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Campaign Against Misrepresentation in Public Affairs, Information and the News

Minutes of CAMPAIN's online AGM

Tuesday 17th March 2026

1. Attendance and apologies for absence

Present: Adam Waterhouse (Chair), Jonathan Coulter (Secretary), David Mond (Treasurer), Sharen Green, Alan Mackie, Miranda Pinch, Bernard Spiegel (exec. committee members), Priscilla Alderson, Swee Ang, Jeff Beatty, John Tranter, Sandy Kennedy, Elizabeth Morley, MH, Kevin Stewart, Sue Shreeve, Colin Lomas and Nicola Grove.

Apologies: Pat Bryden, Michael Mansfield KC, Abbas Hussein, David Somervell, Roxane Simon, Theresa Waterhouse, Jan Deckers and Sue Cooke (excuse me if I have missed anyone).

2. Discussion of the Chairman's Report

- The Chairman read the document shown in Annex 1 below.
- He highlighted the fact that CAMPAIN had strengthened itself organisationally and improved the management of its website and communication (though it would still welcome additional support from volunteers in this latter area).
- He highlighted CAMPAIN members' participation in mass Civil Disobedience re the proscription of Palestine Action, and the JUST weekly action hour which had been active since November 2024.
- He discussed our various campaigns, notably: engagement with the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism and States Legislation (Jonathan Hall KC); support to Dr Swee Ang vis-à-vis the British Medical Association, and to Prof Makram Khoury-Machool whom the police had illicitly detained under terror laws; continued lobbying of the CofE, Quakers and other religious groups, and above all; trying to build a pro-Palestine coalition for media reform – an activity we saw as vital to scaling up our challenge to misrepresentation in public narratives.
- Nicola Grove and Priscilla Alderson corrected/augmented the Chairman's account of our engagement with the Quakers, as follows:

In May 2025 British Quakers became the first British church to officially recognise that genocide and apartheid were taking place in Palestine/Israel. None of the Friends who are members of CAMPAIN or attend JUST spoke at

the relevant meeting, but they were actively part of the *discernment* that led to this landmark decision.

In January 2026, Quakers in Britain published a set of [guidelines on antisemitism](#), which have been in development over several years. There is widespread disquiet regarding evident bias towards Zionist perspectives, and the failure to consult Jewish groups who support Palestinian rights. CAMPAIN members and JUST attenders have made their concerns known to the key people involved, although with unsatisfactory responses thus far. This work continues and we hope for an evaluation that will lead to amendments.

The Quaker Socialist Society had published [Priscilla Alderson's rebuttal](#) which gained over 2,000 views and has helped prompt [a vigorous online debate](#). CAMPAIN republished Priscilla's piece gaining over 400 views.

- Sharen Green commented that it was inaccurate to claim that Bp Rachel Treweek had supported our efforts: *She continues to speak out bravely for Palestinians, but she has never answered letters I have sent her! She doesn't engage with us at all except when confronted in person.*

3. Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer presented the document in Annex 2 below showing that CAMPAIN's financial situation had greatly improved. In the year to 28th Feb 2026, it had earned a surplus of income over expenditure of £2,691 (compared to a deficit of £1,414 in previous year) and could carry forward a cash surplus of £3,614
- CAMPAIN had easily achieved the target of raising a reserve of £2,000 that it had set itself for last year, thanks in part to generous donations.

4. Election of Officers

None of the positions were contested and nobody has stood down. Hence, the existing officers (Adam Waterhouse, Chair; Jonathan Coulter, Secretary; David Mond, Treasurer) and the other committee members (Alan Mackie, Miranda Pinch, Sharen Green, Stephen Sizer and Bernard Spiegel) were re-elected.

5. The way forward

- Jonathan Coulter led a discussion of CAMPAIN's attempt to build a pro-Palestine coalition for media reform, the topic on which he and others had been working since late 2024. They had focused much of their effort on getting by far the largest organisation, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), to take a leading role in this matter. Progress had been slow and this caused them to propose a motion at the PSC's AGM on February 14th.

