aspects of research, including in the presentation of research goals, intentions and findings...
- **rigour**, in line with prevailing disciplinary norms and standards, and in performing research and using appropriate methods...
- **transparency and open communication** in declaring potential competing interests; in the reporting of research data collection methods...
- **care and respect** for all participants in research, and for the subjects, users and beneficiaries of research, including humans, animals, the environment and cultural objects...
- **accountability** of funders, employers and researchers to collectively create a research environment in which individuals and organisations are empowered and enabled to own the research process. Those engaged with research must also ensure that individuals and organisations are held to account when behaviour falls short of the standards set by this concordat..."

Continuing to partner with and endorse companies that are complicit in human rights violations falls below the standard outlined in the Concordat as it actively ignores the effect that these partnerships have on the environment, people and wider society. Several core elements of the concordat are challenged when considering instances where the end use of research findings is not disclosed and where research is funded by companies that are not held accountable for their potential complicity in human rights violations.

Furthermore, the University's Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics stresses the need for research to comply with evolving ethical, legal, and professional standards, including new international rulings. This includes responsibility for addressing human rights issues in partnerships, which are linked to the arms trade and supply weapons to conflict zones. The code also highlights reputational damage defined as "Protection, money laundering, and working or co-partnering with countries that have human rights issues or less rigorous research ethics standards" which is direct contradiction with

¹⁹⁶ Universities UK. "The Concordat to Support Research Integrity." August 2021.
<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/sites/default/files/field/downloads/2021-08/Updated%20FINAL-the-concordat-to-support-research-integrity.pdf>. P. 6



the partnerships to Israeli institutions that have ties to the Israeli military with numerous reports of human rights violations against the Palestinian people. UN rulings warn that companies continuing business with Israel risk complicity in human rights violations.¹⁹⁷ By maintaining ties with such companies, the University contradicts its own ethical values of integrity, accountability, and fairness. Through partnerships with companies like BAE Systems and other known arms manufacturers, the University sends the message that they do not consider the impact that these companies have on the wider society, namely their direct involvement in ongoing apartheid, occupation and genocide against the Palestinian people.

Conducting research in partnership with companies that are in clear violation of human rights through their aid to the Israeli military showcases that the University is not committed to their own principles and policies of “ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards”¹⁹⁸.

The Research Ethics Committee (REC) is tasked with protecting the dignity and welfare of human participants, and this should extend to the ethical implications of the University's partnerships.¹⁹⁹ Additionally, as the University Research Integrity and Research Ethics Committee (URIEC) reviews the Code to align with new legal obligations, the University should sever ties with arms-trade companies involved in conflicts like Gaza, ensuring that its actions reflect its ethical and legal responsibilities²⁰⁰.

5.2. Defining Ethical Partnership

To effectively identify ethical research partnerships, we propose a refined framework that aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and incorporates the principles of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Our Criteria for Ethical Research Partnerships include the following:

1. Alignment with Values, Policies, and Ethics:

Partnerships must reflect the core values of the University and uphold ethical standards. Misalignment or lack of due diligence can lead to complicity in unethical practices.

As a public research university, the UoN has an obligation to adhere to their established policies. Violating these policies can lead to legal repercussions, damage to the university's reputation, and a loss of trust among stakeholders, including students, faculty, and the wider community.

¹⁹⁷ United Nations, “UN experts warn international order on a knife’s edge, urge States to comply with ICJ Advisory Opinion”, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2024/09/un-experts-warn-international-order-knives-edge-urge-states-comply-icj-advisory>

¹⁹⁸ Universities UK. "The Concordat to Support Research Integrity." August 2021. <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/sites/default/files/field/downloads/2021-08/Updated%20FINAL-the-concordat-to-support-research-integrity.pdf>.

¹⁹⁹ University of Nottingham. "Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics." Version 9.0. March 27, 2023. Pg12 <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/documents/ethics-and-integrity/code-of-research-conduct-and-research-ethics-v9.0-27-march-2023.pdf>.

²⁰⁰ University of Nottingham. "Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics." Version 9.0. March 27, 2023. Pg12 <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/documents/ethics-and-integrity/code-of-research-conduct-and-research-ethics-v9.0-27-march-2023.pdf>



Furthermore, public universities are often subject to state regulations and oversight, which further enforces the need to follow their policies.

2. Legal Compliance:

Partnerships must adhere to both domestic and international legal standards. This includes the legal implications of operating in conflict-affected areas, where partnerships could contribute to gross human rights abuses.

Note that universities, regardless of whether they are created as statutory bodies, charities, or otherwise, are business enterprises for the purposes of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Therefore, Universities have the corporate responsibility to respect and uphold human rights.

Some operating environments, such as conflict-affected areas, may increase the risks of enterprises being complicit in gross human rights abuses committed by other actors (security forces, for example). Business enterprises should treat this risk as a legal compliance issue, given the expanding web of potential corporate legal liability arising from extraterritorial civil claims, and from the incorporation of the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in jurisdictions that provide for corporate criminal responsibility. In addition, corporate directors, officers and employees may be subject to individual liability for acts that amount to gross human rights abuses.²⁰¹

3. Transparency:

A lack of transparency in partnership agreements can conceal unethical practices and potential human rights violations. In order to uphold their own values, we recommend the University be transparent with their partnerships and publicly disclose its active partnerships, especially with companies in the engineering, manufacturing and aerospace department that are at higher risk of having links with the arms trade.

4. Impact of policy:

For example, a report highlights that universities are not effectively reviewing ethical considerations in research funding. As stated by the Cambridge UCU, *"The University should revise processes of ethical review for research funding to include assessment of risks of complicity in violations of international humanitarian law."*²⁰² This gap allows partnerships that facilitate complicity in war crimes, violations of international law and uphold illegal occupation. Furthermore, these weak policies inadvertently support militarisation by promoting arms manufacturers as viable career paths, funnelling students into these careers while obscuring both the moral and legal intricacies, an indirect affront to their duty of care.²⁰³

²⁰¹ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*.

²⁰² University and College Union Cambridge, "Campaigning for Boycott and Divestment in Solidarity with Palestine: An Update," UCU Cambridge, accessed October 10, 2024, <https://www.ucu.cam.ac.uk/campaigning-for-boycott-and-divestment-in-solidarity-with-palestine-an-update/>.

²⁰³ Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT). "Clean Investment." Accessed October 12, 2024. <https://caatunis.net/campaigns/clean-investment/>.



Through the UoN's promotion of companies with direct links to the arms trade, they highlight their position on the activities carried out by these companies. This undermines their responsibility to protect stakeholders from complicity in activities such as illegal occupation and genocide. The International Court of Justice emphasises the need for private companies, including universities, to assess the human rights impact of their operations, advocating for the termination of partnerships with companies that may be violating human rights²⁰⁴

We call on the University to protect itself and key stakeholders from complicity in war crimes, international law violations and genocide by ceasing to advertise arms manufacturers and other such companies as viable career paths for UoN students, who reject the militarisation of their education.

²⁰⁴ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. "Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate the Implications of the Israeli Settlements on the Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the Palestinian People Throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem." February 7, 2013. Page 23. Accessed October 21, 2024.
https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/A-HRC-22-63_en.pdf.



5.3. Key Findings

Of the largest 50 arms manufacturers in the world²⁰⁵, UoN partners with at least 13 (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Arms revenue of University of Nottingham partners in 2022

Company Name	Arms revenue (USD \$bn)	Arms revenue as share of total revenue (%)
MBDA ²⁰⁶	4.380	99
BAE Systems ²⁰⁷	26.900	97
Leonardo ^{208,209}	12.470	83
General Dynamics ²¹⁰	28.320	72
Dassault Aviation Group ²¹¹	5.070	70
Raytheon ²¹²	39.570	59
Thales ²¹³	9.420	51
Boeing ²¹⁴	29.300	44
Rolls-Royce ²¹⁵	4.930	32
Safran ^{216,217,218}	4.200	21
Airbus ²¹⁹	12.090	20
Honeywell ²²⁰	4.630	13
General Electric ²²¹	4.410	5.2

²⁰⁵ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. "SIPRI Top 100 Arms Producing and Military Services Companies, 2022." 2023. Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2023/sipri-fact-sheets/sipri-top-100-arms-producing-and-military-services-companies-2022>.

²⁰⁶ *ibid.*

²⁰⁷ BAE Systems (2021). *BAE Systems welcomes University of Nottingham as latest strategic academic partner*. <https://www.baesystems.com/en-uk/article/bae-systems-welcomes-university-of-nottingham-as-latest-strategic-academic-partner>.

²⁰⁸ Institute for Aerospace Technology. *ORCHESTRA Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/orchestra-project/index.aspx>.

²⁰⁹ Institute for Aerospace Technology. *ASPIRE Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/cleansky/aspire-project.aspx>.

²¹⁰ ATI Project Portfolio. *Industry Partners*. <https://my.sharpccloud.com/html/#/story/9517f066-5610-4308-bf0b-4be1eace4bd4/view/ab440801-b4e2-46fb-b02b-2a4e7a6ecd3c>

²¹¹ *ibid.*

²¹² Raytheon UK. "Education Redirected." Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.raytheon.co.uk/who-we-are/responsibility-redredirected/education-redredirected>.

²¹³ Institute for Aerospace Technology (2018). *Clean Sky 10th Anniversary*.

²¹⁴ Institute for Aerospace Technology. "Institute for Aerospace Technology Industry Partners." Accessed October 21, 2024. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/partners/index.aspx>.

²¹⁵ University of Nottingham (2024). *Rolls-Royce University Technology Centres*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/utc/>.

²¹⁶ Institute for Aerospace Technology. *ORCHESTRA Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/orchestra-project/index.aspx>.

²¹⁷ University of Nottingham, "ACHIEVE Project," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/pemc/pemc-projects/achieve-project.aspx>.

²¹⁸ University of Nottingham, "INSTEP Project," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/cleansky/instep-project.aspx>.

²¹⁹ Institute for Aerospace Technology. *MARQUESS Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/cleansky/marquess-project.aspx>.

²²⁰ ATI Project Portfolio. *Industry Partners*. <https://my.sharpccloud.com/html/#/story/9517f066-5610-4308-bf0b-4be1eace4bd4/view/ab440801-b4e2-46fb-b02b-2a4e7a6ecd3c>

²²¹ *Ibid.*



Note: references 206 to 221 provide evidence of the University of Nottingham's partnerships with these companies.

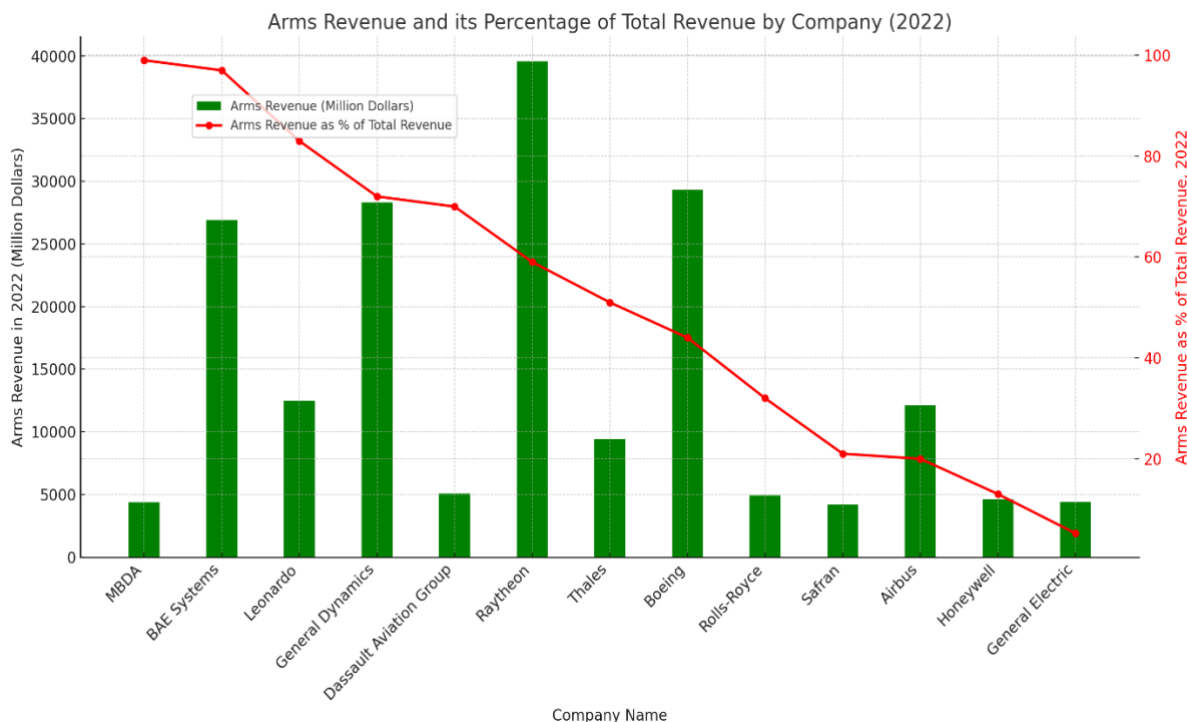


Figure 4 UoN partners per arms revenue in 2022

Many of these partnerships are advertised as 'green' initiatives working to take climate action and achieve net zero goals. The Clean Sky programme, funded by the European Commission, is an EU initiative focused on developing innovative technologies to reduce aircraft emissions and noise. In theory, it supports R&D to create more efficient, eco-friendly aviation technologies. UoN delivered 25 Clean Sky projects, worth a total of €49m, delivering to partners including: Airbus, Leonardo, Rolls-Royce, Safran, and Siemens²²². It was the only European University to be an Associate Partner in the initial €1.6bn programme, and now it is a core research partner on the €4bn Clean Sky 2 programme, delivering 21 projects worth a total of €42m²²³. The end users of UoN's research are named: Rolls-Royce (25%), Airbus (21%), Leonardo (16%), Safran (14%), Dassault (11%), Liebherr (7%) and Thales (6%).²²⁴ Excluding Liebherr, this makes 93% of UoN's €42m contribution to the Clean Sky initiative a *direct* contribution to defence contractors. Several of these companies have been warned by the June 2024 UN report to stop exporting arms to Israel as they risk being responsible for serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian laws.²²⁵

