



الائتلاف الفلسطيني للحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية  
Palestinian Coalition for Economic and Social Rights

## **Statement on behalf The Palestinian Coalition for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights “Adaleh” in Support of the Irish ‘Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill’ 2018**

**Date: 18/01/2019**

The undersigned organisations and unions, under the umbrella of The Palestinian Coalition for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (hereafter Adaleh Coalition), express their support for the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018. The Adaleh Coalition urges Irish parliamentarians and decision-makers to continue their support for the Occupied Territories Bill during the vote in Dáil Éireann, scheduled on Wednesday, 23 January 2019, and subsequent votes thereafter.

The Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018 represents a laudable and historic first step towards the implementation of third State obligations under international law, by prohibiting the import and sale of illegal settlement goods and services. These obligations are enshrined in Irish domestic law under the Geneva Conventions Act, 1962 and the International Criminal Court Act, 2001. Moreover, it is a step towards ensuring respect for human rights by Israeli and multinational business enterprises in occupied territories, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Through Israel’s policies and practices, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) has become increasingly fragmented by Israel’s prolonged military occupation. Most notably this occupation has manifested itself in the aggressively expanding settlement enterprise, in violation of international law and through the denial of Palestinian rights of self-determination and permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources. This has left Palestinians with few resources to develop an independent and viable economy. It has significantly contributed to high unemployment rates among Palestinians in the OPT, who are left with no other option than to seek work in Israel and Israeli settlements, working on land that had been forcibly taken from them, to secure their livelihoods.

Meanwhile, Israel’s colonization and annexationist measures are fuelled and sustained by profits from its illegal settlement activity in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The denial of

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access to land and natural resources, accompanied by Israel's obstruction of Palestinian territorial contiguity, due to the building of the Annexation Wall and its associated regime, imposition of a discriminatory and segregationist ID system, appropriation of Palestinian lands and denial of freedom of movement, has caused irreparable losses for the Palestinian economy. In turn, this has negatively affected the rights of Palestinians generally and workers and the labour market condition specifically. In the case of Palestinian workers in Israeli settlements, labour rights and regulations are non-existent, exacerbating violations against the workers, which often go without accountability.

Palestinian workers in Israeli settlements are treated under a different legal regime to Israeli workers. Working conditions and the labour rights of Palestinians have declined as Israel's settlement enterprise flourishes; exploiting the Palestinian labour force that often enjoys no protection when working in Israeli settlements. For this reason, Palestinians often receive lower wages, no benefits or healthcare, and are not afforded workplace safety measures – especially when compared to their Israeli counterparts. In addition, Palestinian workers who seek jobs in Israeli settlements often go through a rigorous, long and humiliating process in order to acquire a permit from the Israeli authorities to be able to access their place of work in Israeli settlements. These permits can be revoked at any time, whereas the workers' dependency on these permits limits their choice of employment.

Ireland is the first country to take a step towards preventing grave breaches of international law, by prohibiting the import of goods and services stemming from Israel's illegal settlement enterprise, including the appropriation of land, unlawful exploitation of natural resources, and the forcible transfer of the protected Palestinian population. Adaleh Coalition stresses that by adopting the Bill, Ireland is further strengthening prospects of economic independence, stability and sustainable development for the Palestinian people.

It is for the aforementioned reasons, that Adaleh Coalition reaffirms and reiterates its support for the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018. Adaleh Coalition urges that Palestinian rights to self-determination and permanent sovereignty over natural resources must be genuinely realised. The prohibition of the import of illegal settlement goods and services into Ireland, will translate into a viable, independent and sustainable economy for Palestine,

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guaranteeing economic and social rights for the Palestinian people, and the fundamental rights of Palestinian workers.

**Respectfully yours,**

**The Palestinian Coalition for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights “Adaleh”**



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### **Members of the Palestinian Coalition for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

1. Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA)
2. Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA)
3. Yabos Charity Society (YCS), Women’s Technical Affairs Committee (WATC)
4. Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)
5. Union of Social Workers, Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)
6. TPFS Palestine
7. The Palestinian Women’s Society for Developments (PWSD)
8. The Palestinian Businesswomen’s Association – Asala
9. The Freedom Theatre – Jenin
10. The Cultural Forum
11. The Arab Forum for Sexuality, Education, and Reproductive Health
12. Teacher Creativity Center (TCC)
13. Tanweer Forum
14. Students’ Forum Institute

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15. Stars of Hope Association
16. Social and Development Society
17. Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies
18. Qader for Community Development
19. Progressive Labor Bloc
20. Private Health Sector Workers Union
21. Popular Art Center
22. Pharmaceutical Industry Workers Union
23. Partnership Youth Forum
24. Pal-Think for Strategic Studies
25. Palestinian Performing Arts Network
26. Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization against Domestic Violence Against Women (Al-Muntada)
27. Palestinian National Institute for NGO
28. Palestinian Medical Relief Society
29. Palestinian Hydrology group for Water and Environmental Resources Development
30. Palestinian Consultative Staff for Developing NGOs (PCS)
31. New Labour Union Federation
32. National Beverages Company (NBC) Workers Union
33. Mothers' School Society
34. Mental Development Association
35. Jerusalem Water Undertaking Workers Union
36. Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDECO) Workers Union
37. Independent Union Federation
38. Health Workers Union
39. Halhul Sports Club
40. Future Youth Arms Forum
41. Fuad Nassar Society
42. Financial Sector Workers Union
43. Filistiniyat
44. Community Media Center-Gaza

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45. Comites pour la Developpment et le patrimoine
46. Burj Alluqluq Social Center Society
47. Birzeit University Workers Union
48. Bethlehem University Workers Union
49. Association of Women Committees for Social Work (AWCSW)
50. Association Najdeh
51. Al-Mada Association for Arts – Based Community Development
52. Al-Awda Center for Childhood and the Youth
53. Al Hadaf Cultural Center
54. Youth and Environment Association
55. The National Society for Democracy and Law
56. Cooperation for Community Development Association
57. The Society of Women Graduates
58. Bunyan Association for Community Development
59. The Center for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights “Hurryat”
60. Shaikh Hasan Foundation for Culture and Science