- However, the PSC Executive Committee amended our motion to downgrade it from “a strategic priority” to “a focus”, and then time constraints prevented it being debated. They also indicated that they were giving the Palestinian Boycott National Committee (BNC) veto power over PSC’s strategic priorities.

CAMPAIN had followed up with a letter signed by 29 people and dated March 3rd to Ben Jamal, the Director of PSC, requesting an in-person meeting to discuss implementation (Jonathan thought that we were unlikely to get an answer until the end of Ben Jamal/Chris Nineham’s trial).

When Jonathan asked whether we should keep pressing for this proposal, or desist, responses were that we should persist.

Adam felt that while PSC was an immensely important organisation, it lacked a credible theory of political change. It was not enough to campaign and press for divestment; it needed to win the moral argument and that required influencing media narrative.

Alan felt we needed to keep plugging away. Jeff Beatty wanted a system for disavowing inaccurate or biased news in the mainstream before it became established in peoples’ minds. Swee Ang felt that PSC was often playing safe, for example saying little about Iran which was being attacked because of its support for Palestine. If it would not take the lead in challenging the media narrative, someone else needed to do so. Sue Shreeve noted that while PSC was at the centre of the big marches, it was not getting them publicised. Bernard noted that the regulator’s criticism of the hierarchy of the BBC opened up further opportunities for challenging that entity using FOI requests.

The meeting concluded that regardless of how PSC reacted to CAMPAIN’s most recent letter, we should produce a strategic document, i.e. a media engagement strategy of how we change hearts and minds in the UK. It was also suggested that we might convene a special meeting of members around this topic.

- Nicola had been formulating arguments challenging the way the British Museum had represented Palestine – apparently following pressure from UK Lawyers for Israel. She wanted to know whether CAMPAIN would be prepared to support a webinar on ancient Palestine, that would parallel a (planned?) British Museum talk on ancient Israel and Judah. This would need to be considered by the Executive Committee.
- Martin Holst suggested that CAMPAIN write a letter in support of Francesca Albanese and that we sponsor a push-back against Christian Zionism.

Jonathan Coulter, Secretary of CAMPAIN, 25 March 2026

Annex 1: Chair's summary of activities – April 2025 to March 2026

Prepared by Adam Waterhouse, Chair of CAMPAIN

Website and Communications

- We've continued maintenance and enhancement of the website, including:
 - Reformatting of the Resources page by topic.
 - A detailed catalogue of examples of BBC bias
 - Regular blog updates on key campaigns.
- We've used a freelancer from Nigeria – Luqman – who has provided us with technical support.
- We would like to recruit additional volunteers for resource page development and IT support.

Open Letter to the BMA concerning Dr Swee Ang

- This was initiated in April 2025 in response to the BMA's disinvitation of Dr Swee Ang. The open letter attracted 3,486 signatories.
- Participated in two demonstrations outside BMA HQ.
- On the second occasion, we were invited inside and had a productive conversation with the BMA's Director of Communications, and his colleague. We discussed various things related to Palestine and false accusations of antisemitism, including establishing a pathway to prevent future prohibitions.
- We've produced a press release, and have started to work to establish citable evidence of Swee's apology in order to correct her Wikipedia entry. This activity is ongoing.

Lobbying the Church of England

- Through the Lambeth Witness Group, we lobbied General Synods:
 - In York (July 2025)
 - In Westminster (February 2026) for the third consecutive year.

During these lobbies we distributed flyers, and spoke to participants.

- Committee members Sharen Green and Miranda Pinch have been successful in being elected as Synod representatives for Salisbury and Winchester dioceses, respectively.

- We've supported education initiatives, including a paper circulated to Synod members.
- The Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, has continued to show strong support for our efforts.
- We're pleased to report that four bishops, including the Archbishop of York, have spoken vigorously against ethnic cleansing and mass killings, but the Church of England as an institution took no formal action. However, we noted with dismay that the February 2026 Synod found time to discuss flower arranging, but has yet to address Palestine.
- Committee members Bernard Spiegel and David Mond organised an open letter from Jews which was sent to the new Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally in October 2025), with follow-ups and resubmission of the February 2023 letter.