The University's Career Service website advertises several defence contractors, weapons manufacturers, and other military companies, including Rolls-Royce, BAE Systems, Atomic Weapons Establishment, MBDA, Safran, Honeywell Malaysia, Smiths Detection, Eurofighter fighter aircraft GmbH, Boneham and Turner LTD, Chelton, Goodrich Control Systems, Precision Castparts Corporation, and Rapiscan Systems. Additionally, at the October 2023 Engineering, Science and

²²² Institute for Aerospace Technology. *Clean Sky*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/cleansky/index.aspx>

²²³ Ibid., 212

²²⁴ Ibid., 212

²²⁵ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, "States and Companies Must End Arms Transfers."

Technology Careers Fair, 10 defence contractors were in attendance, including: GE Aerospace UK, DSTL (Defence Science and Technology Laboratory), Collins Aerospace, Frazer-Nash Consultancy, Airbus, Leonardo, Kratos Defense, MBDA, Sellafield Ltd and Thales.

The 2024 Engineering and Science Fair also included several companies linked with the arms trade and other unethical practices. Defence contractors included GE Aerospace UK, Collins Aerospace, Frazer-Nash Consultancy, Airbus, Kratos Defense and Sellafield Ltd ²²⁶. There were also Airbus and JCB which have links with the arms trade. Other honourable mentions include Nestlé which has extensive links with unethical practices and controversies and has been a target of multiple boycott campaigns.²²⁷ The presence of arms manufacturing companies such as Airbus also raises significant ethical concerns. Collaborating with companies that have defence contracts suggests a tacit endorsement of the arms industry, often associated with conflict and human rights violations. These connections undermine the university's commitment to social responsibility and sustainability, prompting critical discussions about the moral implications of supporting industries that contribute to violence and warfare.

The University also advertises career opportunities with companies complicit in upholding Israel's war crimes and illegal occupation of Palestine, such as Caterpillar, which manufactures the D9 armoured bulldozer used for the mass demolition of Palestinian homes²²⁸, and Barclays, which holds £2.524bn in in arms and tech companies equipping the Israeli military and has been actively supporting the genocide²²⁹. Both companies attended the 2024 Engineering and Science Careers fair.²³⁰

Ultimately, with regards to the University's interests in tackling global challenges²³¹, it is unproductive, unsustainable and inconsistent to prioritise Climate Action at the expense of other Sustainable Development Goals, such as Peace, Justice, Zero Hunger, and Clean Water and Sanitation. While the UoN may publicly champion its commitment to addressing climate change through initiatives like reducing emissions and promoting renewable energy, this singular focus can mask deeper contradictions in its overall approach to global challenges. If the university fails to align its investments, partnerships, and broader institutional policies with the full spectrum of SDGs, it risks being accused of greenwashing. Greenwashing, in this context, would refer to the practice of emphasising climate action but ignoring other critical areas of social responsibility, thus creating a misleading image of comprehensive commitment to sustainability.

Moreover, the university's focus on climate action might involve symbolic or surface-level initiatives that generate positive publicity but do little to address the root causes of climate change or other interconnected global issues. Involvement in environmental campaigns while continuing to engage in practices that undermine Peace, Justice, and strong institutions—such as partnering with companies known for human rights violations or environmental degradation in other parts of the world undermines the University's initiatives. To have a holistic approach to meeting their SDG's the University must steer

²²⁶ University of Nottingham, "Engineering and Science Careers Fair,"

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/students/events/careerfairs/engscitech-fair.aspx>.

²²⁷ Ethical Consumer, "Nestlé S.A.," <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/company-profile/nestle-sa>.

²²⁸ Who Profits, "Caterpillar," <https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/company/3772?caterpillar>.

²²⁹ Palestine Campaign, *Barclays: Arming Israel's Apartheid and Genocide* (2024), <https://palestinecampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/Barclays-report-May-2024-v3-FINAL.pdf>.

²³⁰ The University of Nottingham, "Engineering, Science and Technology Careers Fair," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/students/events/careerfairs/engscitech-fair.aspx>.

²³¹ University of Nottingham, "University of Nottingham Ranked Among World's Top Higher Education Institutions Tackling Global Challenges," 2024, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/the-impact-rankings>.



clear of companies complicit in weapons manufacturing, apartheid regimes, and war crimes. The UN has now expressly concluded that Israel has “committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of IHL and IHRL” since 7 October²³², meaning any companies that provide weapons and resources to Israel may also be held responsible for these crimes. It is critical that the UoN takes urgent steps towards phasing such partnerships out and developing long-term solutions which uphold University values and democracy, sustainable development goals and international law to the highest standard.

In 2023, The UoN claimed to have divested from all fossil fuel investment and cut emissions by over 36%.²³³ Through its exclusive emphasis of their efforts to cut ties with fossil fuels, the University diverts attention from ethically questionable relationships with arms companies, creating a misleading image of social responsibility. Such partnerships, especially with companies linked to the arms industry which have been highlighted to be at risk of complicity in human rights violations²³⁴, conflict with the University’s ethical values and raise concerns about the integrity of its sustainability efforts.

²³² United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and Israel (A/HRC/56/26) (2024), 18, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session56/a-hrc-56-26-auv.docx>.

²³³ University of Nottingham, “Strategic Review and Financial Statements,” (2023), <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/FABS/Finance/documents/Financialstatements/Strategic-review-and-financial-statements-2023-University-of-Nottingham.pdf>.

²³⁴ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, “States and Companies”



5.4. Individual Case Studies

The UoN has received considerable funding in the past years (2017-2021) for research funding, industrial consultancy fees, and industrial research fees from BAE systems, Rolls Royce and the Ministry of Defence.²³⁵

Financial Year	BAE systems	Rolls Royce	MOD
2017	£388,000.00	£6,262,289.82	£0.00
2018	£101,556.00	£1,401,824.00	£0.00
2019	£344,518.61	£2,157,244.94	£0.00
2020	£207,668.32	£1,896,513.96	£1,051,025.04
2021	£147,655.94	£428,176.53	£147,134.07

Table 3 Total value of Awards per Financial Year

The following outlines some of the companies that the UoN has partnerships with and the projects they have taken on and the links these companies have with the arms trade and the Israeli military:

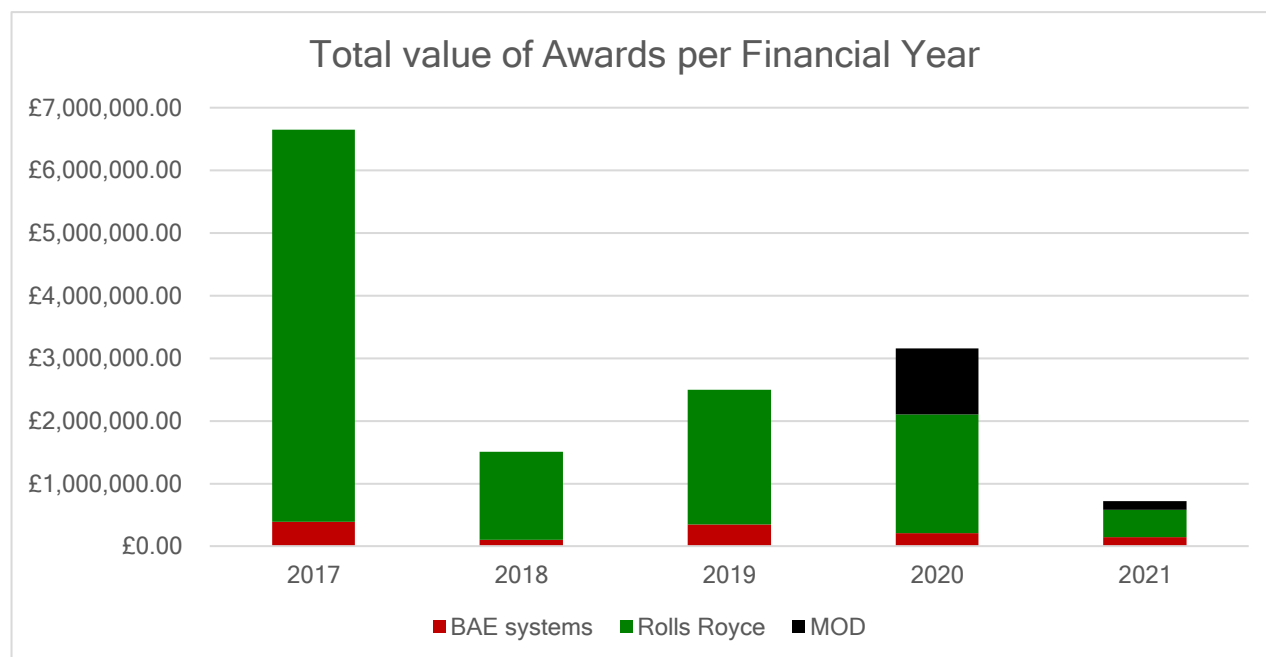


Figure 5 Total value of Awards per Financial Year

²³⁵ University of Nottingham, "Freedom of Information Request," Reference: 1090653 (2022).

5.4.1 BAE Systems

BAE Systems is the world's 6th largest arms manufacturer²³⁶. It provides the Israeli military with M109 155mm Howitzer shells, some of which are white phosphorus bombs²³⁷. It also manufactures components for Israel's F-15, F-16 and F-35 fighter jets²³⁸. Note that the indiscriminate use of heavy weaponry and the use of white phosphorus in densely populated regions like Gaza constitutes a war crime²³⁹. At least 15 percent of the value of each US-made F-35 combat aircraft is produced by the UK, according to research by the UK-based Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)²⁴⁰.

UoN's Institute for Advanced Manufacturing commits to helping the UK's defence industry "compete in this global market and maintain a sovereign strategic production capability". Collaborating with BAE Systems at its Warton site, the University's research team is working on an Integrated Autonomous Assembly Demonstrator to sponsor "the cost-effective production of aircraft in single assembly stations". This project is designed to support the development of BAE Systems' Tempest Future Combat Air System, a sixth-generation fighter jet due to be completed by 2035²⁴¹

The UoN collaborated with BAE Systems on the 5-year FLAVIIR (Flapless Air Vehicle Integrated Industrial Research) programme, which aimed to advance the development of autonomous, flapless unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The project focused on designing innovative wing technologies, using sensors and fluidic controls to replace traditional mechanical systems for manoeuvring^{242,243}. This programme contributed to making the DEMON.

The defence contractor, BAE Systems, confirm that they are "leveraging relationships with leading universities" including UoN in the Tempest programme, suggesting that these collaborations "will contribute to improving the human capital and capabilities of academic institutes and attract further investment into academia".²⁴⁴ The fact that BAE specifically commended the UoN for its "world-class Industry 4.0 knowledge and research capabilities [which] can be applied to other areas of our business"

²³⁶ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. "SIPRI Top 100 Arms Producing and Military Services Companies in the World."

²³⁷ Evidence Lab, *Israel/OPT: Identifying the Israeli Army's Use of White Phosphorus in Gaza* (2023), <https://citizenevidence.org/2023/10/13/israel-opt-identifying-the-israeli-armys-use-of-white-phosphorus-in-gaza/>.

²³⁸ AFSC Investigate, "BAE Systems PLC," <https://investigate.info/company/bae-systems>.

²³⁹ Human Rights Watch, "Israel: White Phosphorus Used in Gaza, Lebanon," 2023, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/12/israel-white-phosphorus-used-gaza-lebanon>.

²⁴⁰ Al Jazeera, "What Does the UK's Partial Stop on Arms Exports to Israel Really Mean?" September 3, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/3/what-does-the-uks-partial-stop-on-arms-exports-to-israel-really-mean>.

²⁴¹ University of Nottingham, "Radical Approach to Aircraft Assembly," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/engineering/research/impact/research-impact-success-stories/evolvable-assembly-systems.aspx>.

²⁴² Flaviir, archived July 11, 2011, <https://web.archive.org/web/20110711005454/http://www.flaviir.com/home.htm>.

²⁴³ The Engineer, "FLAVIIR Project Trials New Forms of Wing Command," accessed May 20, 2024, <https://www.theengineer.co.uk/content/in-depth/flaviir-project-trials-new-forms-of-wing-command/>.

²⁴⁴ PwC, *Assessment of the Expected Economic Impact of the Tempest Programme (2021-2050)* (2021), 44, <https://www.baesystems.com/en-media/uploadFile/20210524211439/1434666035128.pdf>.



is particularly concerning to the students of the University, who have been strongly opposed to this partnership since the outset, as reflected in the passing of the 'Ban BAE' motion in 2022.^{245,246}

5.4.2 Rolls-Royce

Rolls-Royce manufactures multiple parts for F-35 jets that Israel has used in its onslaught in Gaza²⁴⁷. It also manufactures MT883 engines for the Israeli Merkava 4 and 5 tanks, and 6V980 engines for the Israeli Eitan Armored Fighting Vehicle²⁴⁸. The Merkava battle tanks were used to carry out the attacks which decimated both the Shifa Hospital and the Indonesian Hospital in late 2023^{249,250}. Note that hospitals are protected spaces under international humanitarian law, and attacks on hospitals constitute war crimes²⁵¹.

Nonetheless, the UoN prides itself on its "technical discoveries and innovations" which "have been both very satisfying and valuable to Rolls-Royce", and has maintained a partnership with Rolls-Royce for over 25 years, even hosting the defence contractor at two University Technology Centres^{252 253}. In April 2023, the Cornerstone Prosperity Partnership, led by UoN and Rolls-Royce alongside other universities, received £13.5 million in funding for mechanical engineering initiatives in 6 areas. These advancements can – and have – been leveraged by arms manufacturers like UoN's industrial partner, Rolls-Royce. Rolls-Royce also sponsors Aerospace PhD students at UoN, paying over £19,237 per year per student²⁵⁴.

The Rolls-Royce University Technology Centre (UTC), which is hosted by UoN's Mechanical and Aerospace Systems Research Group, has been developing robots to maintain and repair wing engines, thereby "improving operational efficiency for Rolls-Royce and minimising disruption for air passengers"^{255, 256}

²⁴⁵ BAE Systems, "BAE Systems Welcomes University of Nottingham as Latest Strategic Academic Partner," 2021, <https://www.baesystems.com/en-uk/article/bae-systems-welcomes-university-of-nottingham-as-latest-strategic-academic-partner>.

²⁴⁶ University of Nottingham Students' Union, *The Gaza-Israel Conflict and On-Campus Tensions: A University of Nottingham Response* (2024), 21, https://assets-cdn.sums.su/NT/Web-Design/The_Gaza-Israel_Conflict_and_on-Campus_Tensions_-_A_University_of_Nottingham_Response.pdf.

²⁴⁷ Rolls-Royce plc, "Rolls-Royce LiftSystem," <https://www.rolls-royce.com/products-and-services/defence/aerospace/combat-jets/rolls-royce-liftsystem.aspx>.

²⁴⁸ AFSC Investigate, "Rolls-Royce Holdings Plc," <https://investigate.info/company/rolls-royce-hldgs>.

²⁴⁹ Al Jazeera, "Israeli Tanks Besiege Gaza's Indonesian Hospital," 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/20/israeli-tanks-surround-gazas-indonesian-hospital-after-killing-12-people>.

²⁵⁰ Reuters, "Israeli Tanks Outside Gaza Hospital, Biden Hopes for 'Less Intrusive' Action," 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/largest-gaza-hospital-not-functioning-amid-israeli-assault-2023-11-12/>.

²⁵¹ International Humanitarian Law Databases. "Rule 28. Medical Units," <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule28>.

²⁵² University of Nottingham, "Rolls-Royce University Technology Centres," 2024, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/utc/>.

²⁵³ University of Nottingham, "News - Multi-Million-Pound Partnership Celebrates Taking Aerospace Industry to New Heights," 2023, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/multi-million-pound-partnership-celebrates-taking-aerospace-industry-to-new-heights>.

²⁵⁴ Jobs.ac.uk, "PhD Studentship: Rolls-Royce Sponsored PhD Scholarship - Laser Beam Processing of Aerospace Materials," 2024, <https://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/DFX267/phd-studentship-rolls-royce-sponsored-phd-scholarship-laser-beam-processing-of-aerospace-materials/>.

²⁵⁵ University of Nottingham, "Engineering Impact," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/engineering/documents/research/research-impact/robots.pdf>.

²⁵⁶ Boeing, "Investors Overview," <https://investors.boeing.com/investors/overview/default.aspx>.



5.4.3 Boeing

In 2022, Boeing was the world's 4th largest defence contractor²⁵⁷. In 2023, Boeing's Defence, Space & Security segment generated \$24.933 billion in revenue. This represented an 8% increase from the previous year, 2022, where the revenue was \$23.162 billion. It directly supplies Israel with JDAMs, Apache AH-64 attack helicopters, F-15 fighter jets, and missiles used to execute the current assault on Gaza²⁵⁸.

The UoN has neglected Boeing's -and by extension its own- complicity in warfare and mass destruction. Having worked with Boeing since 2006, UoN established a strategic research collaboration with them, benefitting from an investment regime where Boeing provide \$1m per annum to fund research on the recycling of carbon fibre composites²⁵⁹. In November 2023, Aerospace Engineering students from the UoN Ningbo China partook in the Boeing Global Education Outreach program. According to the trip leader, they will continue visiting "both Boeing campuses and other industrial partners regularly to further enhance university-industry engagement"²⁶⁰.

5.4.4 Leonardo

Leonardo is in partnership with the UoN through their collaboration in the ASPIRE project²⁶¹. However, the UoN is not the only institution Leonardo are collaborating with as they have also announced a joint partnership with established Israeli higher education institutions: Israeli Innovation Authority and Ramot Tel Aviv University. The partnership between Leonardo and the Israeli education institutions focuses on developing start-ups in defence and cybersecurity. These collaborations seek to leverage Israel's advanced military technology ecosystem, which has been pivotal in ongoing conflicts.²⁶²

Furthermore, it was reported that on the 12th of January 2024, Pope Francis rejected a €1.5 million donation from Leonardo to the Bambin Gesù Children's Hospital in Rome. The Pope's decision aligns with his peace advocacy, as Leonardo is the largest arms producer in the EU, generating 83% of its revenue from defence contracts. Although the company claims its weapons are not used in active conflicts, the arms watchdog *The Weapon Watch* refuted this, revealing that Leonardo's systems, including Oto Melara naval guns and other military equipment, have been used by the Israeli military in operations in Gaza²⁶³.

²⁵⁷ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. "SIPRI Top 100 Arms Producing and Military Services Companies in the World."

²⁵⁸ Who Profits, "The Companies Supplying Weapons to Israel's Attack on Gaza," last modified June 2024, https://www.whoprofits.org/publications/report/170?the-companies-supplying-weapons-to-israel-s-attack-on-gaza#_ftn9.

²⁵⁹ University of Nottingham, "Composites Research Group," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/composites-research-group/research/recycling-of-composites/boeing-nottingham-strategic-collaboration.aspx>.

²⁶⁰ University of Nottingham Ningbo China, "UNNC Aerospace Engineering Students Visited Boeing Shanghai Campus," 2023, <https://www.nottingham.edu.cn/en/science-engineering/news/article.aspx?id=2347677d-2585-4c81-a965-1a65a7845c5a&language=en-GB>.

²⁶¹ University of Nottingham, "Aspire Project," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/cleansky/aspire-project.aspx>.

²⁶² Leonardo, "Leonardo Established Two Partnerships in Israel to Foster the Development of Start-Ups," February 3, 2023, <https://www.leonardo.com/en/news-and-stories-detail/-/detail/leonardo-sole24ore-startup-partnership-israel>.

²⁶³ Atlas of Wars, "Leonardo: Italy's State-Owned Company Involved in Gaza Conflict," accessed October 18, 2024, <https://www.atlasofwars.com/leonardo-italys-state-owned-company-involved-in-gaza-conflict/>.



These ties raise significant ethical concerns, especially given the humanitarian crises in Gaza, where the use of a full blockade and besiegement of areas in Gaza has inflicted severe suffering on civilians. Engaging in such partnerships may further entrench the cycle of violence and contribute to ongoing human rights violations. Thus, the UoN's compliance with Leonardo helps the innovation of technologies which contributes to the destruction caused by Israel.

5.4.5 Safran

The UoN has several collaborations with Safran, a French defence company through projects such as ORCHESTRA and INSTEP^{264,265}. The company has collaborated with Israel's leading arms manufacturer, Elbit Systems, through joint ventures such as the development of tactical drones. Additionally, Safran has supplied critical electronic components for Israel's Arrow 3 anti-missile system, which plays a role in the Israeli military's operations.²⁶⁶ Other collaborations include Israel's use of Rafael's FIRE WEAVER in conjunction with Safran's MOSKITO TI system to arm the Israeli military²⁶⁷. These defence systems and technologies are used by the Israeli army in its ongoing military offensives, including the current attacks on Gaza, which have resulted in thousands of Palestinian civilian deaths. Safran's continued arms sales and support for Israel's military infrastructure contribute to the violence and destruction in Gaza, reinforcing accusations of genocide.

²⁶⁴ University of Nottingham, "ORCHESTRA Project," accessed October 18, 2024, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/orchestra-project/index.aspx>.

²⁶⁵ University of Nottingham, "INSTEP Project."

²⁶⁶ Anadolu Agency, "Activists Protest French Company Safran's Arms Sales to Israel," March 11, 2024. Accessed October 17, 2024. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/activists-protest-french-company-safrans-arms-sales-to-israel/3161874>.

²⁶⁷ Safran Group, "Rafael and Safran Team Up on FIRE WEAVER and MOSKITO TI Targeting Solution," September 9, 2021, accessed October 17, 2024, <https://www.safran-group.com/pressroom/rafael-and-safran-team-fire-weaver-and-moskito-ti-targeting-solution-2021-09-09>.



5.5.6 Other Notable Partners

The Midlands Centre for Data-Driven Metrology (MCDDM) was a project set up by UoN amongst other universities to aid “high-value manufacturing companies seeking to incorporate Industry 4.0 within their operations”²⁶⁸. One MCDDM’s key partners is Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence²⁶⁹, which relies on MCDDM’s research to enhance its metrology-assisted precision capacities²⁷⁰. It then leverages these findings to improve its manufacture of arms and military vehicles: “From military ground vehicles, aircraft and naval vessels to communications and electronic equipment and beyond, defence contractors face a huge challenge to meet global demand. See how Hexagon’s smart manufacturing solutions are helping defence manufacturers deliver military equipment on time and within budget”²⁷¹. Hexagon, the parent company of Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence, reported approximately €5.4 billion in net sales revenue in 2023²⁷².

The UoN has entered partnerships with companies that have ties to the arms trade, raising serious concerns about ethical practices and complicity in human rights violations. These collaborations include associations with companies linked to the Israeli military, which has been accused of committing violations of international law²⁷³. Such partnerships not only conflict with the University’s stated values but also risk compromising its commitment to social responsibility and ethical research. Many of its current partnerships are not in alignment with the University values, international law and produce research and technology that can and has been used to aid the Israeli army in their crimes against the Palestinian people.

²⁶⁸ University of Nottingham, “Midlands Centre for Data-Driven Metrology,” 2022,

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/beacons-of-excellence/smart-products/projects/mcddm/index.aspx>.

²⁶⁹ Midlands Centre for Data-Driven Metrology, “Founding Partners of the Midlands Centre for Data-Driven Metrology,” <https://www.mcddm.ac.uk/partners/founding-partners.aspx>.