Engagement with the Quakers

- The efforts of our JUST Action Palestine members — particularly Ali Morgan and Nicola Grove — have helped the Quakers become the first church to call out genocide in Gaza.
- However, the Quakers subsequently published a disappointing document on antisemitism that legitimises the IHRA definition and adopts many Israeli talking points, illustrating how Zionist narratives can be a barrier even in the most progressive religious communities.

Engaging with other denominations

- We wrote to the Methodists to challenge misuse of the IHRA definition.
- We wrote to the Catholic newspaper, The Tablet, to challenge its pro-Zionist editorial stance, offering a detailed critique.

Media Reform

- We have pursued coalition-building for media narrative change, convening discussions with PSC, Media Reform Coalition, Independent Media Association, British Palestine Media Centre, and journalists including Richard Sanders, Tim Llewellyn and Peter Osborne.
- A Signal group was established for coordination, though progress remained slow.
- Members of the group explored funding for a “rapid response unit” to counter disinformation, including with Liz Pendleton’s Media Revolution initiative and Nima Akram of Newscord.

- At Palestine Solidarity Campaign’s February 2026 AGM, we tabled Motion 7 (“Make Media Reform a Strategic Priority in PSC’s Annual Plans”). The PSC Executive Committee amended it to downgrade “strategic priority” to “focus” and time constraints prevented full debate.
- We have followed this up with a co-signed letter to Ben Jamal, Director of Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), requesting an in-person meeting to discuss implementation.

CAMPAIN’s JUST Weekly Action Hour

- In partnership with Nicola Grove, we have held Monday evening sessions since November 2024 (typically 20–30 participants, peak 53), modelled on the American Friends Service Committee: meet, witness, learn, act, share.
- Nicola has produced detailed weekly reports disseminated to approximately 285 subscribers, CAMPAIN members and Lambeth Witness Group members.
- Actions have included mass letter-writing to MPs regarding Prof. Makram Khoury-Machool’s detention under UK terror laws (receiving over 30 responses), and critiques of Quaker statements adopting IHRA elements.

Demonstrations and Civil Disobedience in Support of Palestine Action

- CAMPAIN has also maintained a visible presence at major PSC national demonstrations and the Al Quds Rally.
- New banners were designed and deployed, including a double-sided feather banner: “CAMPAIN for the full story and against media distortion”.
- Five CAMPAIN Executive Committee members participated in mass civil disobedience in support of Palestine Action and were arrested. Trials are scheduled from July 2026.
- This action proved among the most effective in generating substantial publicity for Palestinian rights, despite pervasive media bias.

Correspondence with Jonathan Hall KC

- We conducted extensive email dialogue with Jonathan Hall KC, the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism and States Threats Legislation about the proscription of Palestine Action.
- Although we concluded that he was seriously biased towards the security establishment and Israel, the correspondence gave us the opportunity to address government statements on the matter, and left him in no doubt that the Palestinian

rights movement is motivated by the issues themselves, and is not driven from outside the UK by foreign interests.

- In his February 2026 Channel 4 documentary appearance he identified the government's real motive for proscribing Palestine Action and made clear to the interviewer that there was no evidence of Iranian links, and that it was inappropriate for anyone to suggest that without evidence.
- We believe our correspondence may have contributed to this more balanced public stance.

FOI Requests to the BBC

- We submitted Freedom of Information requests to ascertain to whom the BBC has been speaking on the pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian sides, and whether this reveals bias.
- We established that the BBC Executive Committee held nine meetings with pro-Israel groups versus one with pro-Palestinian groups in the 14-month period from 1st November 2023 to 31st December 2024.
- We are working with Dania Akkad of Declassified UK, who has offered to write an article based on our findings.
- Bernard Spiegel and David Mond are continuing to dig for further information before publication.