²⁷⁰ Sergio Catalucci, Andrew Thompson, James Eastwood, Zhongyi Michael Zhang, Daniel T. Branson, Richard Leach, and Stefano Piano, “Smart Optical Coordinate and Surface Metrology,” *Measurement Science & Technology* 34, no. 1 (2022): 012001, <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6501/ac9544>.

²⁷¹ Hexagon, “Solutions for the Defence Industry,” <https://hexagon.com/industries/defence>.

²⁷² Hexagon, “Hexagon Year-End Report 1 January-31 December 2023,” 2024, <https://hexagon.com/company/newsroom/press-releases/2024/hexagon-year-end-report-1-january---31-december-2023>.

²⁷³ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, “Israeli Authorities and Palestinian Armed Groups Are Responsible for War Crimes.”



6. ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

6.1. Policy & Academic Freedom

At the UoN, the interplay between policy, research ethics, and academic freedom is central to fostering a scholarly environment conducive to innovation and inquiry. The university's commitment to academic freedom is underscored by its adherence to ethical guidelines that ensure research integrity and the responsible conduct of academic activities.

According to the UoN's Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics, ethical considerations are paramount in upholding the integrity of research practices. The code has been created to maintain *"the highest standards of integrity, rigour and excellence in all aspects of our research and for all research to be conducted according to the appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks and standards."*²⁷⁴

The Code lays out the key principles of ethical research, including the idea that this research must maximise benefit, minimise harm, respect autonomy, have fairness and accountability, and operate with integrity and transparency. Moreover, the Code also stipulates that ethical implications in consideration need to include anyone involved in, or impacted by the research, and the environment. The following section elucidates how, through its current academic partnerships with Israel, the University may in particular be in violation of its key principle of minimising harm. Additionally, in continuing to partner with arms companies, the University fails to take into adequate consideration of the human and environmental impacts of said research.

6.2. Upholding International Norms & Law

Universities have historically been at the forefront of divestment campaigns, acting as moral and intellectual leaders in global social justice movements. These institutions therefore have a moral obligation to uphold international ethical norms.

The University rightly pledged to cut ties with Russian Universities and institutions in the wake of Russia's 2022 attack on Ukraine. The University released a public statement highlighting this along with a statement of support for Ukrainian students.²⁷⁵ This highlighted their position on unlawful invasions and their stance regarding war. We are calling on the University to take initiative in the same, fundamental interests of "human rights, democracy and international law" and terminate all active agreements with Israeli universities and institutions²⁷⁶.

Despite numerous international organisations highlighting the situation in Palestine along with the student body urging them to divest from complicit companies and institutions, the UoN has made no public commitments to divesting from companies or institutions that operate in Israel or profit off the

²⁷⁴ University of Nottingham, Department of Sociology, "Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics," accessed October 18, 2024, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/sociology/documents/ethics-documents/code-of-research-conduct-and-research-ethics.pdf>.

²⁷⁵ University of Nottingham, "Statement of Support for Ukraine," last modified March 1, 2022, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/currentstudents/news/ukraine-statement-of-support>.

²⁷⁶ University of Nottingham, "Support for Ukraine – University to End All Formal Links with Russia."



ongoing attacks. They have provided inadequate support and have not shown any commitment to communicating with their own students regarding the situation.

When universities do not live up to international norms or fail to divest from controversial industries, they may face serious consequences including reputational damage which can impact student enrolment, future partnerships and funding opportunities. One example is Cambridge University, which came under fire for years over its investments in fossil fuels.²⁷⁷ Students and staff organised protests and accused the university of greenwashing—claiming it was promoting sustainability while still backing oil and gas companies. The pressure built up, and while Cambridge eventually agreed to divest in 2020, the delay hurt its reputation.²⁷⁸ The University of Edinburgh also faced protests for its investments in fossil fuel companies. The university ignored contestations of its investments for a while, until sustained pressure forced it to announce full divestment in 2018.²⁷⁹ Before that decision, it had taken a hit to its credibility as a leader in environmental research.

At an international level, Harvard University took a long time to divest from companies involved in South African apartheid back in the 1980s, and more recently, from fossil fuel investments²⁸⁰. Protests, negative press, and high-profile campaigns put the university under scrutiny. When they finally announced they would divest from fossil fuels in 2021, many felt the decision was long overdue, and the delay had already tarnished their standing.²⁸¹

With the increasing number of people seeing universities as a waste of time it is crucial that universities listen to their student body²⁸². Reputational damage can not only impact public perceptions of the university but can influence the partnerships that they get in the future. We recommend that the UoN takes the necessary steps to ensure that they do not suffer anymore reputational damage and divest from the arms companies along with divesting from funds and companies that are at risk of complicity in human rights violations.

²⁷⁷ Paul Harris, “Cambridge Must Divest from Fossil Fuels – It’s the Least It Can Do in a Climate Emergency,” *The Guardian*, October 2, 2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/02/cambridge-fossil-fuels-divestment-fossil-fuels-climate-emergency>.

²⁷⁸ Laura Hughes, “Cambridge University Announces Plans to Divest from Fossil Fuels,” *BBC News*, September 24, 2020, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-54373774>.

²⁷⁹ University of Edinburgh, “Responsible Investment: Fossil Fuels Q&A,” accessed October 17, 2024, <https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/operations/responsible-investment/fossil-fuels/q-and-a>.

²⁸⁰ Emma Fitzsimmons, “Harvard Endowment to Go Greenhouse Gas Neutral by 2050,” *Harvard Gazette*, April 21, 2020, <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/04/harvard-endowment-to-go-greenhouse-gas-neutral-by-2050/>.

²⁸¹ Matt Kornfeld, “Harvard Students Push for Divestment from Fossil Fuels,” *The New York Times*, September 10, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/10/us/harvard-divestment-fossil-fuels.html>.

²⁸² Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI), “Public Attitudes to Higher Education: What Does the Evidence Tell Us?” March 30, 2023, <https://www.hepi.ac.uk/2023/03/30/public-attitudes-to-higher-education-what-does-the-evidence-tell-us/>.



6.3. Academic Partners in Israel

Unlike the stance that the University took when Russia invaded Ukraine, the University has not made any public commitment to cut ties with any Israeli institutions despite the ongoing calls to boycott Israeli academic institutions such as Technion, the Israel Institution of Technology²⁸³.

In total, we found that the UoN maintains collaborations with over half of Israel's universities (six of ten), reflecting a significant level of international academic engagement. The University has a long history of supporting Israel and Israeli institutions through collaborations and partnerships, and simultaneously repressing Pro-Palestinian voices through claims of "extremism"²⁸⁴. Despite calls to boycott the apartheid regime and their institutions, the University has continued to collaborate with them.

6.3.1 BIRAX: Technion and the Hebrew University

The UoN has received funding from Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange (BIRAX) on several occasions. In 2013, BIRAX funded UoN's collaboration with the Hebrew University Medical Centre on regenerative cell therapy research for Parkinson's disease²⁸⁵. In 2015, BIRAX also funded a pacemaker research project between UoN and Technion²⁸⁶. To partner with an institution operating within an apartheid regime, which necessarily deprives Palestinians of the benefits of this research, is deeply unethical and stands diametrically opposed to our university's values of openness and inclusivity. The partnership between UoN and Technion, which may facilitate research activities or other forms of academic cooperation, remains active²⁸⁷. This is in spite of evidence that Technion has developed unmanned vehicles for the purposes of illegal Palestinian house demolitions by the Israeli military²⁸⁸. Below is an extensive list of Israeli institutions with which The UoN has collaborated.

²⁸³ Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement. "Boycott Technion Conference." <https://bdsmovement.net/boycott-technion-conference>.

²⁸⁴ John Sweeney, "Nottingham University Filmed Students in Secret," *The Guardian*, June 11, 2011, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2011/jun/11/nottingham-university-secret-films-students>.

²⁸⁵ British Council, "Borax Ageing," 2023, https://www.britishcouncil.org.il/sites/default/files/birax_brochure_2023_version_2.pdf.

²⁸⁶ University of Nottingham, "Pacemakers of the Future," 2015, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/vision/vision-pacemakers-future>.

²⁸⁷ Technion, "AGREEMENTS - Technion International," <https://int.technion.ac.il/agreements/>.

²⁸⁸ European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine (ECCP), "EU Funding to Israeli Military Companies and Institutions Through Horizon 2020," 2015, <https://www.eccpalestine.org/eu-funding-to-israeli-military-companies-and-institutions-through-horizon2020/>.



6.3.2 Tel Aviv University (TAU)

Former Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research at UoN, Saul Tendler, participated in a long-term scientific collaboration with Professor Ehud Gazit from TAU. When interviewed, Tendler commented on the matter of academic boycotts, stating:

"In reality, talks of boycotts are baseless; there may be academics here and there who choose not to work with Israel, just as there are those who refuse to work with China."²⁸⁹

Additionally, in 2017, UoN Professor Daniele Nosenzo hosted a psychology, sociology, and economics seminar at TAU. Currently, UoN's Centre for Decision Research and Experimental Economics (CeDEx) is hosting Dr. Ori Weisel, an external fellow from TAU²⁹⁰.

6.3.3 University of Haifa

UoN has produced a total of 40 research outputs in collaboration with the University of Haifa²⁹¹. Furthermore, the UoN Ningbo China (UNNC) has contributed two research outputs with Haifa²⁹².

6.3.4 Weizmann Institute & Weizmann Institute of Science

UoN's Dynamic Nuclear Polarization (DNP) Magic Angle Spinning (MAS) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Facility collaborates with the DNP research groups led by Shimon Vega and Michal Leskes, both from the Weizmann Institute of Science^{293,294,295}.

6.3.5 Ben-Gurion University

UoN and Ben-Gurion University have produced a total of 66 shared research outputs²⁹⁶. Additionally, two academics from Ben-Gurion, Ro'i Zultan (2014) and Ofer H. Azar (2017), have been invited by CeDEx to host events on UoN's campus^{297,298}.

²⁸⁹ Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, "Technion to Celebrate 100th Anniversary of Israel's First Graduation," March 2014, <https://www.technion.ac.il/en/2014/03/>.

²⁹⁰ Tel Aviv University, Coller School of Management, "Seminar on March 21, 2017," <https://coller.tau.ac.il/events/seminar-21-3-17?gid=28>.

²⁹¹ University of Haifa, "Network Organizations," <https://cris.haifa.ac.il/en/organisations/university-of-haifa-5/network-organisations/>.

²⁹² University of Nottingham, "Network Organizations," <https://research.nottingham.edu.cn/en/organisations/school-of-international-communications/network-organisations/>.

²⁹³ University of Nottingham, "DNP Resources from Around the World," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/dnppmr/dnp-resources-from-around-the-world.aspx>.

²⁹⁴ Weizmann Institute of Science, "Vega Group," http://www.weizmann.ac.il/chemphys/Vega_group/.

²⁹⁵ Weizmann Institute of Science, "Leskes Group," <http://www.weizmann.ac.il/materials/Leskes/home>.

²⁹⁶ Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, "Network Organizations," <https://cris.bgu.ac.il/en/organisations/ben-gurion-university-of-the-negev-3/network-organisations/>.

²⁹⁷ University of Nottingham, "Zultan," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cedex/events/archive-2013/zultan.aspx>.

²⁹⁸ University of Nottingham, "Ofer Azar," <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cedex/events/2017/ofar-azar-04-10-17.aspx>.



7. KEY FINDINGS

7.1 Total Investments Overview

- As of March 31, 2023, the University's permanent endowment fund was valued at £61,789,246, and its medium-term fund was £9,238,177, totalling £71,027,423.
- In FY22-23, the University held £44,736,459 in equities (61.9% of medium-term and 63.1% of permanent endowment funds).
- By July 31, 2024, the permanent endowment fund increased to £68,752,984.72 and the medium-term fund to £9,912,540.38, totalling £78,665,525.10.
- In FY23-24, £51,852,860.52 was held in equities (64.42% of medium-term and 66.13% of permanent endowment funds).

7.2 Investments Concerns

- The University has short-term investments in funds like the Schroder Global Sustainable Growth Fund, Schroder Global Energy Transition, and HSBC ESG Liquidity Fund.
 - HSBC is the second-largest European creditor to companies operating in Israeli settlements,
 - HSBC provides \$14.2 million in loans and underwriting services from 2020-2023
 - HSBC invests \$2.65 billion in such companies.
- Schroders invested approximately \$3.54 billion in companies linked to illegal Israeli settlements.
- Historical investments by HSBC and Schroders in arms and technology companies equipping the Israeli military totalled £831.5 million and £917.6 million, respectively.

7.3 Investments in Complicit Companies

- FY22-23: £3,805,450.12 was invested in companies linked to apartheid and illegal settlements (e.g., Microsoft, Alphabet).
- FY23-24:
 - Medium Term Fund: ££ 1,911,315.51 invested in 26 complicit companies (17.65% of total).
 - Permanent Endowment Fund: ££ 14,213,364.02 in 26 complicit companies.

7.4 Ethically Incompatible Partnerships

Collaborations with arms manufacturers suggest tacit support for industries associated with conflict and human rights abuses, undermining UoN's commitment to social responsibility.

- **Partnerships with Arms Manufacturers:** The UoN collaborates with at least 13 of the world's largest arms manufacturers, including Raytheon, Boeing, General Dynamics, BAE Systems, and Airbus.
- **Green Initiatives and Clean Sky Programme:** UoN participates in the Clean Sky programme, funded by the European Commission, which focuses on developing eco-friendly aviation technologies. UoN has delivered 25 projects worth €49 million, with the majority benefiting defence contractors.
- **Financial Contributions to Defence Contractors:** Excluding one company, 93% of UoN's €42 million contribution to Clean Sky supports defence contractors, raising ethical concerns about partnerships with firms linked to human rights violations.
- **Career Services Promotion:** UoN's Career Service actively advertises opportunities with multiple military companies, including Rolls-Royce and BAE Systems, indicating a commitment to the arms industry.
- **Conflict with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** UoN's emphasis on climate action appears inconsistent with other critical SDGs, such as Peace and Justice, raising concerns about potential greenwashing.
- **Complicity in Human Rights Violations:** UoN partners with companies that support Israel's military actions, such as Caterpillar and Barclays, which are implicated in human rights violations.
- **Misleading Image of Responsibility:** Despite claims of divesting from fossil fuels, UoN's partnerships with arms manufacturers create a misleading narrative about its commitment to ethical practices.

7.5 Individual Case Studies

- **BAE Systems:** A major arms manufacturer supplying Israel with controversial munitions, including white phosphorus bombs. UoN collaborates on projects related to the Tempest Future Combat Air System, despite student opposition evidenced by the passing of the "Ban BAE" motion in 2022.
- **Rolls-Royce:** This company produces critical components for military equipment, including engines for Israeli tanks. UoN has a long-term partnership with Rolls-Royce, involving various engineering initiatives and sponsorship of PhD students.
- **Boeing:** As a leading defence contractor, Boeing supplies Israel with attack helicopters and missiles. UoN has a strategic collaboration with Boeing, which provides funding for research on carbon fibre recycling.
- **Leonardo:** Engages with UoN on the ASPIRE project while partnering with Israeli institutions for defence and cybersecurity initiatives. Leonardo's reputation is marred by ethical concerns, as highlighted by Pope Francis' rejection of their donation due to their arms production activities.
- **Safran:** Collaborates with UoN on projects that involve technology used by the Israeli military, raising ethical questions about complicity in human rights abuses.

7.6 Academic Partnerships

- **Funding from BIRAX:** UoN has received funding from Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange (BIRAX) for projects, including:
 - Collaboration with the Hebrew University Medical Centre in 2013 on regenerative cell therapy for Parkinson's disease.
 - A 2015 pacemaker research project with Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology.
- **Ethical Concerns:** Partnering with institutions in Israel, perceived as operating under an apartheid regime, raises ethical questions about inclusivity and access to research benefits for the Palestinian population.
- **Collaborations with Israeli Institutions:** UoN has partnered with several Israeli institutions, including:
 - Tel Aviv University: Notable collaborations involving former Pro-Vice Chancellor Saul Tendler and ongoing seminars hosted by UoN faculty.
 - University of Haifa: UoN has produced 40 research outputs with this institution.
 - Weizmann Institute: Collaborative work in nuclear magnetic resonance research.
 - Ben-Gurion University: A total of 66 shared research outputs, with invitations extended to Ben-Gurion academics for campus events.
- **Response to Academic Boycotts:** Despite international calls for boycotts against Israeli institutions, UoN has continued collaborations, contrasting its more decisive stance against Russian institutions after the invasion of Ukraine.



8. BEYOND CORPORATE COMPLICITY: STUDENT ACTIVISM & SUPPRESSION AT UON

Since 2008, the student movement in Nottingham has been actively campaigning on various issues, with divestment from arms companies being a key focus in recent years.²⁹⁹ Students have consistently pushed the UoN to divest from companies involved in the arms trade, particularly those supplying weapons to conflict zones. This intensified in the wake of protests related to the most recent attacks on Palestinians by Israel.

Despite the various actions taken by students demanding divestment from arms companies and protesting the University's ties to such industries, the university response was to vilify students and take legal action against them³⁰⁰. This legal battle, which unfolded during exam season, caused significant stress for the students involved, highlighting the University's failure to prioritise student well-being. This is not only in direct opposition to the University's duty of care to its students but also exemplifies their prioritisation of profit over students and ethical obligations. Despite the protests, the University has made no public commitment to support Palestine or its Palestinian students, nor has it pledged to divest from arms companies, which prompts grave concerns about its ethical responsibilities and stance on human rights issues.

The UoN claims it is committed to fostering an environment where all staff and students are free to "have an awareness and openness to diversity across cultures", "inherently exercise flexibility and emotional or cultural intelligence with strong intellectual ability", and "think and act across borders and not be bound by local constraints".³⁰¹ Despite this "Global Mindset", the University has repeatedly attempted to repress Pro-Palestinian voices by taking legal action against students, used threats of legal fees to silence student voices³⁰² and, most concerningly, alleged that the protests are antisemitic. The University has not engaged in open and constructive dialogue with the student body and avoids taking accountability for their complicity in Israeli occupation, apartheid and genocide.

One of the University's values is "Openness". However, numerous attempts by students to obtain detailed information pertaining to the University's financial ties to Israel and arms manufacturers have been met with repeated refusal by the University to disclose this information when requested by NCLP. Additionally, despite motions passed by student groups and legal rulings calling for divestment from companies linked to human rights abuses, the university has made no public commitment to support students affected by the violence in Palestine or to reconsider its controversial partnerships. This goes against the values of "Respect" and "Inclusivity" that the University claims to stand by and raises serious concerns about the University's commitment to ethical practices and student welfare.

²⁹⁹ Al Mayadeen English, "Uni of Nottingham Sides with Weapons Companies, Closes Down Palestinian Society," <https://english.almayadeen.net/articles/features/uni-of-nottingham-sides-with-weapons-companies--closes-down>.

³⁰⁰ Telegraph Reporters, "Nottingham University Wins Court Order to Remove Palestine Protestors from Campus," July 5, 2024, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/05/nottingham-university-court-order-palestine-protestors/>.

³⁰¹ University of Nottingham, "Strategic Delivery Plan for Global Engagement," 2021, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/Strategy/documents/Global-Engagement-Strategic-Delivery-Plan-vOnline.pdf>, 4.

³⁰² @nottspalestinecamp, "Threats of Legal Fees, Silencing Student Voices," Instagram, May 28, 2024, <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C7glh85CFr8/?igsh=eGV0cTRsNWh6YmZh>.



9. THE WAY FORWARD

As students at the University of Nottingham, we expect our university to act ethically with integrity and honesty. Based on the information we have presented we expect the appropriate actions to be taken in regard to disclosure of information, divestment from arms and complicit companies along with a revised framework for identifying new investments and partnerships, as well as public support for their Palestinian and all students and academics who stand up against illegal occupation, apartheid and genocide.

We highlight the following actions as needed to be taken by the UoN to be in line with their previous actions (i.e. Russia's invasion of Ukraine), their ethical policies and sustainable development goals, and their duty of care to their students and staff.

9.1 Public Statement of Support for Palestine

A public statement of support for Palestinian rights is crucial, particularly when aligned with international rulings and legal opinions regarding the ongoing occupation and genocide. Various United Nations resolutions and rulings from international courts emphasise the necessity of recognizing Palestinian self-determination and the illegality of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Such a statement not only reinforces the legal and moral obligations of states and organisations but also aligns with the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement³⁰³, which seeks to hold Israel accountable for its actions against Palestinians. By publicly endorsing these principles, institutions uphold international law and demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinian cause, creating a framework for accountability that fosters broader public discourse on justice and human rights.

9.2. Divestment from Complicit and Unethical Companies

Divestment from companies that contribute to human rights abuses is an essential strategy for promoting social justice. This is particularly relevant in the context of arms companies that supply military equipment used in the ongoing attacks. By divesting from such corporations, the University can signal their disapproval of practices that perpetuate violence and oppression. This approach not only financially impacts companies complicit in the conflict but also raises awareness among stakeholders about the ethical implications of their investments. We recommend the following:

- Disclosure of **all** the University's investments
- Divestment from all complicit companies with links to international law violations, apartheid, illegal occupation and war crimes.
- A student-informed review of the University's Ethical Investment Policy.
- The establishment of an Investment Review Working Group composed of at least one NCLP-nominated UoNSU member.

³⁰³ Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement, "Home," accessed October 17, 2024, <https://bdsmovement.net/>.



This would not only illuminate the University's position on illegal occupation but also reduces the risk of the University being complicit in human rights violations. It would also ensure that they are in line with all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UoN has thus been made aware of their complicit partnership and investments. We urge the University to undertake full investigations into their current relationships to ensure that the companies and institutions with which it is partnered are not complicit in illegal occupation, apartheid and human rights violations. So long as the occupation is ongoing and the benefits of the academia being undertaken in these institutions excludes Palestinian beneficiaries, these relationships are unethical/in contravention of international law.

We recommend the following in regard to their research and industrial partnerships:

- Public disclosures regarding industry and academic partnerships.
- Termination of partnerships and research contracts between the University and companies risking complicity in war crimes, crimes against humanity, and/or violations of IHL and IHRL.
- Termination of all formal agreements, partnerships and research contracts with Israeli institutions.
- Review of the Research Ethics and Integrity Framework, conducted alongside a working group whose membership includes at least one NCLP-nominated UoNSU officer.

We urge the University to publicly pledge that they will divest and cut ties with companies complicit in Israel's ongoing genocide and occupation of the Palestinian people, with a detailed and appropriate timeline for this to happen.

Several institutions have also successfully divested from controversial sectors, demonstrating that divestment is not only feasible but also financially viable. For example, universities like St Andrews, Goldsmiths, Bangor, and SOAS have set a precedent by withdrawing investments linked to the arms trade and unethical practices³⁰⁴. Bangor University has implemented an ethical investment policy that focuses on sustainable and socially responsible ventures. Similarly, Cambridge's Trinity College has divested from arms companies, showcasing the growing trend among academic institutions to prioritise ethical investments³⁰⁵. By following these examples, the University of Nottingham can lead the way in responsible investing and invest in an ethical and morally conscious way.

³⁰⁴ Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), "Clean Investment," accessed October 12, 2024, <https://caatunis.net/campaigns/clean-investment/>.

³⁰⁵ Ibid., 107.



9.3 Support for Student Protest Rights

The support for student protest rights is vital in promoting an environment where voices advocating for social justice are heard and listened to. Students play a critical role in grassroots movements, often leading initiatives that challenge institutional policies and promote awareness of pressing social issues. Upholding the right to protest not only empowers students but also enriches academic discourse by allowing diverse perspectives to emerge. Universities and colleges must safeguard these rights, in order to uphold the reputation of being places of education rather than censorship. The University of Nottingham has a past of taking legal action against their students instead of communicating with them; we urge the University to showcase that they respect their students' right to protest. In addition to this, we ask that they respect our request for a memorial plaque for the University's two alumni, Dr Said Al-Zebda and his wife Ikram Ghanem who were murdered by Israel alongside their children. We recommend the plaque be on the Advanced Manufacturing Building so that Nottingham community never forgets the companies that enabled their murder.

9.4 Investment in Rebuilding & Supporting Palestinian Students and Academics

Investing in the reconstruction of Palestinian educational institutions and supporting Palestinian students is essential for upholding the University's values and duty of care to its students. Supporting Palestinian students ensures that they have access to quality education and opportunities, which is in line with the University's Sustainable Development Goal of Quality Education³⁰⁶. This investment reflects a commitment to human rights and social justice, which would showcase the University's commitment to upholding international norms. We recommend the following:

- The implementation of the guidance provided by the University of Sanctuary Steering Group report in April to support Palestinian students, teachers, academics and institutions³⁰⁷.
- The introduction of a fully funded scholarship programme for Palestinian students, including Sara Yahya, who have been affected and displaced by Israel's attacks on Palestinian Territories.
- The public advertisement of the University's position as a HESPAL (Higher Education Scholarships for Palestinians) partner on the University website to improve accessibility and support for Palestinian students.
- Collaboration with Council for At Risk Academics (CARA), as was done in 2022 for Ukrainian at Risk Scholars, to offer funded fellowships for Palestinian academics, ideally starting in the 2024/2025 academic year³⁰⁸.