Other activities

- Writing to Bournemouth University, which had smeared students as terrorist sympathisers for fundraising for UNRWA.
- Our Avaaz petition, calling for the removal of ICJ Vice-President Julia Sebutinde following her dissenting judgment, exceeded 3,900 signatures, and was delivered to the ICJ by registered post in December 2025. Note: Other organisations, including the International Commission of Jurists, the Arab Organisation for Human Rights, and the Government of Uganda had made similar requests.
- We wrote to Lord Nigel Biggar at the House of Lords with respect to his article in the Church Times which, whilst acknowledging that Israel's attacks on Gaza were morally indefensible, denied that Israel had committed genocide, to explain why Israel has indeed committed genocide.
- Sharen Green collaborated with Glynn Secker's team on the quarterly tabloid Palestine News, distributed at football matches, demonstrations and public events to reach broader audiences.

Organisational Development

- CAMPAIN is now a Company Limited by Guarantee
- Directors have completed Companies House self-identification and opened Coop bank account for direct debits, transferring all funds and service payments there.
- We would like to explore stronger northern presence via Sue Cook's group.
- We would appreciate further volunteers for IT support and all other activities.

In summary

- Despite being a small volunteer-led organisation, CAMPAIN has consistently "punched above its weight", spearheading initiatives that would not have otherwise occurred.
- CAMPAIN deliberately seeks dialogue with those who can be reached by facts and reasoned argument. We are not content to merely "preach to the choir", and will continue to put pressure upon individuals and organisations that can and should be taking a more honest and principled stance to do so.
- We will continue to try to network with other larger organisations through which our effort to address misrepresentation and shape the media landscape could be taken to the next level.
- We thank our members and supporters for their ongoing support, which makes this work possible.

2. Treasurer's Report for CAMPAIN, March 1st 2025 to Feb 28 2025 prepared by David Mond, Treasurer, March 9th, 2026

We have consolidated our banking arrangements by opening a new account at the Cooperative Bank, which, unlike the old Unity Trust account, will pay standing orders etc. Thus, we no longer need either the Unity Trust account or the Nationwide account.

We have registered CAMPAIN Ltd. at Companies House, as a company limited by guarantee.

Here are the opening and closing balances on each of our present accounts.

	Balance brought forward 01/3/25	Cash in	Cash out	Balance carried forward, 28/02/26
Nationwide account	399.12	160.00	559.12	0
Unity Trust Account	620.34	2,890.00	3,510.34	0
Coop Bank Account	-	4,328.82	715.18	3,613.64
Total				3,613.64

Income

£ 2,050	membership subscriptions
£ 1,625	donations
£ 3,675	Total

Expenditure

£ 732.65	website and email provider
£ 100.00	printing leaflets
£. 127.13	producing banners
£. 24.00	bank charges.
£ 983.78	Total

The surplus of income over expenditure was **£2,691.22**

Comments on the above

- CAMPAIN became a limited company in January 2025. This obliged us to close the Unity Trust bank account and open a new account – hence the three accounts listed above. The Cooperative Bank pays standing orders and direct debits, unlike the now closed Unity Trust account, and we no longer need to use the Nationwide account, which was held by our Chair, Adam Waterhouse. We have however not closed the Nationwide account but retain a nominal balance of £0 there, as it occasionally receives subscriptions that are transferred to our new Cooperative Bank account.
- Subscriptions have been requested and collected earlier this year than last, so 22 subscribers have two subscriptions counted here (2025-6 and 2026-7). In addition, two subscribers paid twice in 2025-6, and one three times, presumably by accident. These overpayments have only just come to light, and will be used to pay for this year's

subscription or returned to the members, as they prefer.

- As of March 9th 2026, we had 80 members, of whom 43 were fully paid up for 2026-27, and 37 had paid their subs for 2025-26 but had still to pay for 2026-27. Members are asked to do so by March 31st, so we anticipate that most of the latter group will renew.
- Last year we set ourselves the target of raising a reserve of £2,000 to cover unforeseen expenditure. This has been achieved and exceeded, thanks in part to generous donations.
- With a cash reserve of £3,613, CAMPAIN can spend more on equipment, publications, other communications, and contributions to other organisations.