³⁰⁶ United Nations, "Sustainable Development Goals," accessed October 8, 2024, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

³⁰⁷ University of Leicester, "Responding to the crisis in Palestine: How UK universities can support Palestinian students, teachers, academics, and institutions," <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hp3a2V0YA07trl2wnzx5kW8Lsb7p6Vfy0K08dHh5gGc/edit>.

³⁰⁸ Community Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (CARA), "Gaza Crisis," accessed October 18, 2024, <https://www.cara.ngo/news/gaza-crisis-2>.



- Contribution by the University to the Gaza Educate Medics (GEM) scheme delivering education to 1,906 medical students from Al-Azhar University Gaza and Islamic University of Gaza³⁰⁹

Investing in the education and well-being of Palestinian students not only aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals but also demonstrates a genuine commitment to human rights. As the University evaluates its future investments and partnerships, adopting strong Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards is essential to ensure it does not inadvertently support unethical practices.

9.5. Other Recommendations for the University of Nottingham

Due to limited access to the University of Nottingham's finances we cannot make exact recommendations, but we do propose the following options and recommend a refinement of the University's investment and partnerships policies to be explicitly conformant with international law and the moral and ethical position that the University claims to take. This report will be an ongoing record and will be updated with new information to further highlight the University's role in ongoing genocide and apartheid. The current limitations of this report are a lack of full disclosure from the University of Nottingham, meaning information is partial and therefore is subject to review once more information is obtained.

Based on the current information obtained and accessible, we have highlighted the University of Nottingham's complicity in Israel's ongoing illegal occupation and genocide of Palestinians. To rectify the situation and showcase that the University respects their students and staff, as well as international law and ethics, we have highlighted key areas for improvement.

We recommend that:

- The University of Nottingham conduct thorough ESG investigations into future investments and partnerships to ensure that these comply with Environmental, Social and Governance standards.³¹⁰
- One such resource for finding funds which do not invest in the arms trade is Weapon Free Funds which highlights funds that do not have large investments in the arms trade and also highlights their ratings regarding sustainability, namely fossil fuels and tobacco.³¹¹
- Further due diligence is undertaken by the relevant committees and university bodies to ensure transparency regarding funds, and a thorough investigation into current assets to ensure no links with the arms trade.

³⁰⁹ PalMed Europe, "GEM," accessed October 18, 2024, <https://www.palmedeurope.org/en/gem-en/>.

³¹⁰ James Chen, "Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria," Investopedia, last modified February 5, 2023, <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/environmental-social-and-governance-esg-criteria.asp>.

³¹¹ Weapon Free Funds, "Funds," https://weaponfreefunds.org/funds?dsc=false&srt=grade_military.



9.6 What Students and Staff can do at the University of Nottingham

Staff and students at the University of Nottingham can take proactive steps to encourage the University to divest from unethical companies, stop partnerships with arms companies and create more supportive structures for students and academics affected by the genocide and occupation of Palestine. Using our voices collectively is the only way forward to push for change.

1. **Participate in Demonstrations:** Engage in peaceful protests and demonstrations that advocate for divestment and solidarity with Palestine. More visible support highlights to the University that this is the stance that their students and staff have and pressures the University to take action.
2. **Organise Awareness Campaigns:** Host informational sessions, workshops, and discussions to educate people about the situation in Palestine, highlighting the realities of the occupation, human rights violations, and the implications of university investments.
3. **Support Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) campaigns:** highlight the importance of boycotting in your lectures, team meetings and wider university community. Support ongoing campaigns that call for divestment and sanctioning of Israeli institutions and companies aiding the Israeli military in their ongoing occupation and genocide.
4. **Petition and Lobby:** Create petitions urging the University to commit to divestment and advocate for transparency in investment decisions. Lobbying university officials and decision-makers can help raise awareness of the demand for divestment.
5. **Raise Concerns in Governance Bodies:** Bring up divestment and public stances on Palestine in University meetings to ensure these issues are part of official discussions.

Universities across the world have publicly agreed to vote on divestment after pressure from staff and student groups. Institutions need to be held to account for the role they play in the ongoing genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine, and it is the actions of students and staff that ensure institutions act according to their stated values, policies, ethics and, above all, international law.

The staff and students at the UoN have the ability to stand up for what is right and urge the University to take the practical steps to ensure they are not complicit in human rights violations and genocide. Collective action is the key and every single student, staff and community member is able to facilitate this much-needed change.



CONCLUSION

The urgent call from the Nottingham Camp for the Liberation of Palestine for divestment, transparency, and support for Palestinian students highlights the necessity of the university re-evaluating its commitments and taking decisive action.

By prioritising socially responsible investments and partnerships, the University can align its financial practices with its core values and commitments to ethical research, thereby aligning its investments and partnerships in a manner that genuinely uphold justice and human rights. The attacks and human rights violations being perpetuated by Israel against Palestinians³¹² should be condemned by all educational institutions. The escalations in violence against Lebanon³¹³, Syria³¹⁴ and Yemen³¹⁵ highlights the Israel's violent (and explicitly stated) expansionist intentions and cannot be ignored.

As students at the University of Nottingham, we refuse to contribute to the killing of innocent people and therefore we advocate for the University to stand with its principles, policies and ethical guidance and take action against illegal occupation and genocide of the Palestinian people and all oppressed people.

As the ethnic cleansing, occupation and genocide continues, the need for accountability and a proactive stance in adhering to international law becomes increasingly clear.

The time for action is now, the University has the opportunity to lead by example in promoting peace and supporting the rights of marginalised communities globally and listen to their students when they call for divestment from Israel.

This report is a collection of information found on the University of Nottingham's complicity but is not a complete record. This information will be updated and reviewed by NCLP as more facts are uncovered and collated in order to urge the University of Nottingham to stand by their values, policies and international law.

³¹² Amnesty International, "Israel/OPT: Palestinians Face Drastic Escalation in Unlawful Killings, Displacement as Israel Launches West Bank Military Operation," August 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/08/israel-opt-palestinians-face-drastic-escalation-in-unlawful-killings-displacement-as-israel-launches-west-bank-military-operation/>.

³¹³ Al Jazeera, "Ten Killed as Israel Hits Homes, Healthcare Centre in Lebanon's Qana," October 16, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/10/16/live-ten-killed-as-israel-hits-homes-healthcare-centre-in-lebanons-qana>.

³¹⁴ Ibid., 2.

³¹⁵ Al Jazeera, "Israel Hits Yemen's Infrastructure Again: What We Know and Why It Matters," September 30, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/30/israel-hits-yemens-infrastructure-again-what-we-know-and-why-it-matters>.



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APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

Our approach involved a combination of formal information requests and thorough research of publicly accessible resources.

Information Gathering Techniques

1. Freedom of Information Requests (FOIs)

We utilised Freedom of Information requests to obtain detailed financial data and operational insights from the university. These requests allowed us to access specific records that are not typically available through public channels, ensuring transparency in areas of concern.

2. Publicly Available Information

We extensively reviewed the university's official website and other publicly accessible documents. This included financial reports, strategic plans, and announcements regarding partnerships and investments and information readily available to students at the University of Nottingham. These resources provided foundational data regarding the university's partnerships, investments and policies.

Method of Investigation

1. Investment Analysis

Our investigation of the university's investments involved the following steps:

- **Initial Review:** We compiled a comprehensive list of the university's investment portfolio, focusing on various asset classes and sectors.
- **Categorisation:** Each investment was evaluated against established criteria to identify those that fell into categories based on the shortened version of LSE's criteria for egregious behaviour. Namely, Crimes against the Palestinian people, including through supporting illegal Israeli settlements; and/or supporting the Israeli military; and/or sustaining apartheid, Proliferation and/or manufacture of arms and Financing crimes against the Palestinian people and/or financing the arms trade.

2. Partnership Evaluation

The assessment of partnerships followed the approach of:

- **Identification of Problematic Companies:** We started by identifying companies that have a documented history of unethical practices or negative societal impact.
- **Researching University Relations:** For each of these identified companies, we conducted in-depth research to ascertain the nature and extent of the university's relationships with them. This included examining contracts, joint ventures, sponsorships, and any collaborative projects.
- **Criteria for ethical partnerships:** alignment with values and policies, legal compliance transparency, impact of policy. We recognise that there are loopholes in current policies and recommend that these get revised after investigation and through a student-informed approach.



APPENDIX B: INVESTMENTS

Security name	Portfolio Weight	Nominal Investment in GBP	Complicity (Key below)
MICROSOFT CORPORATION	5.74%	2,946,529.97	[A]
ALPHABET INC	4.24%	2,200,747.85	[A]
UNILEVER PLC	3.61%	£1,643,117.59	[B]
SALESFORCE INC	2.46%	1,276,601.09	[A]
ASTRAZENECA PLC	2.33%	1,209,691.89	[E]
ASML HOLDINGS NV	2.17%	1,125,116.33	[A]
MASTERCARD, INC.	2.13%	1,102,389.36	[C]
VISA INCORPORATION	2.07%	1,072,546.01	[C]
BANCO BILBAO VIZCAYA ARGENTARIA SA	2.03%	1,051,562.99	[C]
BOOKING HOLDINGS INC	1.90%	1,006,806.73	[B]
ADOBE INC	1.21%	626,629.33	[A]
STANDARD CHARTERED PLC	0.46%	237,684.97	[C]
NATWEST GROUP PLC	0.42%	218,029.30	[C]
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION (IBM)	0.36%	188,308.39	[A]
AVIVA PLC	0.35%	179,540.87	[C]
PFIZER INC	0.32%	166,133.22	[B]
HP INC	0.31%	158,429.20	[A]
CARREFOUR S.A.	0.30%	157,935.44	[B]
BNP PARIBAS SA	0.25%	127,448.56	[C]
INTEL CORP	0.24%	124,884.78	[A]
AXA SA	0.22%	112,686.23	[C]
ELI LILLY AND COMPANY	0.20%	105,66 ³¹⁶ 1.70	[C]
FIRST SOLAR, INC.	0.10%	52,754.89	[D]
LG CHEM LIMITED	0.06%	30,681.23	[D]
SMA SOLAR TECHNOLOGY AG	0.03%	15,170.75	[D]
DEME GROUP NV	0.03%	14,812.23	[D]
TORONTO-DOMINION BANK	0.00%	1,299.15	[C]
ADIDAS AG	0.00%	740.8	[B]
Total	33.54%	16,974,399.98	

Table 4 Appendix B Investments

³¹⁶ Times of Israel, “Pharmaceutical Giant Eli Lilly Donates Mobile Intensive Care Units to Magen David Adom,” October 2023, https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/pharmaceutical-giant-eli-lilly-donates-mobile-intensive-care-units-to-magen-david-adom/.



Complicity Key

[A] Supplying Israel with technology used by the IOF against Palestinians;

[B] Operating in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank;

[C] Financing either the Israeli military, illegal settlements or arms manufacturers complicit in the Genocide against Palestinians;

[D] Resource operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

[E] Vaccine apartheid



APPENDIX B.1: BREAKDOWN OF COMPLICITY IN UNIVERSITY INVESTMENTS

1. Supplying Israel with technology used by the IOF against Palestinians

Microsoft Corporation

According to No Tech for Apartheid, the company provides software and Azure cloud services that support Israeli military operations and surveillance systems³¹⁷. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) notes that Microsoft's products are integrated into tools used for monitoring Palestinian movements and maintaining military control³¹⁸. This relationship raises ethical concerns about corporate complicity in human rights violations.

Alphabet

Alphabet, through its Google Cloud services, is supplying technology used by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) against Palestinians. Reports from *The Intercept* and *The Guardian* reveal that Google is part of Project Nimbus^{319,320}, a cloud computing initiative that supports Israeli military operations and intelligence. This collaboration raises significant ethical concerns, as it provides tools for surveillance and military activities in Gaza, prompting condemnation from workers and human rights advocates

SalesForce Inc

Salesforce has been expanding its operations in Israel, recently launching a local cloud platform that reportedly supports the Israeli military and government. This expansion raises concerns among human rights advocates, who argue that Salesforce's technology could be used to reinforce systems of apartheid and oppression against Palestinians³²¹

ASML HOLDINGS NV

ASML Holdings NV has been linked to supplying advanced semiconductor technology that supports Israeli military operations. Reports indicate that the company's products are crucial for Israel's tech

³¹⁷ Ibid., 157

³¹⁸ American Friends Service Committee, "Microsoft," accessed October 01, 2023, <https://investigate.afsc.org/company/microsoft>.

³¹⁹ Ibid., 146

³²⁰ Ibid., 147

³²¹ Steven Scheer, "Salesforce Expands Local Cloud Platform in Israel," Reuters, September 10, 2024, <https://www.reuters.com/technology/salesforce-expands-local-cloud-platform-israel-2024-09-10/>.



sector, which plays a significant role in the development of military applications and surveillance technologies used by the IOF against Palestinians^{322,323}.

Adobe Inc

Visa Inc. has been implicated in facilitating financial transactions that support the IOF through its technology and services³²⁴. As a key partner of IBM, Visa is involved in the financial infrastructure that enables military and surveillance activities in the occupied Palestinian territories³²⁵.

IBM

The company has strong links to the Israeli apartheid regime through its provision of technology used in the management of Israel's population registry and biometric systems³²⁶. PIBA, that IBM has provided services to, have also created an illegal biometric database of facial images³²⁷.

HP Inc

HP Inc. has been linked to supplying technology used by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) against Palestinians. Its legal predecessor, Hewlett-Packard Company, had a longstanding contract with the Israeli Ministry of Interior Affairs to operate a central database that includes Israel's population registry, which records ethnic identity and religion. This database is used to discriminate between Israeli and Palestinian residents. Additionally, HP Inc. has operated research and development facilities in illegal settlements, such as Beitar Illit, and has provided personal computers to the Israeli military under a contract initially awarded in 2009. These activities raise serious ethical concerns regarding HP Inc.'s role in supporting systems of oppression in the occupied territories³²⁸.

- Central Database Operations: HP's predecessor managed Israel's population registry, which is used to enforce discriminatory policies against Palestinians.
- Research Facilities in Settlements: HP operated a research and development centre in the illegal settlement of Beitar Illit, contributing to the settlements and illegal occupation.
- Military Contracts: HP was the exclusive supplier of personal computers to the Israeli military, supporting its operations in the region which highlights its direct impact on the military operations against the Palestinian people.

³²² Eindhoven News, "Brainport Parties Maintain Ties to Israel Despite Relentless Violence," March 2024, <https://eindhovennews.com/news/2024/03/brainport-parties-maintain-ties-to-israel-despite-relentless-violence/>.

³²³ Ayelet Shahr, "Israeli Semiconductors and the US-China Tech War," The Diplomat, November 2020, <https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/israeli-semiconductors-and-the-us-china-tech-war/>.

³²⁴ Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, "Generative AI: Adobe Stock Images Depicting the Israel and Palestine Conflict Elicit Misinformation Concerns," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/Generative-AI-Adobe-stock-images-depicting-the-Israel-and-Palestine-conflict-elicite-misinformation-concerns/>.

³²⁵ Who Profits, "The Role of Corporations in the Israeli Occupation: Visa Inc.," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://www.whoprofits.org/publications/report/158>.

³²⁶ Ibid., 151

³²⁷ Ibid., 152

³²⁸ Who Profits, "HP Company Feature: Profiting from the Occupation," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://www.whoprofits.org/writable/uploads/old/uploads/2022/02/HP-company-feature-final.pdf>.



Intel Corp

Intel's \$25 billion investment in a new factory has been linked to Israel's economy, contributing to its technology infrastructure. Its plant at "Qiryat Gat" is built on Palestinian land within the boundaries of the Palestinian village of Iraq al Manshiya, which was ethnically cleansed and razed to the ground and then replaced by the Israeli settlement of Qiryat Gat³²⁹. Intel's involvement has sparked debates on ethical responsibility and political implications related to its operations in the region.

³²⁹ Ibid., 150



2. Operating in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank

Unilever PLC

Unilever is operating in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank through its Ben & Jerry's brand³³⁰. Despite Ben & Jerry's decision to stop selling ice cream in Israeli settlements, Unilever sold the brand's rights to a local licensee in Israel, allowing continued sales in these areas. Reports from Al Jazeera³³¹ and The New Arab³³² indicate that this move undermines efforts to boycott products from illegal settlements, raising ethical concerns about Unilever's complicity in violating international law regarding occupation and settlement activities.

Booking Holdings Inc

In 2020, the UN's Human Rights Council named Booking.com as a company complicit in human rights infringements, due to its support for illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine³³³. In December 2023, a report found that Booking.com continues to offer accommodation in at least 21 Israeli settlements³³⁴.

Pfizer Inc. (also applicable to vaccine apartheid)

Pfizer Inc. has been linked to operations in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank, raising concerns about its role in the ongoing occupation. Reports indicate that Pfizer's presence in these settlements contributes to a healthcare system that is inequitable and discriminatory, particularly in terms of vaccine distribution and access to medical resources for Palestinians³³⁵.

Carrefour S.A.

Carrefour S.A. has been linked to operations in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank, raising concerns about its role in the ongoing occupation. Reports indicate that Carrefour has established stores in these settlements, which are considered illegal under international law³³⁶. This presence not only supports the settlement economy but also contributes to the entrenchment of a system that discriminates against Palestinians.

Adidas AG

Adidas AG is implicated in operating within illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank through its partnership with Delta Galil Industries³³⁷. Delta Galil, which is 80% owned by Adidas's subsidiary Delta Israel Brands, has established branches in settlement neighbourhoods such as Pisgat Zeev and Ramot

³³⁰ BDS Movement, "Unilever: Stop Undermining Ben & Jerry's Decision to End Israel Settlement Business," BDS Movement, September 23, 2022, <https://bdsmovement.net/news/unilever-stop-undermining-ben-jerrys-decision-end-israel-settlement-business>.

³³¹ Al Jazeera, "Unilever Sells Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream to Local Licensee in Israel," June 30, 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/30/unilever-sells-benjerrys-ice-cream-to-local-licensee-in-israel>.

³³² The New Arab, "Unilever Wins Case Over Ben & Jerry's Israel Boycott," July 6, 2022, <https://www.newarab.com/news/unilever-wins-case-over-ben-jerrys-israel-boycott>.

³³³ Ibid., 147

³³⁴ Ibid., 148

³³⁵ Ibid., 314

³³⁶ Al-Haq, "Carrefour's Role in Illegal Settlements," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/20985.html>.

³³⁷ Adidas, "Adidas Underwear Partnership," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://adidasunderwear.com/pages/adidas-underwear-partnership/>.



in occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in Maale Adumim in the West Bank. These settlements are considered illegal under international law, as they are built on land occupied by Israel during the 1967 war.

Additionally, in May 2011, Who Profits³³⁸ documented that Delta Galil rented and operated a 1,680 m² warehouse in the Barkan industrial zone, located within another settlement in the West Bank. By supporting and maintaining operations in these areas, Adidas is complicit in the settlement expansion that contributes to the systemic oppression of Palestinians. This partnership not only raises ethical concerns regarding corporate responsibility but also highlights the impact of business practices on the ongoing illegal occupation and genocide of Palestine.

3. *Financing either the Israeli military, illegal settlements or arms manufacturers complicit in the genocide against Palestinians*

Aviva PLC

Aviva PLC has been implicated in financing activities that support the Israeli military, illegal settlements, and arms manufacturers involved in the oppression of Palestinians. They had \$833m of investments in companies that operate in West Bank³³⁹, that facilitate transactions benefiting entities linked to military operations and settlement expansion.

MasterCard

Mastercard Inc. has been scrutinised for its financial ties to organisations and entities linked to the Israeli military and illegal settlements in Palestine. Reports indicate that Mastercard has facilitated transactions that support these operations, raising concerns about its complicity in actions viewed as contributing to the systemic oppression of Palestinians³⁴⁰. The company's payment processing services are key to the financial infrastructure that supports activities of arms manufacturers and others involved in military operations against Palestinian communities³⁴¹.

Visa Inc

Visa Inc. has been implicated in financing operations that support the Israeli military and illegal settlements in Palestine. Reports indicate that Visa's payment processing services facilitate transactions for entities linked to the Israeli defence sector and settlements deemed illegal under international law. This financial infrastructure is seen as enabling activities that contribute to systemic oppression and violence against Palestinians, raising ethical concerns about Visa's role in the ongoing conflict.³⁴²

³³⁸ Who Profits, "*Delta Galil Industries*," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/company/3655?delta-galil-industries>.

³³⁹ Ibid., 321

³⁴⁰ UK Lawyers for Israel, "*Credit Card Donations to Terrorist-Linked NGOs Terminated*," last modified March 23, 2023, <https://www.uklfi.com/credit-card-donations-to-terrorist-linked-ngos-terminated>.

³⁴¹ Statista, "*Breakdown of Card Schemes in Israel*," last modified July 2023, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1270330/israel-breakdown-of-card-schemes/>.

³⁴² Ibid., 319



BANCO BILBAO VIZCAYA ARGENTARIA SA

The bank has provided \$5.861bn in loans and underwriting to companies involved in illegal settlements³⁴³. This implicates it in the ongoing campaign of ethnic cleansing and settler violence happening in the West Bank.

Standard Chartered PLC

Standard Chartered PLC has provided financial services to companies operating in the occupied Palestinian territories. They provided £3.133bn in loans and underwriting services to companies operating illegally in west bank³⁴⁴

Natwest

Natwest has provided \$3.449bn worth of loans and underwriting services to companies in the West Bank³⁴⁵ which is currently experiencing an increase in settler violence, forced evictions and raids conducted by the Israeli military. This highlights the bank's willingness to uphold illegal settlements.

BNP Paribas SA

BNP Paribas SA has been identified as a major financial institution providing substantial loans and underwriting services to companies operating illegally in the West Bank. With approximately USD 22.19 billion invested, BNP Paribas stands out as the largest creditor to firms involved in activities that support the Israeli military, illegal settlements, and arms manufacturers³⁴⁶.

AXA SA

AXA SA has been implicated in financing activities that support the Israeli military, illegal settlements, and arms manufacturers involved in the oppression of Palestinians. The company holds approximately £1.449 billion in bonds and shares across 51 businesses that operate in illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT)³⁴⁷. This substantial financial investment raises ethical concerns about AXA's complicity in contributing to human rights violations and the entrenchment of an unjust system affecting Palestinian communities.

Eli Lilly and Company

Eli Lilly and Company has been implicated in financing activities that support Israel through donations and partnerships with organisations like Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency medical service. The company's contribution of mobile ICU's highlights its role in improving Israel's healthcare

³⁴³ Don't Buy Into Occupation, "2023 Report on the Financing of Israeli Military Operations and Settlements," December 11, 2023, https://dontbuyintooccupation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023_DBIO-III-Report_11-December-2023.pdf.

³⁴⁴ Ibid., 318

³⁴⁵ Ibid., 318

³⁴⁶ Ibid., 318

³⁴⁷ Ibid., 318



system, whilst Palestinian communities are left with little to no access to medical aid due to Israeli blockades and destruction of medical infrastructure.

TORONTO-DOMINION BANK

Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD Bank) has been implicated in financing activities that support the Israeli military, illegal settlements, and arms manufacturers involved in the oppression of Palestinians. According to reports, TD Bank is one of several major banks in Canada that holds investments in companies associated with the Israeli defence sector³⁴⁸. These financial ties facilitate the operations of entities that are complicit in actions against Palestinian communities.

The bank's involvement raises significant ethical concerns regarding corporate responsibility, especially in light of the ongoing conflict and the systemic injustices faced by Palestinians. By continuing to finance organisations linked to the military and settlement activities, TD Bank indirectly supports a structure that perpetuates violence and discrimination against Palestinian people.

4. Resource operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

First Solar

A report in 2016 and 2017 found that approximately 104,000 solar panels, covering 135,000 square metres of Palestinian land, were installed in the Kalia settlement in the occupied Jordan Valley. This installation, a joint venture between Clal Sun Ltd and Kibbutz Kalia³⁴⁹, highlights the unethical nature of profiting from renewable energy infrastructure on land taken from Palestinians under military occupation. Using occupied land for economic gain not only violates international law but also exacerbates the exploitation of Palestinian resources and rights.

LG Chem

LG Chem's water treatment division, LG Water Solutions, is playing a significant role in the Israeli desalination industry through its exclusive supply of reverse osmosis membranes for the Ashdod Rehabilitation Project. While the project demonstrates advanced technology and contributes to Israel's water security, it simultaneously underscores systemic inequities and contributes to the broader framework of apartheid by prioritising Israeli needs over Palestinian access to essential water resources.

SMA Solar Technology AG

SMA Solar Technology AG is implicated in resource operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory through its equipment used in the SMA Solar Technology AG is implicated in resource operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory through its equipment used in the Kalia settlement solar energy field, located in the occupied Jordan Valley. The company's STP-60 solar panel system has been

³⁴⁸ The Globe and Mail, "Big Six Banks All Hold Contentious Israeli Defence Stock, but One," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-big-six-banks-all-hold-contentious-israeli-defence-stock-but-one/>.

³⁴⁹ Ibid., 149



documented by Who Profits as part of this project, which is a collaboration between Clal Sun Ltd and Kibbutz Kalia, an Israeli settlement³⁵⁰.

The Kalia Solar Field stands as one of the largest commercial solar installations constructed on occupied Palestinian land, covering approximately 135,000 square metres. By participating in projects that utilise occupied land, SMA Solar Technology AG contributes to the broader dynamics of resource exploitation and inequity in the region, reinforcing the systemic disparities faced by Palestinians.

DEME Group NV

DEME Group NV is involved in resource operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory through its participation in the Leviathan natural gas project off the coast of Israel. The company completed critical infrastructure work, including landfall construction, pre-trenching, and rock placement for a pipeline system that spans 500 kilometres³⁵¹. This project not only enhances Israel's natural gas capabilities but also raises significant ethical concerns due to its implications for the ongoing occupation and the impact on Palestinian rights. The involvement of DEME Group in such energy deals has been criticised by organisations advocating for Palestinian rights, highlighting that these projects violate European Union policies regarding cooperation with entities in occupied territories. By contributing to resource extraction and energy projects that benefit Israeli interests³⁵², DEME Group plays a role in perpetuating a system that marginalises Palestinian communities and exacerbates existing inequalities.

5. Vaccine Apartheid

AstraZeneca PLC

AstraZeneca PLC has been implicated in vaccine apartheid in Palestine, as access to COVID-19 vaccines has been severely limited for Palestinians compared to Israelis³⁵³. Reports indicate that while Israel has achieved high vaccination rates, Palestinians in the occupied territories face significant barriers, including restricted access to vaccines and inadequate healthcare infrastructure³⁵⁴. AstraZeneca's distribution practices and partnerships with Israeli authorities have raised concerns.

³⁵⁰ Who Profits, "SMA Solar Technology AG," accessed October 21, 2023, <https://www.whoprofits.org/companies/company/3711?sma-solar-technology>.

³⁵¹ Middle East Monitor, "Energy Deals with Israel Violate EU Policies, Says BDS National Committee," September 9, 2022, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220909-energy-deals-with-israel-violate-eu-policies-says-bds-national-committee/>.

³⁵² DEME Group, "Activity Report 2018," accessed October 21, 2023, https://www.deme-group.com/sites/default/files/2020-04/Activity_report_DEME_2018.pdf.

³⁵³ VIVA Salud, "Vaccine Distribution in Palestine," November 2021, <https://www.vivasalud.be/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/vaccine-distribution-in-palestine.pdf>.

³⁵⁴ People's Dispatch, "Vaccine Apartheid in Palestine: The Silent War by Israel," May 30, 2021, <https://peoplesdispatch.org/2021/05/30/vaccine-apartheid-in-palestine-the-silent-war-by-israel/>.



APPENDIX C: PROJECTS & PARTNERS

GROUP	PROJECT & PROBLEMATIC PARTNERSHIP AND FUNDING	PROJECT (objectives)
PEMC	Projects are sponsored by a range of funders and industrialists such as: Siemens, Alstom, BAE, Cummins, TTE, EPSRC, Horizon 2020, Clean Sky EU, INNOVATE, ATI, and the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy. ³⁵⁵	
	ACHIEVE Project Partner: Safran (France)	The design and manufacturing of electrical machines for aircraft Advanced Generation Systems (AGS), integrated Power Electronics (PE), advanced control systems and intelligent thermal management, in order to develop an innovative advanced mechatronic device for electrical power management system of Turboprop. ³⁵⁶
	INSTEP Project Partner: Safran	Design, develop, manufacture, test and provide qualification for flight of an innovative Power Distribution Units (PDUs) for safe control and protection of both High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) and Low-Voltage Direct Power (LVDC) electrical generation systems. ³⁵⁷
	Next Generation High Lift System Partner: Collins Aerospace (formerly UTC Aerospace Systems) "The lessons learnt will be transferred to other areas of the UTC Aerospace Systems global market business." Funded value: £2,803,954. ³⁵⁸	Support efficient integration into the wing through reduced parts, thus reducing aircraft build time; Reduced loads transferred to interfacing aircraft structure, thus enabling reduced structural component weight / size and corresponding reduced fuel burn; Low Weight Actuation System using innovative gearing architecture; SMART system with increased health monitoring capability to allow airline operators to predict maintenance needs; Minimise system weight through the use of new manufacturing techniques and materials. ³⁵⁹
	4MW Demonstrator Project Partners: Siemens (2017-2019), Rolls Royce (2019-2020).	PEMC developed a 4MW aerospace generator drive system demonstrator with a high speed multi-three phase generator and a modular 3kV active rectifier. ³⁶⁰
	Advanced Inlet Systems Architecture (AISA) Partners: GKN Aerospace	Advances the development of advanced active inlet systems, primarily focussed on the delivery of a smart, ice protected environmental control system scoop intake and actuated front flap FOD protection system. ³⁶²

³⁵⁵ Power Electronics and Machines Centre. *PEMC Projects*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/pemc/pemc-projects/pemc-projects.aspx>.

³⁵⁶ Power Electronics and Machines Centre. *ACHIEVE Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/pemc/pemc-projects/achieve-project.aspx>.

³⁵⁷ University of Nottingham, "INSTEP Project." <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/cleansky/instep-project.aspx>.

³⁵⁸ UK Research and Innovation (2024). *Next Generation High Lift System*. <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=113179>.

³⁵⁹ Power Electronics and Machines Centre. *Next Generation High Lift System Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/pemc/pemc-projects/next-generation-high-lift-system-project.aspx>.

³⁶⁰ Power Electronics and Machines Centre. *4MW Demonstrator Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/pemc/pemc-projects/4mw-demonstrator-project.aspx>.

³⁶² Power Electronics and Machines Centre. *Advanced Inlet Systems Architecture (AISA)*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/pemc/pemc-projects/aisa-project.aspx>.



	<p>Funded value: £2,420,865.³⁶¹</p>	
	<p>Efficient Lightweight Integrated Traction Solution (ELITS)</p> <p>Partner: Cummins Ltd</p> <p>"Cummins Limited (Research and Technology) with University of Nottingham's Power Electronics, Machines and Control Group are developing a highly integrated high-power BEV powertrain for medium-duty vehicles, which doesn't use rare-earth permanent magnets. By realising a disruptive electric machine and transmission topology, Cummins aim to deliver a step change in the power density by targeting a high-speed solution, developed alongside integrated power electronics for intelligent control."</p> <p>Funded value: £1,860,090.³⁶³</p>	<p>Developing a highly integrated high-power BEV powertrain for medium-duty vehicles, which doesn't use rare-earth permanent magnets. The project aims to deliver a step change in the power density by targeting a high-speed solution, developed alongside integrated power electronics for intelligent control.³⁶⁴</p>
Energy Institute	<p>Ocean REFuel</p> <p>Partners: BP³⁶⁵</p>	<p>Investigating harnessing marine renewable energy and offshore wind for conversion to both zero carbon fuels such as hydrogen.³⁶⁶</p>
	<p>MariNH3</p> <p>Partners: BMT, BP, Cummins, Ricardo, Rolls Royce.³⁶⁷</p> <p>Funded value: £5.5m³⁶⁸</p>	<p>aims to develop new and disruptive engine technology that will one day cut pollution emitted by today's diesel-powered marine vessels.³⁶⁹</p>
Institute for Aerospace Technology	<p>ORCHESTRA Project</p> <p>Partners: Leonardo, Safran.³⁷⁰</p>	<p>Investigate all the relevant technical aspects including electrical architectures, machines, power management and control, harness solutions, thermal management, electric energy storage, experimental and virtual testing, as well as systems integration, to develop and deliver a holistic framework of innovative modular scalable "building blocks"</p>

³⁶¹ UK Research and Innovation (2024). Advanced Inlet Systems Architecture (AISA). <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=113250>.

³⁶³ UK Research and Innovation (2024). *ELITS - Efficient Lightweight Integrated Traction Solution*. <https://gtr.ukri.org/projects?ref=104329>.

³⁶⁴ Power Electronics and Machines Centre. *Efficient Lightweight Integrated Traction Solution (ELITS)*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/pemc/pemc-projects/elits-project.aspx>

³⁶⁵ Ocean REFuel. *About Ocean REFuel*. <https://www.oceanrefuel.ac.uk/about>.

³⁶⁶ Energy Institute. *Ocean REFuel unlocking untapped potential of ocean renewable energy*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/research-areas/energy-institute/projects/oceanrefuel/ocean-renewable-energy-fuel-ocean-refuel.aspx>.

³⁶⁷ MariNH3. *Industry Partners*. <https://marinh3.ac.uk/about/industry-partners/>.

³⁶⁸ Energy Institute. *Decarbonising long-haul shipping*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/research-areas/energy-institute/projects/marinh3/index.aspx>.

³⁶⁹ Energy Institute. *Decarbonising long-haul shipping*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/research-areas/energy-institute/projects/marinh3/index.aspx>.

³⁷⁰ Ibid.

		that incorporate emerging technologies and breakthrough design ideas. ³⁷¹
	AERIS Project Partner: Rolls-Royce.	Developing, optimising and validating the detailed computational models of fuel and airflow in aeroengine bearing chambers and internal gearboxes.) ³⁷²
	ASPIRE Project Partner: Leonardo Aircraft. ³⁷³	Design, develop and manufacture an innovative DC/DC resonant cellular converter with automatic inversion functionality. This will be a key component in the creation and demonstration of an advanced Electrical Power Distribution System (EPDS) with Enhanced Electrical Energy Management (E ² -EM) capability. ³⁷⁴
	MARQUESS Project Partner: Airbus. ³⁷⁵	MARQUESS has been specifically designed to address the challenges outlined in the Topic Description reference JTI-CS2-2016-CFP04-LPA-02-15 to fit into the activities of WP2.4.3 in the LPA IADP in Clean Sky 2. MARQUESS will serve as a valuable precursor to the above as it will enable comprehensive modelling and simulation studies to optimise decision making regarding the structural design of aircraft platforms. ³⁷⁶
Mechanical and Aerospace Systems Research Group	Aerospace Technology Institute Programme Key partners: Rolls-Royce University Technology Centre in as Turbine Transmission Systems. ³⁷⁷ ATI Project Partners: Airbus, BAE Systems, Boeing, Bombardier Aerospace, Cobham, Collins Aerospace, Curtiss-Wright, Dassault, Dunlop Aircraft Tyres, Eaton Aerospace, Element, ESI, GE Aviation Systems, General Dynamics, GKN Aerospace, Hexagon Metrology, Honeywell Aerospace, IBM, Leonardo, LISI Aerospace, Magellan Aerospace, MBDA UK, Meggit Aerospace, Moog, Parker Hannifin, QinetiQ, Raytheon Systems UK, Ricardo, Roke Manor Research, Rolls-Royce, Safran, Shell Research, Sigma,	The ATI Programme has generated an extensive portfolio of cutting-edge projects which encompass the breadth of the UK. Project partners include SMEs, large companies, research centres and academia, reinforcing the UK's capabilities in aerospace R&T through fostering collaboration. ³⁷⁹

³⁷¹ Institute for Aerospace Technology. *ORCHESTRA Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/orchestra-project/index.aspx>.

³⁷² Institute for Aerospace Technology. *AERIS Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/cleansky/aeris-project.aspx>.

³⁷³ *ibid.*

³⁷⁴ Institute for Aerospace Technology. *ASPIRE Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/cleansky/aspire-project.aspx>.

³⁷⁵ *ibid.*

³⁷⁶ Institute for Aerospace Technology. *MARQUESS Project*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/aerospace/projects/cleansky/marquess-project.aspx>.

³⁷⁷ Mechanical and Aerospace Systems Research Group. *Home*. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/mas/index.aspx>.

³⁷⁹ Aerospace Technology Institute. *Projects*. <https://www.ati.org.uk/projects/>



	Spirit AeroSystems, Teledyne, Thales, Toolroom Technology, Triumph Group, TT Electronics, Tyco Electronics, Ultra Electronics, Viasat. ³⁷⁸	
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³⁷⁸ ATI Project Portfolio. *Industry Partners*. <https://my.sharpccloud.com/html/#/story/9517f066-5610-4308-bf0b-4be1eace4bd4/view/ab440801-b4e2-46fb-b02b-2a4e7a6ecd3c>

